

**Global Scholars Academy (GSA) Board Minutes**  
**Tuesday, March 17, 2020**  
**Held via Zoom 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 via phone/Zoom:** Dr. James Johnson, Dr. Tawannah Allen, Mr. William Smith, Mrs. Dorothy Hairston Mitchell, Mrs. Shelton Gore, Dr. Sandra White, Dr. Zakiya Whatley, Dr. Linda Bass  
Mr. Brian Wilson

**Board Members Absent:** Ms. Tammie Hall, Mr. Kirk McCoy

**Non-Board Members Present via phone/Zoom:** Dr. Andrea Carroll, Ms. Brittany Curry, Mrs. Eboni Alexander, Ms. Jamie Nobles, Ms. Amy Noble, Mrs. Gwendolyn Jackson-Taylor, Dr. Delilah Jackson, Dr. Sylvia Mizzell, Ms. Linda Cato, Mr. Jason Prince, Mr. Johnny Brown, Mrs. Bettie Lyons, Mrs. Jeanne Carpenter, Mrs. Sherry King, Ms. Seanyea Rains, Ms. Cynthia Coward, Ms. Teresa Harley, Mrs. Deborah Amos, Ms. Patrice Johnson

**Agenda Approval**

COVID-19 moved to top of Agenda. Consultants will then speak. Motion to accept amended agenda Mrs. Dorothy Hairston Mitchell moved and second by Dr. Sandra White.

**Public Input**

None

**Review Minutes**

The Board minutes from Tuesday, February 18, 2020 were unanimously approved following a motion by Mrs. Dorothy Hairston Mitchell and a second by Dr. Linda Bass.

**New Business**

***Ms. Brittany Curry – Managing Director*      *COVID-19 and our response***

The Board of Directors and staff have been in meetings all week. The governor has ordered all schools closed for 2 weeks. GSA was already scheduled to be out for Intersession. Intersession Camp has been going on virtually.

All scholars have received computing devices and Hotspots are available as needed.

Dr. Andrea Carroll and Ms. Brittany Curry both thanked the staff for quick turnaround and accepting the challenge and a special thanks to the Board. The parents have been so supportive and patient. Thank you to Mr. Jason Prince, our IT director, for working around the clock to make sure we have everything we need for digital learning.

Ms. Brittany Curry has been the point of contact for communication regarding COVID-19. We have been communicating to families via Bright Arrow, Dojo, Facebook and a dedicated COVID-19 page on our website.

We are planning in advance for an extended closure if we cannot return in person April 1. Hotspots have

been issued and we have more if needed. We have enough devices (Chromebooks and iPads) for every child. Information will go out regarding tech use while devices are out of the building.

Monday we held a connectivity test and we were able to connect with about 30% of students. The goal is to have every scholar tested and have the capability to connect. We will have a few more connectivity tests both day and evening.

We have an internal support portal and also a support portal for our scholars, and support leads across our PLCs.

All staff has been trained on Zoom and Google suite with access to online resources.

We are developing a return-to-learn plan for April 1 whether that is virtual or in-person return. There will be a link posted on the website for any questions parents have. We are also thinking of backup plans for broadband issues or glitches. We are recording classroom sessions so parents can come back to access those sessions.

Mrs. Bettie Lyons is our Child Nutrition Director. She has been working diligently and attending DPI meetings talking about what is being done statewide to make sure children are being fed. GSA has food catered from DPS. GSA will be a distribution site everyday Monday through Friday between 11am and 12pm. Thank you to Union Baptist Church (UBC) for allowing us to be a site. Breakfast will not be served due to safety regulations but lunch bags will be served.

Backpack Buddies - we may be able to create some space on Fridays where parents can come and pick up. Dr. Andrea Carroll and Mrs. Shelton Gore have been speaking about this.

Bettie Lyons - we are working to partner with DPS. She is also participating on a daily call with DPI. We will have a bus on our site beginning Monday, March 23 and this will be for GSA scholars and children that live in the community. Meals will be lunch and a snack. Food will be kept safe and health inspectors will be onsite to assist.

Mrs. Shelton Gore indicated UBC is excited to do this and is in full support.

Dr. James Johnson suggested having a conversation with parents that may not have gas or way to get to school to pick up food - creating a buddy system so that no child is left out.

Mrs. Bettie Lyons mentioned that DPI has put a lot of thought in to this to make sure locations are where families can walk as well.

The GSA lottery was held virtually on Friday, March 13. An email went out on Friday and spots must be confirmed by March 30. Wait list will has been extended to 5 days (due to COVID-19) – normally it is 3 days.

Our counselors are locked in on resources for scholars at home during this time.

Dr. James Johnson thanked the staff and parents for their support during this process.

Mrs. Dorothy Hairston Mitchell commented from a parent perspective -the kids were very excited to see their teacher and friends online. Kids are onboard and see it as an opportunity to use technology.

Seanyea Rains (parent) - communication has been great. Teachers have been working with our family and we are very proud with how GSA has responded.

