

**Global Scholars Academy (GSA) Board Minutes**  
**Tuesday, October 15, 2019**  
**Held in GSA Media Center at 6 p.m.**  
*Meeting was called to order by Dr. James Johnson at 6:13 p.m.*

**Open and Welcome**

**Roll Call of Members:** Ms. Amy Noble

**Board Members Present:** Dr. James Johnson, Mr. William Smith, Dr. Tawannah Allen, Mrs. Dorothy Hairston Mitchell, Dr. Linda Bass, Mrs. Shelton Gore, Dr. Sandra White

**Board Members Present via phone/Skype:** none

**Board Members Absent:** Mr. Kirk McCoy, Dr. Zakiya Whatley, Mr. Brian Wilson, Ms. Tammie Hall

**Non-Board Members Present:** Dr. Andrea Carroll, Ms. Brittany Curry, Mrs. Eboni Alexander, Ms. Jamie Nobles, Ms. Amy Noble, Ms. Elizabeth Wilcox, Dr. Rachel Person, Mrs. LaKeisha Thomas, Mrs. Gwendolyn Jackson-Taylor, Mr. Jason Prince, Ms. Jeane Carpenter, Mr. Daniel Masse (on phone), Mr. Klaus Johnson.

**Agenda Approval**

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

**Public Input**

All guests introduced themselves. Mr. Klaus Johnson shared about the upcoming Chess Tournaments. Cost is \$30 per scholar for the Triangle Tournament in Raleigh in January and then the State Tournament in March in Raleigh will be a bit more. In past years, GSA would reimburse the entry fee for scholars participating in the entire event. There are many scholars that have the aptitude to compete. Dr. James Johnson asked for a budget of estimated cost including food for the Board to consider.

**Review Minutes**

The Board minutes from Tuesday, September 17, 2019 were unanimously approved following a motion by Dr. Tawannah Allen and a second by Dr. Linda Bass.

**Presentations**

***Ms. Elizabeth Wilcox - Board Member with TreesDurham***

TreesDurham would like to bring the benefits of trees to our neighborhood. On November 9, over 30 trees will be planted and products given that will assist in watering. They will also partner with Site Collaborative to bring life to our school garden. Ms. Elizabeth Wilcox shared plan sketches of the garden area including ideas from our 2<sup>nd</sup> grade scholars. Ms. Brittany Curry went over details on the long-term benefits of the garden for GSA.

**Ms. Brittany Curry, Dr. Andrea Carroll, and Mr. Daniel Masse**                      **Absenteeism and Test Scores**

The UNC MBA Consultants performed the analysis on the relation between Academic Data vs. Extended Day Attendance. Mr. Daniel Masse presented stats regarding absenteeism - an overview and then summary stats for 2018-2019. The data was broken down into excused and unexcused absences. He also presented stats regarding EOG Test Score performance. The team analyzed the relationship between absenteeism and testing and presented the findings to the Board, showing that absenteeism in fact does have an effect on test scores.

Dr. Andrea Carroll shared how iReady will be used to analyze where our scholars are and how the program starts them at their level. She also shared other factors that have an effect on absenteeism. They also discussed Extended Day activities to encourage scholars to stay at school. They will be discussing details with parents at a meeting on October 24.

**Standard Reports:**

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

Current enrollment stands at 218 and last year's enrollment at the same time was 211. Still waiting on the state to announce the 20<sup>th</sup> day of school.

**Mrs. Lakeisha Thomas - Middle School Guidance Counselor**                      **Mental Health**

Mrs. Lakeisha Thomas performed a scholar needs assessment with middle grades and shared the data percentages. She created small groups from this data relating to depression, stress/anxiety, and anger management. Mrs. Lakeisha Thomas shared examples of scholar interventions and parent/staff education. Regarding additional resources - a full-time School Social Worker and a Behavior Specialist would be very beneficial with our scholars. A Recovery Room would also be helpful to deescalate scholars. Dr. Andrea Carroll added how Mindfulness & Yoga has also contributed to helping with coping mechanisms.

Dr. James Johnson asked for the needs assessment to be done on K-5 as well so we can make the case for funding and for social work interns at the school. Mrs. Dorothy Hairston Mitchell provided contacts for NCCU's School of Social Work.

October is National Bullying Prevention Month. October 23 will be Unity Day at GSA to promote unity and bullying prevention. Scholars and faculty/staff are encouraged to wear orange.

Dr. James Johnson asked for more details and data on truancy and the correlation between absenteeism and ICE raids with our Hispanic/Latino scholars. He will take this data to use for funding/grant purposes.

