

Global Scholars Academy (GSA) Board Minutes

Tuesday, May 19, 2020

Held via Zoom at 6 p.m.

Meeting was called to order by Dr. James Johnson at 6:00 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. Kirk McCoy

Board Members Absent: Ms. Tammie Hall, Mr. Brian Wilson

Non-Board Members Present: Dr. Andrea Carroll, Mrs. Eboni Alexander, Ms. Jamie Nobles, Ms. Amy Noble, Mr. Jason Prince, Mrs. Gwen Jackson-Taylor, Ms. Sharon Watford, Ms. Crystal Belcher, Mrs. Bettie Lyons, Mrs. Wilishia Bettis-Farrington, Mrs. Lakeisha Thomas, Mrs. Sherry King, Ms. Rochelle Jackson, Mrs. Deborah Amos, Ms. Cynthia Coward, Ms. Tonya Jackson, Ms. Andrea Graham, Ms. Regina Mays

Agenda Approval

The agenda for today's meeting was unanimously approved following a motion by Dr. Tawannah Allen and a second by Mr. William Smith.

Public Input

None

Review Minutes

The Board minutes from Tuesday, April 21, 2020 were unanimously approved following a motion by Mrs. Shelton Gore and a second by Mrs. Dorothy Hairston Mitchell.

Standard Reports:

Celebrating three 8th graders - Jaila Clark, ranked # 1 in 8th grade at GSA, was accepted into J.D Clement Early College High School. We celebrate Hannah Prince, ranked #2 in 8th grade at GSA, for being accepted to Durham School of the Arts. The third 8th grader will be acknowledged later in the meeting.

Dr. Andrea Carroll – Head of School Academic Reports

Our current enrollment 208 and last year's enrollment was 202.

Dr. Andrea Carroll shared the iReady Diagnostic results showing growth in Reading and Math from the beginning of the year to the middle of the year. At risk percentages have been reduced and low risk percentages have increased across the board.

Grading - NC State Board of Education gave information in April regarding K-5 - no final grade will be given. Teachers will provide written feedback and focus on academic, and social and emotional feedback.

Grades 6-8 will receive a final course grade of PC19 (Pass) or W19 (Withdraw). However, unless a scholar was on the list for retention in March, they will be promoted. A W19 gives the teachers an indication that those scholars have some deficits.

Parent Engagement Meetings - Three meetings (K-2, 3-5, and 6-8) with a total of 83 participants. A survey was done to gauge parents' thoughts on online learning, technical support, and social emotional response. Dr. Andrea Carroll presented the findings of the survey. Overall, the feedback was positive. As a result of the feedback, the extended day portion of the school day has been reduced to one hour.

Progress Reports were also mailed to all scholars.

Jason Prince – I.T. Director Tech Stewardship

Mr. Jason Prince shared classroom attendance engagement. All classes are staying above 50% except 1st and 2nd grades.

Help Desk Report - Mr. Jason Prince shared the breakdown of work tickets and equipment issues.

More hotspots have been ordered.

The plan is to donate 8th graders' laptops to them and only collect from scholars not returning. 2nd graders will turn their iPads in and will receive laptops. Staff laptops will be collected from those not returning along with keys and additional items. Inventory will be completed once all laptops are turned in.

Dr. Zakiya Whatley asked if attendance is holding steady or decreasing? K-2 continues to trend low in comparison to the rest of the school.

Dr. Sandra White voiced her concern for low attendance in K-2. Dr. Andrea Carroll shared that there would be a need for an interventionist to assist next year to give them extra enrichment.

Mr. William Smith – GSA Board Treasurer Grants/Fundraising

A \$5000 grant was awarded for Backpack buddies boost from Duke - Durham Fund. Mrs. Shelton Gore will work with the Backpack Buddies program members at Union Baptist Church.

CARES Act – The grant is due June 1st and GSA is eligible for 60K.

