

**Global Scholars Academy (GSA) Board Minutes**  
**Tuesday, August 18, 2020**  
**Held via Zoom at 6 p.m.**

*Meeting was called to order by Dr. James Johnson at 6:01 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, Dr. Sandra White, Dr. Linda Bass, Ms. Tammie Hall, Mr. Kirk McCoy

**Board Members Absent:** Mrs. Shelton Gore, Dr. Zakiya Whatley, Mr. Brian Wilson

**Non-Board Members Present:** Dr. Pamela Baldwin, Ms. Brittany Curry, Mrs. Eboni Alexander, Ms. Jamie Nobles, Ms. Amy Noble, Mr. Jason Prince, Ms. Patrice Johnson, Ms. Robin Story, Ms. Angela Sciacca, Mrs. Anitra Williams, Mrs. Bettie Lyons, Ms. Cara Agner, Ms. Deborah Amos, Mr. George Koop, Ms. Marcia Hagwood, Ms. Maryanne Ross, Ms. Melissa Tijerina, Ms. Vanessa Viscarra, Ms. Miranda Markham, Ms. Sharon Watford, Ms. Shelita Bowens, Ms. Marlisha Blakeney, Mrs. Sherry King, Mr. Korey Mercer, Ms. Crystal Belcher, Ms. Jasmine P.

**Agenda Approval**

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

**Public Input**

None

**Review Minutes**

The Board minutes from Tuesday, June 16, 2020 were unanimously approved following a motion by Mr. William Smith and a second by Mrs. Dorothy Hairston Mitchell.

**Standard Reports:**

***Amy Noble – Executive Admin. Asst. to Head of School/Office Manager      Enrollment***

Ms. Amy Noble gave an update on enrollment and demographic. Current enrollment stands at 207. The enrollment lottery opened back up today and will remain open until September 18 to provide families additional time to enroll if GSA has spots available. We currently have no waiting list for 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> grade and there are spots available in those grades. Kindergarten is now full. 4<sup>th</sup> grade has 1 spot available and 6<sup>th</sup> grade has 1 spot available.

We have a 50/50 split for boys and girls in the school. Our population is 51% African American and 48% Hispanic.

Ms. Amy Noble also referenced some of the factors affecting enrollment. At this time last year, GSA had 217 scholars enrolled.

EC count is 26 scholars.

**Dr. Pam Baldwin – Head of School    Welcome New Staff**

Kindergarten Instructional Assistant – Cara Agner  
Second Grade Teacher – Robin Story  
Third Grade Teacher – Marlisha Blakeney  
6-8 Social Studies Teacher – Cameron Hall  
6-8 Science Teacher – liesha Tate  
6-8 English/Language Arts – Maryanne Ross  
Physical Education – Vanessa Viscarra  
Exceptional Children Teacher – Marcia Hagwood  
Exceptional Children Teacher – George Koop  
Exceptional Children Coordinator – Angela Sciacca  
Office Receptionist – Rita Wells  
Child Nutrition Manager - Miranda Markham  
Instructional Specialist – Melissa Tijerina

**Dr. Pam Baldwin – Head of School    Remote Learning Plan**

GSA started our school year on July 15, 100% virtual.  
GSA will be transitioning to Canvas on September 1.  
Meals have been served throughout July and continuing into August.  
We are thankful to see a lot of parents online with their scholars continuing to playing an active role.

**Dr. Pam Baldwin – Head of School    Re-Opening Updates**

Re-opening committee began meeting in May to discuss what we would need when the time comes.  
GSA continues to order PPE, cleaning supplies, putting up new signage, creating social distancing areas, installing plexiglass, and requiring temperature checks at the front door. The Nurse, once hired, will also play an important role. All water fountains have been covered and furniture in the building is easily cleanable. We will also be looking at custodial staffing and budgeting.

**Eboni Alexander – Asst. Head of School    Beginning of Year Testing**

Kindergarten and 2nd grade beginning of the year testing is done. 1st grade scholars are coming in this week to test. We are beginning to schedule 3rd graders to come in the beginning of September to complete their assessments. 4th graders have also completed required testing. Safety precautions have been put in place and K-2 scholars were scheduled 5 at a time. They were practicing social distancing; we took their temperatures, and had hand sanitizers. In addition, all scholars had masks on. The same precautions will be taken for 3rd grade.

**Jason Prince – IT Director    Tech Stewardship**

Help Desk :155 work tickets requests have been addressed between July 18-August 16.  
\$11,000 in E-Rate money will go towards updating switches and will help make the server virtual.  
40 HotSpots have been issued to scholars. 50 Chromebooks have been given to 3rd graders and additional were given to new scholars. We are currently enrolling families via Scribbles and Canvas will be rolled out in September.

**Brittany Curry – Dir. of Development, Marketing, and Communications    Distance Learning Survey**

GSA conducted a distance learning survey to get a sense from families how GSA performed in the Spring with distance learning and what can be improved. We have received good feedback and responses from

parents on how they felt and how we can improve. More than 50 families responded which covered 91 scholars. It is representative of the whole based on grade levels that responded. Ms. Brittany Curry presented additional data and takeaways from the survey. GSA providing devices and HotSpots has been very useful to our families. Good communication satisfaction outside of Spanish translations. Identified challenges include: food, childcare, social and emotional.

