

**Global Scholars Academy (GSA) Board Minutes**  
**Tuesday, September 17, 2019**  
**Held in GSA Media Center at 6 p.m.**  
*Meeting was called to order by Dr. James Johnson at 6:06 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:** Mr. Kirk McCoy, Mr. Brian Wilson

**Board Members Absent:** Dr. Zakiya Whatley, Ms. Tammie Hall

**Non-Board Members Present:** Dr. Andrea Carroll, Ms. Brittany Curry, Mrs. Eboni Alexander, Ms. Jamie Nobles, Ms. Amy Noble, Ms. Jasmin Hines, Mr. Daniel Masse, Mr. Mike Heffez, Dr. Rachel Person, Mrs. Lakeisha Thomas, Ms. Cynthia Coward, Mrs. Christy Cradle, Mrs. Anitra Williams, Ms. Lakeisha Holliday, Mrs. Erin Zamborsky, Ms. Rochelle Jackson, Mr. Tim Townsend, Ms. Sharon Watford, Dr. Eunice Sanders, Ms. Tonya Jackson, Mrs. Gwendolyn Jackson-Taylor, Ms. Linda Cato, Mr. Jason Prince, Mr. Johnny Brown, Ms. Amber Wilson, Ms. Valerie McNeil, and Ms. Felisa Francis.

**Agenda Approval**

The agenda for today's meeting was unanimously approved following a motion by Dr. Allen and a second by Dr. White.

**Public Input**

All guests introduced themselves.

**Review Minutes**

The Board minutes from Tuesday, August 20, 2019 were unanimously approved following a motion by Dr. Tawannah Allen and a second by Dr. Linda Bass.

**Presentations**

Financial Audit - Rebekah Barr

Draft of audit report has been submitted. Audit was clean and unmodified.

Dr. James Johnson thanked Ms. Barr, the Finance Committee, and Ms. Jamie Nobles.

*K-2 - Mrs. Anitra Williams - 2nd Grade Teacher*

Mrs. Anitra Williams shared about classroom assessments used throughout the year to assess how her scholars are progressing.

Parent Data Talk - she shared the ways we connect and communicate with our parents.

*3-5 - Ms. Sharon Watford - 4th Grade Teacher Ms. Cynthia Coward - 3rd Grade Teacher*

Ms. Sharon Watford and Ms. Cynthia Coward shared additional assessments done in grades 3-5 and explained about reteaching and looping concepts. They also shared how daytime skills are reinforced during extended day.

Dr. James Johnson asked how these Comprehension Strategies are reinforcing these in Extended Day. Mrs. Eboni Alexander expressed that all Extended Day Teachers are not certified to be able to teach and reteach lessons. Mrs. Sharon Watford expressed that she doesn't receive feedback on how her scholars are doing during Extended Day outside of enrichment.

Ms. Cynthia Coward passed out a sheet regarding Question-Answer Relationship and Comprehension Strategies.

Dr. Andrea Carroll mentioned that a good number of Day Staff Teachers also work Extended Day. A few of the Extended Day Teachers gave examples of how they build off of what is taught during the day.

Dr. Rachel Person went into details on how she uses STEM to reinforce their core learning skills.

Dr. Andrea Carroll added information on how Specials, specifically Art, is integrated in the curriculum.

Ms. Linda Cato went into detail on how she incorporates Art into their learning and working hand in hand with the Day Staff Teachers.

*6-8 - Mrs. Gwendolyn Jackson-Taylor – 6-8 Math Teacher*

Mrs. Gwendolyn Jackson-Taylor shared about spiraling/looping to keep concepts fresh for the scholars and using an interactive notebook. She also shared about homework accountability with the Extended Day Teachers.

Discussed how Middle Grades Teachers have group parent conferences versus individual meetings including all teachers in the meeting.

### **Standard Reports:**

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

Current enrollment stands at 219 last year enrollment was 211.

Current vacancy - 1st grade Instructional Assistant - currently interviewing

*Board expectations for staff academic expectations - Dr. Johnson*

Dr. James Johnson went into detail on solidifying the Global Scholars Academy brand and what our scholars will leave with upon graduating to set them apart and prepare them for life after GSA. What is the GSA way? Protection, Affection, Correction, Connection. What does it mean to be a teacher/administrator at GSA? What skill sets will they gain from GSA? What are we saying they will walk away with in their tool kits?

Mr. Smith asked what is needed from the Board to help enforce the attendance policy during Extended Day. Letters will be sent home and there will be parent conferences after the 20th school day for NC. Administration will also talk to parents/guardians about truancy court.

Dr. Rachel Person suggested we secure the doors and require a buzzer for entry. The Board mentioned this was already in the works. Mr. Tim Townsend also suggest "No Trespassing" signs outside of the school.

We will begin requiring letters for specific absences for Extended Day.

Dr. James Johnson and Ms. Brittany Curry expressed having data to be able to show and dig deeper into the details on specific reasons why our Hispanic scholars may be absent due to Immigration raids.

