

Global Scholars Academy (GSA) Board Minutes
Tuesday, June 16, 2020
Held via in the GSA Media Center and 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: Mr. William Smith, Mrs. Dorothy Hairston Mitchell, Mrs. Shelton Gore,

Board Members Present via phone/Zoom: Dr. James Johnson, Dr. Tawannah Allen, Dr. Sandra White, Dr. Zakiya Whatley, Dr. Linda Bass, Mr. Kirk McCoy

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

Non-Board Members Present: Dr. Andrea Carroll, Mrs. Eboni Alexander, Mr. Jason Prince, Mrs. Erin Zamborsky, Ms. Valerie McNeil, Dr. Earl Carroll, Ms. L. Harris, Ms. Delois Prince, Mr. Arthur Everett, Mr. Cates, Ms. Richmond

Non-Board Members Present via Zoom: Ms. Brittany Curry, Ms. Jamie Nobles, Ms. Amy Noble, Ms. Linda Cato, Mrs. Bettie Lyons, Mrs. Sherry King, Mrs. Wilishia Bettis-Farrington, Ms. Sharon Watford, Ms. Seanyea Rains, Mrs. Zandra Wheeler, Ms. Jessica Davis, Mr. Harrison, Mrs. Alexis Prince, Ms. Baldwin, Ms. Micente

Agenda Approval

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

Public Input

Mr. Arthur Everett - community leader near school. He shared about the positive experience he has had with the leadership of GSA and wanted to say thank you for a job well done. Mr. Everett thanked the Board and for having the school in our community and for the leadership of Dr. Carroll and the staff. The GSA graduations touched his heart and gave life to the community.

Review Minutes

Mrs. Dorothy Hairston Mitchell moved to affirm the motion made to affirm the minutes of the April Board meeting with a second by Mr. William Smith. Motion carries unanimously.

The Board minutes from Tuesday, May 19, 2020 were unanimously approved following a motion by Dr. Sandra White and a second by Dr. Tawannah Allen.

Standard Reports:

Dr. Andrea Carroll – Head of School Academic Reports

Current enrollment stands at 208 with last year's enrollment at 202.

Academic Recognition: Dr. Andrea Carroll honored three 8th grade scholars for academic achievement and Mrs. Erin Zamborsky (their homeroom teacher and Social Studies teacher) shared positive attributes about each scholar. A few parents shared their sentiments as well. Scholars were presented with plaques and gift cards. The two that are GSA legacy scholars also received copies of their yearbooks from 4th grade.

Jaila Clark, ranks #1 at GSA and had her grandmother present for support. Jaila received a plaque, gift card, and 4th grade yearbook. Jaila thanked the staff for setting the foundation for high school. Mrs. Zamborsky (her homeroom teacher) honored her as well.

Hannah Prince, ranks #2 at GSA, was presented a plaque and gift card. She has enjoyed her 4 years here. She enjoys the staff and feels safe here. Mrs. Zamborsky said she was one of the most well rounded scholars she has seen. Ms. Prince, Hannah's mom mentioned that Hannah was invited to participate with Duke TIP and she got into the program and scored well on the ACT. She will be attending Durham School of the Arts.

Jhamari Cates, ranks #3 at GSA and is also a GSA Legacy Scholar. Jhamari will attend Woodberry Forest School in Virginia on a full scholarship. He received a plaque, gift card, and 4th grade yearbook. Mrs. Zamborsky said he is a deep thinker and knows he will do a great job next year. Jhamari is grateful and thankful for the opportunity that GSA has provided for him.

Dr. Andrea Carroll presented the WIDA Access ELL Report, which pertains to English-language learners. She presented an overview of how the scholars tested. Scholars must make a 4.8 or above to exit the program.

Two Board Member terms will expire July 1, 2020, Dr. James Johnson and Mr. William Smith. This will be discussed later in the meeting.

Graduation - Dr. Andrea Carroll shared pictures from K, 5th, and 8th grade graduations. It was a very memorable experience and a great parade shared with the families and community. Thank you to staff and Board Members that attended. More pictures will be posted soon.

Jason Prince – I.T. Director Tech Stewardship

Mr. Prince presented the Help Desk Summary. Devices are only being collected for non-returning scholars and staff.

ERate Funds will be available July 1. The money will go towards switches and wireless improvements in the building.

New Staff Macbooks for staff have been received,
Chromebooks are about to be ordered for grades 3-8.
Scribbles software will rollout July 1.

Brittany Curry – Managing Director Grants/Fundraising

Ms. Brittany Curry provided an update on grants and donations.

CARES Act, we are expecting to receive \$61,000.

A donor purchased 250 boxes of food for families and staff. A huge thank you to the volunteers that distributed the boxes!

Duke Durham Fund Partnership Proposal, we have been awarded \$75,000. The money is a partnership grant between local restaurants and 3 other charter schools. Thank you to Mrs. Bettie Lyons for her contribution in the conversation. The funds will cover 4 schools for 4 weeks.

