

Global Scholars Academy (GSA) Board Minutes
Tuesday, February 16, 2021
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, Dr. Tawannah Allen, Mrs. Dorothy Hairston Mitchell, Mr. Kirk McCoy, Mrs. Shelton Gore, Dr. Sandra White, Dr. Linda Bass

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

Non-Board Members Present: Dr. Pamela Baldwin, Ms. Jamie Nobles, Ms. Amy Noble, Mr. Leland Davis, Mrs. Bettie Lyons, Ms. Miranda Markham, Mrs. Charrice Carrington, Mr. Willis Hart, Jr., Mrs. Jasmine Pointer

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

Mr. Willis Hart Jr., a GSA parent, asked about offering Spanish to scholars. Mandarin is the main foreign language taught at GSA with some offerings of Spanish in the afternoon. Dr. James Johnson shared about the decision made when opening the school to offer Mandarin as China would be a major player in the global industry. Mr. Willis Hart recommended offering Spanish to have an advantage in the workplace. Mrs. Dorothy Hairston Mitchell voiced appreciation to Mr. Willis Hart for sharing his thoughts and opinion.

Review Minutes

The Board minutes from Tuesday, January 19, 2021 were unanimously approved following a motion by Dr. Sandra White and a second by Mr. William Smith.

Standard Reports:

Academic Reports

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

Current enrollment stands at 195. We gained back a scholar that previously moved in December. EC is serving 23 scholars and EL is serving 46 scholars.

Leland Davis – I.T. Director Tech Stewardship HOPING I CAUGHT EVERYTHING

Mr. Leland Davis presented the Help Desk Summary. The most unresolved issues are computers being ordered, repaired, or software that is waiting to be ordered.

21st Century Community Learning Center STEAM Focused

We will be adding additional virtual programs offerings beginning March 1 and looking to have a Family Engagement Day that following Saturday in March held virtually.

Dr. Pam Baldwin Grants/Fundraising Updates

Dr. Pam Baldwin presented the fundraising tracker. GSA just received an 18k School Resource Officer (SRO) grant to pay for an SRO and professional development for SROs. We added 2 new grants on the tracker, ATT Aspire, and Aim High grant.

10-year anniversary updates - we have gone live on social media on Instagram and Twitter. We are also on Facebook and LinkedIn.

We are still working on celebration ideas once we get through the pandemic.

She also shared the finalized new logos for our 10-year anniversary.

We should have an official announcement soon from the State regarding the recommendation for GSA's charter to be renewed for 10 years.

Jamie Nobles – Accountant Financial Reports

Mr. William Smith - the Finance Committee met last Tuesday and Ms. Jamie Nobles will be giving updates. The Board should have received the Thomas and Gibbs report today as well.

Ms. Jamie Nobles presented the Topline Tracker through January 31, 2021. Since the last Board meeting, we have received EC funds, an SRO grant, as well as two smaller CARES Act funds.

For expenditures we are trending slightly under plan. Office supplies and technology spending has been a bit higher than planned due to copier and additional Chromebooks needs.

Cash balances - everything is trending well.

We are using additional Kenan funds to support with uniforms. We will continue to give shirts to families in need.

Updated Fundraising Charts – we have received additional funds for Classy campaign, monthly UBC donation, SRO, and CARES Act funds.

RFP update – we sent to 10 banks at the end of January. They have until March 1 to submit questions and then submit proposals to March 15.

PPP Forgiveness application – This has been completed. Ms. Jamie Nobles is working with the loan rep to review and make sure we have everything needed to submit and then it will be reviewed by the Finance Committee. The timeline right now is to have loans forgiven within 60 days.

The paperwork was sent over for the reserve account for the credit union.

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:

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

We currently have 60 lottery applications with applications for all grades. The lottery application deadline is February 26 at 5:00 p.m. The lottery will be held on March 19 at 2:00 p.m. A discussion was had regarding marketing the lottery and how area charter schools are also experiencing a lower number of lottery applications.

Current scholars intent to return next year: with 72% of scholars responding so far, 100% of those scholars plan to return to GSA.

New Business:

Dr. Pam Baldwin – Head of School Beginning Teacher Handbook

Dr. Pam Baldwin sent the Beginning Teacher Handbook last Friday to the Board. Mrs. Anitra Williams is our Beginning Teacher mentor. Dr. Pam Baldwin mentioned all of the updates to the handbook. Board approval is needed.

Mrs. Dorothy Hairston Mitchell moved to approve with a second by Dr. Sandra White. Motion carries

unanimously.

Mrs. Dorothy Hairston Mitchell mentioned that the Bylaws Committee met last Thursday and has been working diligently. They are going through the bylaws and making edits and plan to have it to the Board in March. Thank you to the committee members for their hard work.

Looking Forward:

Save the Date! And Upcoming Dates were given.
School pictures will be taken in March.

Mrs. Dorothy Hairston Mitchell asked about End-of-Grade testing. GSA is scheduled to test. It is required to be in the building for testing. It will be done by appointment and socially distanced.

She commended the team for the PowerSchool Parent and Family Engagement night.

Mr. William Smith asked about the process for staff not wanting to come in the building due to COVID. Dr. Pam Baldwin shared that we have been working with staff to share safety measures and currently reassessing at-risk factors. Looking at ways to cover classrooms with current staff. Dr. James Johnson is open to offering GSA as a destination site for our families to receive vaccines. Our school nurse put in a request today to have us as a vaccination site.

Dr. Sandra White shared information regarding the different vaccines. No vaccines have been cleared yet for children.

Mrs. Shelton Gore asked about food needs. Mrs. Bettie Lyons and Ms. Miranda Markham have been working to provide food to families in need.

Mrs. Dorothy Hairston Mitchell saw a post from DeWarren Langley and Charles Hamilton Houston Foundation where they highlighted a piece on one of GSA's former students and how great he is doing at Woodberry Forest School.

Dr. James Johnson thanked everyone for the hard work that is being done on behalf of our families and scholars.

Adjournment

Mr. William Smith made a motion for the Board meeting to adjourn with a second by Mrs. Dorothy Hairston Mitchell. The meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.