

**Global Scholars Academy (GSA) Board Minutes**  
**Monday, December 7, 2020**  
**Held via Zoom at 6 p.m.**  
*Meeting was called to order by Dr. James Johnson at 6:05 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, Mr. Kirk McCoy, Mrs. Shelton Gore, Dr. Sandra White, Dr. Linda Bass

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

**Non-Board Members Present:** Dr. Pamela Baldwin, Ms. Brittany Curry, Mrs. Eboni Alexander, Ms. Jamie Nobles, Ms. Amy Noble, Mr. Leland Davis, Mrs. Kendra Johnson, Mrs. Bettie Lyons, Ms. Rita Wells, Mrs. Anitra Williams, Ms. Miranda Markham, Ms. Sharon Watford, Mrs. Maryanne Ross, Ms. Valerie McNeil, Mrs. Allison Crews, Dr. Ibukun Akinboyo, Dr. Kanecia Zimmerman

**Agenda Approval**

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

**Public Input**

None

**Review Minutes**

The Board minutes from Tuesday, October 20, 2020 were unanimously approved following a motion by Mrs. Dorothy Hairston Mitchell and a second by Dr. Sandra White.

**Presentations                    ABC Science Collaborative**

GSA has joined the ABC Science Collaborative with Duke School of Medicine and Duke Clinical Research Institute. Dr. Kanecia Zimmerman and Dr. Ibukun Akinboyo presented. The ABC Science Collaborative is a program that pairs scientists and physicians with school and community leaders to help understand relevant information about COVID-19.

Informing evidence-based decision making, delivering educational resources for all, and advancing public health. Dr. Ibukun Akinboyo shared what we know about COVID-19 and what planning and protocols are most effective. She shared what has been learned in the past few months with transmission dynamics.

The goal is not to see spread - secondary transmission in school settings. Masking works. She presented research indicating schools do not appear to be super-spreaders. With proper protocols in place in the school, secondary transmission is extremely low. We need to continue to remain careful.

In a high-risk setting, a surgical mask preferred. In most other settings, cloth masks are fine. Questions were also asked regarding poor ventilation in schools and its effect.

Several members of the Board thanked them for their work and the presentation.

**Standard Reports:**

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

Update since slide was created. Current enrollment stands at 195.

We have a 49/51 percent split male vs. female scholars in the school. Our population is 51% African American, 48% Hispanic, and 1.5% Mixed Race.

The Lottery Application Period for the 2021-2022 school year will open January 19, 2021.

***Leland Davis – I.T. Director      Tech Stewardship***

Mr. Leland Davis presented a Zoom Usage Summary and Help Desk Summary. Most unresolved help desk requests are hardware related - older computers. Due to the transition in the Technology Department and COVID-19, GSA is in the process of developing a more defined procedure for an inventory management system.

The issue with scholar emails has been resolved.

Verizon hotspots: GSA will transition hotspot usage to using ones from the State. This will result in a cost savings.

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

Ms. Brittany Curry presented the fundraising tracker. We should hear about a few outstanding grants in December.

Charter Renewal Update - GSA was recommended for a 10-year renewal!

The GSA 10-year anniversary will kick off in January. Emails went out on Giving Tuesday. Ms. Brittany Curry shared areas to celebrate, our vision for the future, and the fundraising goal. She shared the campaign strategy and approach to the year and how we will share the story of GSA, and the campaign timeline.

Soft kickoff for the 10-year campaign was launched on Giving Tuesday with a goal of \$10k. We raised \$2k in the first two days. Weekly email reminders will be sent.

We did not receive the iCARES grant. Those are primarily going to bigger districts.

Dr. James Johnson has a connection with Microsoft and Gates Foundation and may be able to connect with them in January.

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

Ms. Jamie Nobles presented the Topline Tracker for October 31, 2020. We are trending well in revenue and expenditures. The cash balance at end of October was \$813,328.

She presented key updates including allotments received and giving from Union Baptist Church. The GSA Budget team continues to meet every month to plan for next year and the Board Finance Committee continues to meet each month as well.

Our finance audit has been approved by the LGC.

Wal-Mart Gift Card Distribution from Kenan money received in the spring. This is the second distribution we're giving out to families and staff. The distribution started this week for scholars and staff. Mr. William Smith thanked the Board for approving the gift card distribution to help meet the needs of our scholars and staff.

Ms. Brittany Curry mentioned that we have reported with Kenan the use of funds so far and received good feedback from them.

A move to approve the financial report as presented was unanimously approved following a motion by Mr. William Smith with a second by Mrs. Dorothy Hairston Mitchell.

**Old Business:**

None

***Dr. Pam Baldwin – HOS                      New Business***

Mr. Johnny Brown will transfer from Office Support back to ESL to meet the need with our ESL scholars.

Ms. Rita Wells will transfer from Receptionist to the Data Manager position.

Mr. Leland Davis will be the 21st Century Director and interim IT Director position.

Front Office vacancy has been rewritten into a Bi-lingual Communications position for the Front Office.

We have posted the position and have found a great candidate and are working to provide the Finance Committee with a presentation for the position.

Motion by Mr. William Smith and a second by Mrs. Dorothy Hairston Mitchell to ratify the acts Dr. Baldwin has already taken. Motion carries. This information had already been presented to the Finance Committee.

Dr. Pam Baldwin has identified some scholars for Math 1 and will be meeting with some parents to share their data and have some conversations with their families for the high school course. We hope to have at least 5 scholars taking this class in the Spring.

**Forward Thinking**

Upcoming important dates were presented.

All teachers and staff are currently working virtually.

***Dr. Rachel Person – STEM Teacher    GSA Highlights***

Educator Spotlight: Dr. Rachel Person was unable to attend the meeting tonight. Dr. Pam Baldwin shared Dr. Rachel Person's slides.

She shared K-5 highlights, alternative ways to learn and connect remotely, Girls Pursuing Science Club, Middle School working to understand elements, Project Destined and Cedric Bobo.

Dr. James Johnson thanked all GSA staff for their hard work during this tough year and for their commitment to GSA.

**Adjournment**

Mrs. Dorothy Hairston Mitchell made motion for the Board meeting to adjourn with a second by Dr. Sandra White. The meeting adjourned at 7:24 p.m.