Mrs. LaKeisha Thomas asked how Truancy will be connected to Extended Day. The Board expressed anyone that leaves before 6pm.

Mr. Jason Prince expressed his concerns on how the scholars actual feel in Extended Day versus the staff. Mr. Jason Prince suggested surveying the scholars to find out what they would like to see in Extended Day and how they feel about it. Dr. Andrea Carroll said the process of surveying the scholars has begun. Dr. Rachel Person expressed her concerns regarding scholar anxiety.

Dr. James Johnson will be starting an Entrepreneurship Training Program. He believes an engaging curriculum will help reduce stress and anxiety in Extended Day. He suggested looking at the original design for Extended Day and coming up with specific programming for Extended Day during the intersession break.

Mrs. Dorothy Hairston Mitchell asked if once we have the comparison data from Day and Extended Day to address any issues based on the data. Ms. Brittany Curry expressed having the data to support being able to find funding to assist with Extended Day economic and social issues.

Teacher of the Year is Ms. Cynthia Coward!

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

Every staff member has a computer. Every scholar in grades 3-8 has a computer. Would like for interventionists and instructional assistants to have laptops. Upgraded Head of School, Assistant Head of School and Front Office computers.

No security incidences. 100% compliance the past few months. Continuing to monitor excessive use.

Moving staff swipe entry from far right door to the middle door. Upgrading an entry panel in the Front Office to also have front doors locked at all times and visitors must buzz in for entry. There will also be a camera at this entry. All staff members will have swipe cards to access the building. These updates will be happening on September 26. Security cameras - addressing blind spots. Mr. Jason Prince recommends adding about 8 more cameras. Dr. James Johnson suggested sharing information with Ms. Brittany Curry in order to look for possible grants to help with the security upgrade.

I.T. scholar internship- two scholars have been identified based on teacher suggestion and will begin next quarter.

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

Ms. Curry shared the updated fundraising tracker. Looking for an update on when she can submit the grant for 21st Century with support from the Board, waiting on the State. The EC grant has been submitted to the State. NSA meeting postponed as one of their members had an emergency medical issue, meeting has been rescheduled for October 22. Durham Chapter of The Links are doing an event October 19 as a fundraiser for GSA. Site Collaborative will join us next month at the Board meeting to present about the Garden Project. Have applied to be a part of Tarheel Preview Day. Carolina Theatre has continued our partnership with providing discounted tickets.

***GSA Charter Renewal***

Committee: Ms. Brittany Curry, Dr. Andrea Carroll, Dr. James Johnson, Dr. Tawannah Allen. Mr. William Smith nominated Mrs. Shelton Gore as a member of the Finance Committee and Mrs. Dorothy Hairston Mitchell as a parent member.

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

Ms. Jamie Nobles shared the financial tracker through August 31. GSA is on track for spending and funds received. House Bill 966 has not been approved yet so we do not know what our State allotment will be until it is approved.

Water bill has been high for the past 3 months. Ms. Jamie Nobles has reached out to Administration about looking for leak. This does impact the budget.

Title I grant was submitted.

Health and Wellness Fair will be October 17.

Board Resolution proposed to make a change to remove Ms. Agatha Brown and appoint Mr. William Smith, Treasurer and Dr. James Johnson, Board chair as the key executive signers on all bank accounts

at Wells Fargo. Motion to pass this resolution carries unanimously by all Board members present.

Motion to accept the financial reports through August 31 from the Finance Committee by Mrs. Dorothy Hairston Mitchell and second by Dr. Sandra White. Motion carries.

**Old Business:**

Request to approve the AIG plan. Dr. Tawannah Allen and Dr. Sandra White will review and report back to the Board.

**New Business:**

Dr. Tawannah Allen's Board term expired, and a motion was made for her term be renewed. Motion by Mrs. Dorothy Hairston Mitchell and second by Dr. Tawannah Allen. Motion carries.

Mrs. LaKeisha Thomas - Assured the Board that programs are being implemented to assist with the mental health needs of our scholars. Upcoming Parent Empowerment Meetings will include presentations about mental health and resources for our parents/guardians. She also discussed with Dr. Andrea Carroll about bringing a Trauma Informed training for our staff on how to address these issues going forward. Ms. Brittany Curry asked to be provided a list of these initiatives and programs. Dr. Dorothy Hairston Mitchell offered to reach out to her contacts to assist.

Mrs. Jeanne Carpenter - would like to take some Mandarin scholars to a restaurant in Cary for Chinese immersion.

**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) and to consider the qualifications, competence, performance, condition of appointment of a public officer or employee or prospective public officer or employee. North Carolina General Statute 143-318.11(a)(6) at 9:11 p.m. Second by Mrs. Dorothy Hairston Mitchell.

**Open Session:**

A motion was made to go back into Open Session by Mr. William Smith at 9:29 p.m. with a second by Mrs. Dorothy Hairston Mitchell.

**Adjournment**

Mr. William Smith made a motion for the Board meeting to adjourn with a second by Mrs. Dorothy Hairston Mitchell. The meeting adjourned at 9:32 p.m.