**Dr. Andrea Carroll - Head of School Parent Meeting**

On October 24, there will be a parent/guardian meeting to discuss their commitment to GSA regarding attendance, dress code, and Intersession Camp.

Later in the quarter, there will be individual middle grade parent meetings.

Dr. Andrea Carroll shared about events occurring in October at GSA.

Congratulations to Ms. Linda Cato, our Art teacher, on acing the Praxis exam with a 94!

**Jason Prince – I.T. Director Tech Stewardship**

In September, the cafeteria received a laptop upgrade. There were no reported scholar violations.

Sonitrol Update: Front door swipe relocated, camera and intercom installed at the entrance door. All doors are now locked.

Secured 9 new laptops for Teachers.

***Brittany Curry – Managing Director 2019-2020 Fundraising Plans***

Sneaquins, this Saturday, October 19, 2019. It is a fundraiser by the Durham NC Charter of the Links, Inc. to benefit GSA and Durham Police Athletic League. Thank you to Dr. Sandra White for her support and help with this event.

Key Reminders – Ms. Brittany Curry gave high-level detail on Sneaquins, NSA, NC ACCESS Grants, CCLC Lookout, TreesDurham and Bankers.

Ms. Brittany Curry shared the updated fundraising tracker. GSA is in the process of applying for a school safety grant. Budding Botanist Grant - working with TreesDurham on this grant- due November 8, 2019. Also having conversations with the Durham NC Chapter of the Links, Inc. on upcoming partnerships. Make Music Count - coming this month to do professional development.

We received a grant to Tar Heel Preview Day, on November 7, 2019, targeting middle school males.

Dr. Sandra White asked about Burroughs-Welcome grant and being removed from grant trackers. She and Ms. Brittany Curry will schedule a time to meet to discuss further.

Mrs. Shelton Gore asked if Ms. Brittany Curry could check to see if walkie-talkies could be included in the safety grant.

Other Key Initiatives - UNC Student Presentations, UNC Christmas Service Project, met with VP of Burts Bees Foundation.

Charter renewal discussion will take place during Closed Session.

***Jamie Nobles – Accountant Financial Reports***

Ms. Jamie Nobles shared the financial tracker through September 30, 2019. Tracking well for the year. Have started a new process with collecting funds from UBC; has worked well so far.

Ms. Nobles attended a Sales and Use Tax seminar and received helpful information.

GSA's 2nd Annual Health and Wellness Fair will be Thursday, October 17, 2019 from 5:30-8:00pm with 22 vendors.

Motion to approve the financial reports by Mr. William Smith with a second by Dr. Linda Bass. Motion carries.

**Old Business:**

Academic Data & Extended Day Attendance was presented with Presentations at beginning of Board meeting.

**New Business:**

Chess Tournaments was presented with Presentations at beginning of Board meeting.

Dr. Rachel Person asked a few questions regarding protocol for staff members and public input and access to an employee handbook.

**Adjournment for Closed Session:**

A motion was made by Mr. William Smith to go into Closed Session to prevent the disclosure of information that is privileged or confidential pursuant to the law of this State or of the United States, or not considered a public record within the meaning of Chapter 132 of the General Statutes under the North Carolina General Statute 143-318.11(a)(1) at 8:33 p.m. Second by Mrs. Dorothy Hairston Mitchell.

**Open Session:**

A motion was made to go back into Open Session by Dr. Tawannah Allen at 9:30 p.m. with a second by Mrs. Dorothy Hairston Mitchell.

Action items developed from Closed Session:

1. Meeting agenda to be restructured as follows:

a. Consent agenda to be prepared and will consist of information items such as computer updates and or any other items that are deemed as information items.

b. Administrator's update to focus more on academic. Report should include: 9-week pacing document for reading/math per each grade level, with corresponding assessments for each content area, along with student performance data per standards covered per 9 weeks. This should be provided for K-8. Want to know who is and is not performing and in what content area(s).

c. This same information should be provided for students who are on grade-level, however, their pacing should reflect what is being done to accelerate their learning. Also, how will their intersession goals/activities be designed to accelerate their learning?

We want quantifiable data (benchmark data) on student performance. This should be provided for each 9 weeks so as data can be tracked across grading terms. Student names should be presented to Board for those students who have not mastered content, along with their plan of action for intersession.

d. Cross-reference curriculum programs to determine overlap, if any. Which programs, if any, is GSA currently paying for that NCDPI may offer for free?

e. Board packet, including student performance data, must be submitted 1-week prior to scheduled meeting. This allows Board time to review data.

**Adjournment:**

Dr. Sandra White made a motion for the Board meeting to adjourn with a second by Mr. William Smith. The meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.