## **Presentation**

***Dr. Delilah Jackson and Dr. Sylvia Mizzell      Guest consultants***

GSA Summary Project update

Dr. Delilah Jackson shared how they visited the school twice on February 11 and 18. Prior to arrival they reviewed charter documents to know what is needed to help GSA renew in 2021. They interviewed Dr. Andrea Carroll and Mrs. Eboni Alexander to assess school climate and school needs in reference to what needs to be done and improved for renewal in 2021.

Dr. Sylvia Mizzell shared how they conducted school walkthroughs and a curriculum audit of instructional resources. They spent time in K-8 classrooms, Specials, and Extended Day and saw the logistics of how Extended Day operated. GSA has a plethora of resources for teachers to use and they discussed what is being used, not being used, and technology compatibility. They talked with 26 staff members to get feedback about school climate, perceptions of school achievement, and how things were going.

Dr. Delilah Jackson shared how they attended the February 18 Board meeting to give an overview and will share a report with the Board. They were not able to complete classroom observations due to State of Emergency. They assisted in preparation for Title One audit and NC STAR.

12 indicators - schools deemed low performing required to have them. Dr. Delilah Jackson went into detail about specific indicators and the 4 they chose to focus on.

From this point they will look at GSA District Goals and make sure they align with the purpose of the district for the renewal of the charter.

They looked at the school improvement plan, made recommendations in alignment with 12 indicators for NC STAR and recommended changes to align district goals with school improvement plan. The goal is to have all 12 indicators and they have 4 selected at this point.

Dr. Delilah Jackson and Dr. Sylvia Mizzell will share a preliminary report.

District goals were pulled directly from the original Charter.

There was also a conversation about Dr. Delilah Jackson and Dr. Sylvia Mizzell joining in on some of the Zoom teaching the teachers will be doing.

Dr. Delilah Jackson and Dr. Sylvia Mizzell will be provided with links for all the teachers' classroom Zooms. They will have a report by the next Board Meeting.

#### **Standard Reports:**

##### ***Dr. Andrea Carroll – Head of School Academic Reports***

Current Enrollment is 208 with last year's enrollment being 203.

Start date and end date. For the 2020-2021 school year is due to DPI by April 1. Board's approval requested to begin July 15 and end June 11. Motion was made by Mrs. Dorothy Hairston Mitchell to authorize HOS to give DPI beginning and end of school date. Mrs. Shelton Gore seconded. Motion carries unanimously.

Ms. Seanyea Rains - wanted to put on record her concern regarding number of early release days. She expressed feeling like there were a lot and would like to know the why behind so many early release days.

Dr. Andrea Carroll shared 2 options of the 2020-2021 School Calendar

Option 1 - 87% wanted

Option 2 - 7%

7% of staff did not give feedback.

Attendance - March 12 - scholars would not be penalized if they decided to keep scholars home due to COVID-19. Scholars Present: 136, Scholars Absent: 72

##### ***Mrs. Eboni Alexander – Assistant Head of School Intersession Camp***

Revolves around Science and have create lessons around Coronavirus. Today, 32 scholars attended camp. Several K-2 parents are with grandparents during the day. Lessons are being recorded. They will research finding a way to determine who is watching the recording.

Interventions will be offered this week and confirm scholars can connect to learning programs in addition to lessons they are receiving.

##### ***Ms. Brittany Curry – Managing Director Fundraising***

Charter renewal – the site visit scheduled for April 1 has been postponed indefinitely.

21st Century grant will release funds this Spring. Ms. Curry has a meeting scheduled with Ms. Agatha Brown to discuss further.

Burrows Wellcome fund has deadline of April 15. Ms. Brittany Curry will have a draft in the next few days.

Garden initiative - we were looking to do Saturdays in April as Garden Days. We will likely have to postpone these events.

Submitted a Wal-Mart grant.

Safety Grant - \$48,000 that is covering School Resource Officers and PD for teachers and some additional services to scholars and safety equipment. We will not be able to use all of money if we do not return to school for the remainder of the year. Waiting to hear if the money will have to be sent back. Would like to use the money to have a School Resource Officers on site during food distribution. 11 am-2 pm M-F

Mr. William Smith mentioned we may have a chance to defer based on COVID-19.

Discussion had regarding Backpack Buddies program and how those bags of food would be distributed.

***Ms. Jamie Nobles – Accountant      Financial Reporting***

Financial Statement through February. Revenue trending well. GSA is 67% through the year and has received funds as expected.

UBC - good contributions in February and what has been received YTD.

Nothing major to note on expenses.

Budgeting planning - setting up meetings with Finance Committee and have begun work on the budget for next year.

We are still collecting Board dues. We have received dues from 4 Board members.

Need approval for financials.

A motion was made by Mrs. Shelton Gore to approve and accept the financial report as presented by Ms. Jamie Nobles. Second by Mr. William Smith. Motion carries unanimously.

GSA is on Intersession now. Next Board Meeting is scheduled for April 21, 2020.

Chess Tournament - all three teams received trophies and did extremely well. The scholars were very excited to attend. Mr. Klaus Johnson compared the chess program across the years and there has been an incredible uptick in the power of our team.

We have another scholar that has been asked to apply to Woodbury Forest boarding school.

**Adjournment**

Mr. William Smith made a motion for the Board meeting to adjourn with a second by Dr. Sandra White. The meeting adjourned at 7:53 p.m.