

Global Scholars Academy (GSA) Board Minutes
Tuesday, September 15, 2020
Held via Zoom at 6 p.m.

Meeting was called to order by Dr. James Johnson at 6:03 p.m.

Open and Welcome

Roll Call of Members: Ms. Amy Noble

Board Members Present via phone/Zoom: Dr. James Johnson, Mr. William Smith, Mrs. Dorothy Hairston Mitchell, Mrs. Shelton Gore, Dr. Linda Bass

NO QUORUM. THIS MEETING IS FOR INFORMATION ONLY.

Board Members Absent: Dr. Tawannah Allen, Ms. Tammie Hall, Mr. Kirk McCoy, Dr. Sandra White, 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, Mrs. Bettie Lyons, Ms. Deborah Amos, Ms. Melissa Tijerina, Ms. Marlisha Blakeney, Mrs. Lesli Bryant, Ms. Crystal Belcher, Ms. Rita Wells, Mrs. Zandra Wheeler, Ms. Tiffany Chavis, Ms. Seanyea Rains, Ms. Jennifer Mora.

Public Input

None

Standard Reports:

Jason Prince – IT Director Tech Stewardship

Mr. Jason Prince spoke about creating a Technology Plan and gave a high-level look at current devices and server life cycles. This includes Smart Boards and Document Cameras. He shared device life cycles that would expire in 2020 and in 2021. 2020-2021 Action Plan to assess where we stand with technology and develop a comprehensive plan for the future. GSA is also in conversations with partners like Microsoft, Lenovo and Apple. Building instructional framework and technology plan at the same time. Scholars primarily work in Google drive and Canvas. Hot Spots update will be available at the next Board Meeting. Help Desk requests for hardware are trending down. Help Desk requests for Canvas are trending up.

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

Ms. Amy Noble presented Enrollment information that was updated since the slides were created. Current enrollment stands at 205. The enrollment lottery will remain open until September 18 to provide families additional time to enroll if we have spots available. We currently have no waiting list for 1st, 3rd, and 8th grade and there are spots available in those grades. Kindergarten, and 6th grade also have spots available.

We have a 49/51 split male vs. female scholars in the school. Our population is 50% African American and 50% Hispanic.

At this time last year, we had 217 scholars enrolled.

Academic Reports

iReady Assessment Results

Mrs. Eboni Alexander shared the iReady Assessment results.

Beginning of Year Assessments

Mrs. Eboni Alexander shared data for Beginning-Of-Year (BOY) Assessments for Reading and Math for 19-20 and 20-21 school years. We have about the same number of scholars proficient this year compared to last year. We have identified solutions for problems with attendance and the learning gap.

2020-2021 Intersession Camps

Dr. Pam Baldwin shared information regarding the Intersession Camps for the year. Intersession Camp will be held September 21-25 and focus on STEAM and Global Awareness. Topics will include earthquakes, weather, engineering design, literacy, virtual field trips to museums and aquariums.

Upcoming Intersession Camps:

March 22-26 will focus on Entrepreneurship and Social and Emotional Learning.

June 14-18 will focus on Literacy (Reading Camp).

Second Quarter Virtual Schedule

Ms. Melissa Tijerina presented information regarding changing the schedule beginning 2nd quarter to make time for Professional Learning, MTSS - Differentiated Core, parent concerns about amount of screen time, more time for cooperative learning and team time, addressing fatigue, having teachers on campus part of the week, and scholars with highest needs on campus.

She also shared parent concerns from the survey and teacher feedback regarding the proposed schedule. Teachers would like to be able to work in small groups, have shorter screen time, and give K-1 scholars in-person instruction.

New Schedule Key Points include slotted times for differentiated instruction, core instruction completed before lunch. EL and EC services would supplement core instruction. Fridays reserved for cross-age tutoring and real world applications. There was also a request for additional brain breaks and less screen time for scholars.

Passion Friday will include priority groups based on needs and interest, group enrichment and acceleration. We would like to transition to this schedule in the 2nd quarter.

Communicating with parents and teachers and beginning ELL parent meetings for about 50 Hispanic families.

Ms. Melissa Tijerina shared research about scheduling and the importance of having core classes in the morning. Dr. James Johnson will send some additional research on start times.

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

Ms. Brittany Curry shared what the objectives were for the survey. 50+ families responded with 91 scholars covered to the survey. The plan is to have a quarterly survey to cross reference the responses. She shared an overview refresher and then the deeper trends.

Three key things came through on the survey: Think differently about Remote Learning Schedule and How to Support our Families, Better Communication with our Hispanic Families, and Careful, Flexible Return to School.

Ms. Brittany Curry shared data about how comfortable families were with sending their children back to school and what type of return to school they would be comfortable with.

Some of the working solution options for coming back into the building include EC and EL coming back first, lower grades, a flexible return, and iCaresAct. Transportation may be a bigger issue depending on finances for our families.

Hybrid Model will be put in place to allow scholars to be either in the building or virtual.

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

Ms. Brittany Curry gave a fundraising update of what grants have been awarded and others that are outstanding. About \$380k has been awarded and about \$249k outstanding.

Brittany Curry – Dir. of Development, Marketing, and Communications* *Change Proposal:

Middle Grade Distinction in Blue Polos

Ms. Brittany Curry shared a proposal for middle grades to be distinguished by heather blue polos with seal and grades K-5 would remain with grey polos with seal.