Duke Durham Fund, Backpack Buddies Booster, we were awarded \$5,000. We will hold these funds until later in July/August.

Charter Renewal site visit has been postponed to September 1. There will be follow-up conversations with the Charter Renewal committee.

21st Century Community Learning Center grant was approved on June 4. We are awaiting the official notification letter of \$400,000!

Johnson & Johnson has agreed to sponsor a nurse at GSA over the next 3 years. More details to come soon.

Safety Grant, unfortunately some of the funds will go back to the State for resource officers since GSA was not in school in the building since mid-March.

EC Grant and Digital learning, Microsoft Partnership, Cisco Partnership, On the Horizon grants are in the works and coming up.

Tabitha Foundation will also award GSA \$125,000.

Jamie Nobles – Accountant Financial Reports

Ms. Jamie Nobles presented the May financial report. Overall GSA is doing well. Our expenses are lower than expected due to being out of the building. Nothing major to note.

No new donations from UBC.

Mrs. Dorothy Hairston Mitchell clarified Board Member donations requested instead of Board dues. Money will go to an unrestricted account and we can designate funds at a later date if desired.

Motion to accept May financials as presented by Mrs. Shelton Gore with a second by Mrs. Dorothy Hairston Mitchell. Motion carries.

Old Business:

None

New Business:

Mr. William Smith presented the GSA budget for the 2020-2021 school year.

A few highlights include:

Money for COVID-19 for return to school

Technology upgrades

New software programs

Increased Instructional Assistants salaries

Still recruiting teachers but salaries are in budget

Parent/Student Enrichment increased

Projecting to spend \$234,950 from reserve

A detailed budget will be shared in Closed Session.

Mr. William Smith thanked the Finance Committee, School Administration, and Ms. Jamie Nobles for working together to create a budget for 2020-2021 school year.

Mr. William Smith asked for the Board to approve the Budget for the 2020-2021 school year.

Motion to approve the budget as presented by Dr. Sandra White with a second by Mrs. Dorothy Hairston Mitchell. Motion carries.

Board Member Elections

Mrs. Dorothy Hairston Mitchell indicated that according to the bylaws, a vote is usually in September but acceptable since 2 terms are expiring - regular terms are for 3 years. Officers remain in position until someone else is elected into those positions.

Dr. Tawannah Allen asked for a motion to re-elect Dr. James Johnson for another 3-year term as a Board member. Mrs. Shelton Gore made the motion with a second by Dr. White. Motion carries.

Dr. Tawannah Allen asked for a motion to re-elect Mr. William Smith for another 3-year term as a Board member. Mrs. Shelton Gore made the motion with a second by Dr. Sandra White. Motion carries.

Mrs. Dorothy Hairston Mitchell made a motion to re-elect Dr. James Johnson for the position of Board chair and Mr. William Smith for the position of Board treasurer. Second by Dr. Linda Bass. Motion carries.

The Board is currently working on recruiting three new Board Members for new school year.

Dr. James Johnson announced that Dr. Andrea Carroll has decided to resign as Head of School. He thanked her for assuming a leadership role at GSA when we were in great need of a leader and has worked diligently for the past two years to move us forward. On behalf of the Board, he thanked her for her leadership and wished her the best as she moves on to the next stage in her career. He expressed gratitude for the care she showed our families and thanked her for leading the staff to remote learning during COVID. We appreciate your leadership.

Mrs. Dorothy Hairston Mitchell presented an Edible Arrangement, flowers, and some gift cards. Mrs. Dorothy Hairston Mitchell shared that it has been a pleasure and an honor to have Dr. Andrea Carroll at the school and working with our scholars. Dr. Andrea Carroll has done a phenomenal job and we will miss you.

Dr. Andrea Carroll introduced her husband, Dr. Earl Carroll, and a dear friend, Ms. Harris. Dr. Andrea Carroll thanked the Board for the opportunity to serve GSA. She thanked the staff as well for all of their hard work. Our families know all you do for our families. Keep on doing what you do.

Mr. William Smith shared that he was so proud of Dr. Andrea Carroll for all she has done at GSA.

The Board has undergone a search and recruited and accepted Dr. Pamela Baldwin to assume the role of Head of School. She is a former superintendent of 2 public school districts in NC, a science teacher, and a wealth of expertise in the classroom and as an administrator in K-12 with a stellar reputation. A formal announcement will be issued and staff and families will hear from her shortly as she introduces herself to the GSA community. Written information will be provided soon.

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 7:16 p.m. Second by Dr. Tawannah Allen.

Open Session:

A motion was made to go back into Open Session by Mrs. Shelton Gore at 8:30 p.m. with a second by Dr. Tawannah Allen.

Adjournment

Dr. Sandra White made motion for the Board meeting to adjourn with a second by Mr. William Smith. The meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.