Duke Durham Partnership proposal under review, we should hear back soon.

COVID-19 Response Plan – We have been awarded \$404,842 and have until June 30th to use the money and proper reporting is taking place. It can be used for salaries, taxes, and utilities. Mr. William Smith is receiving updates on how the money may be used.

Grant Sigma Pi Phi – GSA received a \$5k unrestricted grant to help with COVID-19.

Charter Renewal - We are on schedule for the renewal. The site visit has been reconfirmed for September 1.

21st Century Learning Center grant has been submitted.

Ms. Brittany Curry is also working on several grants and partnerships.

Durham (NC) Chapter of the Links, INC – GSA has received \$7000 grant from the Sneaquins Ball fundraiser.

Exciting news! Jharmari Cates, a GSA 8th grade legacy scholar, has been accepted at Woodberry Forest School on a full scholarship!

Mr. Jason Prince shared concern regarding a process for completing scholar videos. A discussion was had regarding a process needed for GSA to help 8th grade scholars pursuing specialty high schools/programs.

Mrs. Sandra White suggested there to be a school standard process created on how these things are handled going forward.

Durham (NC) Chapter of the Links, INC Poster Art Contest - 3 GSA scholars that won at the local level are now competing at a national level. Everyone is encouraged to vote for them!

Jamie Nobles – Accountant Financial Reports

Ms. Jamie Nobles presented the financials topline tracker for April.

Revenue- All State and Federal funds has been received.

Expenditures- Overall GSA is spending less due to COVID-19 since school is not in the building. As of end of April, cash balance total of \$813,328.

Forecast – GSA will have some savings in expenditures, mainly in School Nutrition since scholars are not in the building.

Key Updates: Allotments and Union Baptist Church donations were discussed. GSA Board dues for 2019-2020 are due; payments may be made via check or PayPal.

Mr. William Smith spoke on behalf of the Financial Committee. They are preparing three different scenarios to reopen the school due to COVID-19. An email was sent to the Board this morning including I.T. costs for new staff computers, Scribbles software for enrollment.

Mr. William Smith spoke on the benefits and offerings of Scribbles for document management, lottery, and multiple other features.

Technology committee is requesting GSA gift 8th graders their computers when they graduate.

Mr. William Smith asks for the Board to approve I.T. budget for 20-21 school year in the amount of \$68,926 and by approving this budget authorizing the school to get Scribbles software and gifting of 8th graders laptops and approve the financial committee report Ms. Jamie Nobles presented earlier.

Mr. William Smith made the motion to approve the financial report Ms. Jamie Nobles presented, the gifting of 8th graders laptops, and the 20-21 I.T. budget with the proviso that Scribbles receives another round of review. Mrs. Dorothy Hairston Mitchell seconded. The I's have it. Motion carries.

Mr. Kirk McCoy recommended an entry policy in order to come on school grounds with PPE. Dr. James Johnson indicated that minimal standards will probably come from the State. Mrs. Dorothy Hairston-Mitchell also mentioned about documenting anyone that comes in the building.

Dr. Tawannah Allen recommended having a Reopening Task Force. Dr. Tawannah Allen agreed to chair. Mrs. Shelton Gore, Mrs. Dorothy Hairston Mitchell, Dr. Linda Bass, and Dr. Sandra White volunteered to serve.

Old Business:

None

New Business:

Forward Thinking - Save the Date

8th grade will have a virtual graduation and drive through celebration.

Kindergarten will have a drive through celebration.

5th grade will have a drive through celebration and a slideshow.

The next GSA Board Meeting will be held June 16.

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 8:05 p.m. Second by Mrs. Linda Bass.

Open Session:

A motion was made to go back into Open Session by Dr. Tawannah Allen at 8:55 p.m. with a second by Mrs. Dorothy Hairston Mitchell.

Adjournment

Dr. James Johnson made motion for the Board meeting to adjourn with a second by Dr. Sandra White. The meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.