Mrs. Shelton Gore asked if financial assistance would be available for families that cannot afford new uniforms. It is an option for families to receive a free uniform shirt. Ms. Brittany Curry will confirm if grants can be used to assist families. Dr. Pam Baldwin committed to having a shirt for every middle school scholar. A parent suggested allowing time for transition for middle schoolers to wear both heather blue and grey.

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

Ms. Brittany Curry shared about the Charter Renewal Site Visit held on September 10 and it was a big success! A report is due to the Office of Charter Schools in October. A vote will go to the State Board in February/March and GSA will have results soon after. Our renewal consultant from the Office of Charter Schools featured us in her renewal letter and described the visit as creative and fabulous. Ms. Brittany Curry thanked all those that helped make the visit a success.

Old Business:

None

New Business:

Lesli Bryant – K-5 Guidance Counselor Student Health Advisory Council (SHAC)

Mrs. Lesli Bryant shared about the School Health Advisory Council (SHAC) and the team members involved. The council met last week and discussed each member's role. Members will create a SMART goal for their area and list goals. They will meet once a quarter with the next meeting being October 7. By next month, they plan to have a draft to submit to the Board.

Dr. Pam Baldwin mentioned the Policy Committee will be meeting soon and will be bringing policies to the Board in chunks for approval.

Jamie Nobles – Accountant Financial Reports

First, Mr. William Smith shared that the Financial Committee met September 11 and talked about cash balances, updates with corrections, August financials, PPP updates, and a discussion about school rent amount from Union Baptist Church. Ms. Agatha Brown is no longer on retainer contract but instead we will pay her as we use her to assist. Thomas and Gibbs financials is a draft and will be corrected by the October Board Meeting.

Ms. Jamie Nobles presented the Financial Tracker. There will be some updates to GSA's Federal budget and they will be presented in the October Meeting. For expenses, no major mentions through August. She shared the cash balance at the end of August.

Key Updates included that Union Baptist Church YTD has given \$2016 this fiscal year.

The financial audit with Ms. Rebekah Barr was held on August 25. It went well and we are on schedule for submitting the budget on time.

The 21st Century budget has been put together and will be submitted by September 30.

The Workers Compensation audit was submitted on Sept 8.

The Maintenance of Effort report for the EC grant period of 2019-2020 is due September 30.

Ms. Jamie Nobles is working with Ms. Brittany Curry to complete the budgets for the Title funds.

Any additional updates will be shared at the October Board Meeting

The PPP portal to apply for PPP loan forgiveness is not open yet.

Ms. Jamie Nobles reported a correction to Cash Balances originally reported in August, the June 30 balance was reported as \$214,723.88 but there was a difference of \$169,621.40 The true ending balance at the end of June was \$384,345.28. That balance carried over incorrect for July. The beginning balance was \$384,345.28.

Mr. William Smith discussed the 2 proposals submitted on how to set up a Reserve Account. The Financial Committee recommends Option 2, which would transfer 50% (\$202,421) from operating to reserve and move the remaining by June 30, 2021. This will leave \$333,568 in the operating budget. The Financial Committee recommended opening a new account at the Self Help Credit Union.

Financials were unable to be approved due to no quorum.

Mr. William Smith attended the Union Baptist Church monthly meeting and only one person raised the question about the rent GSA was paying. Rev. Rivers shared that they were working with GSA on this.

Mrs. Shelton Gore, a member of the finance committee, thanked Mr. William Smith, Dr. Pam Baldwin, and Ms. Jamie Nobles in presenting information in a clear and concise manner.

Forward Thinking

A slide shared upcoming events.

The next Board Meeting is October 20.

GSA Highlights

Ms. Maryanne Ross, ELA middle school teacher, contributed infographics from the 6th-8th graders. Thank you to Ms. Maryanne Ross for being up for a challenge and trying new things.

Mrs. Dorothy Hairston Mitchell gave kudos to Ms. Maryanne Ross on how in tune she is to different aspects of the ELA curriculum and touches base with parents about assignments in class.

Adjournment

Dr. James Johnson mentioned the summary of items for approval to be sent out in email, which include uniforms, the reserve account and shifting accounts to Self Help, approving the Finance Committee report, August minutes, September agenda, and the schedule modifications. The meeting adjourned at 7:52 p.m.

Due to a lack of achievement of quorum in the September Board meeting, the following items were voted on and unanimously approved via email by the following Board members: Dr. James Johnson, Mr. William Smith, Dr. Tawannah Allen, Mr. Kirk McCoy, Dr. Sandra White, Dr. Linda Bass, Mrs. Dorothy Hairston Mitchell, Ms. Tammie Hall, Mrs. Shelton Gore.

- *September 15 Agenda Approval*
- *August 18 Minutes*
- *Uniform approval for Middle School scholars*
- *Approval to open a new account at Self Help Credit Union for Reserve Account - Transfer 50% (\$202,421) from Operating to Reserve and move the remaining by June 30, 2021.*
- *Approve the Finance Committee Report*

- *Approval to move forward with a change to the 2nd quarter virtual schedule, for the remainder of the year, based on the goals presented by the Administration.*