

Global Scholars Academy (GSA) Board Minutes Tuesday, March 20, 2018
Held in GSA Media Center at 6 p.m.

Meeting was called to order by Dr. James Johnson at 6:02 p.m.

Open and Welcome

Roll Call of Members: Ms. Amy Noble

Board Members Present: Dr. James Johnson, Dr. Tawannah Allen, Mr. William Smith, Mrs. Dorothy Hairston Mitchell

Board Members Present via phone/Skype: Dr. Zakiya Whatley, Mr. Brian Wilson, Mr. Kirk McCoy

Board Members Absent: Dr. Linda Bass, Dr. Sandra White, Ms. Tammie Hall, Ms. Virda Adams

Non-Board Members Present: Mr. Jason Jowers, Ms. Brittany Curry, Ms. Jamie Nobles, Ms. Amy Noble, Mrs. Glenda Narcisse, Ms. Anna Hinden

Approval of Agenda

The agenda for tonight's meeting was unanimously approved following a motion by Mrs. Hairston Mitchell and a second by Dr. Allen.

Public Input

None

Approval of Meeting Minutes

The Board minutes from Tuesday, February 20, 2018 were unanimously approved following a motion by Dr. Allen and a second by Mrs. Hairston Mitchell.

Standard Reports:

Brittany Curry – Managing Director Quick Hits

GSA is looking for test proctors - May training, June testing dates.

We are currently in Intersession. An Intersession Camp is being held this week with one teacher per grade. Attendance is low.

Washington, DC trip scheduled for April 5-9 for GSA Ambassadors. We held a parent meeting with 100% attendance. Consent forms have been signed and accident insurance will cover any issues. Mr. Jowers would like three chaperones to go - not including Ms. Curry, who will also be present for most of the trip. Nine scholars will be attending. All chaperones are staff members. The number of chaperone decreased from 4 to 3, but this is well within the allowable 1:8 ratio.

Cary Academy candidate: Walter Bannerman - current GSA 8th grader - waitlisted for entry.

Fire inspection - a few minor things noted, re-inspection on April 2.

Enrollment - Current enrollment is 194. Lottery application window is closed. Received 196 applications. The GSA lottery will be held March 24.

Jason Jowers – Head of School School Enrollment and Academic Updates

Current enrollment - 194

Lottery applications – 196 applications – this is an increase over the past several years

Benchmark updates - increased in every grade as far as literacy. Some grades were lower in Math. Fourth grade will take their benchmark in May as well as 8th grade Science. GSA is trending in the right direction.

A discussion was had regarding how Extended Day can be used to review standards and cover new material.

Mr. McCoy recommended a subcommittee for curriculum and instruction with Dr. Whatley, Dr. Allen, Dr. White, and Mr. Jowers. Requested they meet and come back to the Board with recommendations.

Jason Jowers – Head of School 21st Century Program Updates

Winter curriculum is over and Spring curriculum has started. Programming will cease in May except for Art and STEM and heavy review for EOGs will begin. Tutors will also come in May.

Brittany Curry – Managing Director Tech Stewardship

Password updates continued in February. We are still having some issues with firewall updates. There has been a decline in inappropriate use. Ms. Curry will follow up with Mrs. Hairston Mitchell on an internet etiquette program for parents. Ms. Hairston Mitchell spoke with colleagues at NCCU about putting a program together.

Jamie Nobles – GSA Accountant Financial Report

Ms. Nobles presented the monthly compilation financial statement for February. We are at 67% of the year. On Revenue, we are trending high. We are waiting on the last allotment for 21st Century and also expecting Summer Reading money. Expenses - trending at 66% - right where we need to be.

Ms. Nobles met with Thomas and Gibbs – the compilation is correct in all categories.

Union Baptist Church – GSA has received about 50% of what was projected. Recent 3rd Sunday giving collected \$2500 in two services, they will collect in other service this coming weekend. No updates in online giving. All outstanding items have been submitted. Online piece has not been resolved yet.

PRC29 – had a follow up and can only spend the funds on salary. This allotment has not been pulled down yet.

Brittany Curry – Managing Director Grants

We are expecting to hear back from Steelcase this week.

We have not heard back yet regarding the Transportation Grant.

UNC Non-profit Board Consultants are out on Spring Break. We are going after government funding opportunities.

The Grandfather Mountain application was submitted March 15.

The financial report was unanimously approved as presented following a motion by Mr. Smith and a second by Mrs. Hairston Mitchell.

Budget planning for the 2018-2019 school year is well under way. We plan to have the first draft to the financial committee the first week we come back from Intersession. The budget will be presented in the May Board meeting.

Old Business:

Brittany Curry – Managing Director Board Seats Discussion

A conversation was had during last month's Board meeting regarding Board seats. Ms. Curry pulled information from our charter application and DPI which indicates we can have no less than 5 and no more than 15 members. Current Board members have been invited to submit recommendations. We would like to have a more diverse Board to reflect our school population and members with corporate and HR connections and connections to foundations. Dr. Johnson mentioned a need at some point to find his replacement as Chair, as he has been serving for over 10 years, to rotate responsibility. GSA would like to bring new Board members on beginning July 1.

New Business:

Jason Jowers – Head of School Athletics Proposal

On Saturday, our 3-5 basketball team plays for the championship. We are undefeated.

We have some middle school scholars that will not be returning due to not having sports.

Mr. Jowers presented a proposal for middle grade athletics at GSA. A discussion was had regarding the cost, original mission of the school, need for academic growth and global competitiveness among our scholars, and linking an athletic program with academics to encourage funding.

A subcommittee was created with Dr. Johnson, Mr. McCoy, Mrs. Hairston Mitchell, and Mr. Smith to work with Mr. Jowers and Ms. Curry on this proposal and come back to Board with ideas.

Two GSA teachers entered the meeting after the Public Input portion so Dr. Johnson asked for their input at this time.

Mrs. Narcisse spoke to education being linked during Extended Day to review information being taught in regular day. The challenge comes from a lack of certified teachers during Extended Day and teachers that would be able to observe what is being taught during the regular day. Remediation is addressed through HillRap or during regular day. Dr. Johnson recommended looking at Curriculum Pathways.

Ms. Hinden spoke about positive changes in the grades of her 5th grade scholars' that have been participating in sports. She understands the challenges that come with a sports program, but also sees the motivation sparked through sports.

Mrs. Hairston Mitchell would like to see a tie in parent involvement and sports.

Mr. Jowers shared a letter that will be submitted to the State of North Carolina regarding dates for a summer school educational program to help bridge academic gaps and the retesting dates in June.

Adjournment for Closed Session:

A motion was made by Mr. Smith to go into Closed Session to consider the qualifications, competence, performance, condition of appointment of a public officer or employee or prospective public officer or employee under the North Carolina General Statute 143-318.11(a)(1) at 7:56 p.m. Second by Mrs. Hairston Mitchell.

Open Session:

A motion was made to go back into Open Session by Mr. Smith at 8:50 p.m. with a second by Dr. Allen.

A motion was made by Mr. Smith to move forward regarding an employment issue discussed during Closed Session with a second by Mrs. Hairston Mitchell. The motion carries unanimously.

Adjournment

Mr. Smith made motion for the Board meeting to adjourn with a second by Dr. Allen. The meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.