**Brittany Curry – Dir. of Development, Marketing, and Communications      Fundraising Updates**

Ms. Brittany Curry gave a high-level overview of fundraising from last year and where GSA is going for this year. About \$837,000 in funding came in last year, not including some state, federal and gifts-in-kind gifts we received. For 2020-2021 we have received over \$380,000 in support so far.

**Brittany Curry – Dir. of Development, Marketing, and Communications      Charter Renewal Update**

The Charter Renewal visit will be virtual and will be held September 10. Faculty, Staff, Board Members, and Parents will be involved. A closed website will be created for DPI and the Office of Charter Schools as an interactive repository of supporting documents and photos.

**Jamie Nobles – Accountant      Financial Reports**

The Finance Committee met last week and has reviewed items Ms. Jamie Nobles is presenting tonight. Ms. Jamie Nobles presented the June 30 end-of-year statements. GSA came in under on revenues and expenditures. \$169,621.40 will be coming out of the reserve.

The current Cash Balance is \$880,935,37 as of June 30, 2020.

Ms. Jamie Nobles presented the breakdown of revenue.

Areas with spending increases in preparing for 2020-2021 school year including PPE supplies, cleaning and sanitizing supplies and an increase in utilities. We purchased new office furniture and additional Chromebooks and software in order to operate virtually.

The Reserve Account - at the end of July 1, 2019 the balance was \$364,521. To balance the budget, \$169,621 came from the Reserve Account. The ending balance was \$194,900 as of July 1, 2020.

Ms. Jamie Nobles asked for recommendations to build up the Reserve Account with at least 6 months of salaries and benefits in case of emergency.

All PPP funds have been spent. Additional details are available on request.

The financial audit is coming up on Tuesday, August 25, 2020.

We were awarded the 21st Century Grant and are currently working on the budget to be submitted by September 30, 2020.

Sales Tax on local funds has been filed from July 2018-December 2019. The total GSA has received so far is \$1,224.54.

The July 30, 2020 budget statement was shared as well as Cash Balance of \$708,782.58 as of July 31, 2020.

Ms. Jamie Nobles also shared the budget amendment proposal: the total revenue and expenses did not change. Some items were moved around within the budget. Detail sheets can be provided upon request.

Motion to accept the budget amendment as articulated was moved by Dr. Sandra White and a second by Dr. Linda Bass. Unanimously accepted.

A move to approve the Finance Committee report was unanimously approved following a motion by Mr. William Smith with a second by Mrs. Dorothy Hairston Mitchell. Motion carries.

Mr. William Smith mentioned that Ms. Agatha Brown has been on retainer. Going forward, instead of being on a monthly retainer, she will be retained as a consultant and used as needed.

**Old Business:**

None

**New Business:**

**Initiatives and Partnership to Watch**

Dr. Pam Baldwin shared information about RISE (Redefining Innovative Schools through Sustained STEM Experiences) grant, which is a partnership with NC State, Science House and Open Way Learning. It will provide excellent Professional Learning and great STEM experiences for our scholars.

With the 21st Century grant, we are looking to provide creative and flexible learning for our scholars.

We have also entered into a partnership with Participate Learning. This will provide Global Learning for our 4th and 5th grade scholars. GSA is partnering with teachers and scholars in Alleghany County. A video with more information will be sent to the Board.

Schedule Update - Dr. Pam Baldwin met with the Kindergarten team, 1st grade team, and the instructional team to discuss bringing them in the building earlier than others. GSA will survey the parents to see what types of flexibility will be needed to bring K-1 scholars in earlier to assist in the literacy process. EC scholars and ESL scholars were also discussed about coming in earlier based on their needs.

Professional Development - Staff received Reading Foundations training and a Math Foundations training will be upcoming. Canvas training and iReady training is also occurring.

Project Destined – This is a partnership to expose scholars to real estate. Dr. Rachel Person has started her training this week and the class will take place during STEM. Scholars will work in groups and present properties in Durham. The program is designed to increase diversity in real estate development. Thank you to Dr. James Johnson for the partnership in connection with Mr. Cedrick Bobo. GSA is the first school in the Triangle area to participate. The scholars will compete with other scholars from other counties and can receive a stipend for participation.

**Forward Thinking**

Parent & Family Engagement Night & Town Hall (Virtual) – Aug 20 @ 5:30 p.m.

Backpack Buddy Booster Bag – Aug 22 @ 10:00 a.m.

Early Release @ 1 p.m./ Teacher Workday – Sept 4

No school/Labor Day – Sept 7

Site Renewal Visit (Virtual) – Sept 10

Next BOD Meeting – Sept 15 @ 6:00 p.m.

**Highlights**

An Art Gallery slide show was shared, provided by Ms. Linda Cato. It will also be placed on the GSA website.

Ms. Linda Cato is also offering art classes to our parents.

Mrs. Dorothy Hairston Mitchell appreciated the content and information shared by the team tonight. Mr. Kirk McCoy shared positive sentiments as well. Dr. Sandra White also commended the team. Dr. James Johnson also expressed his appreciation to the team.

**Adjournment**

Mr. William Smith made motion for the Board meeting to adjourn with a second by Dr. Sandra White. The meeting adjourned at 7:28 p.m. Meeting adjourned.