

Global Scholars Academy (GSA) Board Minutes
Tuesday, March 16, 2021
Held via Zoom at 6 p.m.
Meeting was called to order by Mr. William Smith at 6:10 p.m.

Open and Welcome

Roll Call of Members: Ms. Amy Noble

Board Members Present via phone/Zoom: Mr. William Smith, Mrs. Dorothy Hairston Mitchell, Mr. Kirk McCoy, Mrs. Shelton Gore, Dr. Sandra White, Dr. Linda Bass

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

Non-Board Members Present: Dr. Pamela Baldwin, Ms. Brittany Curry, Ms. Jamie Nobles, Ms. Amy Noble, Mr. Leland Davis, Mrs. Bettie Lyons, Ms. Miranda Markham, Mrs. Charrice Carrington, Ms. Lakeisha Holliday, Ms. Sharon Watford, Mrs. Melissa Tijerina, Ms. Marlisha Blakeney, Ms. Patrice Johnson, Mrs. Lesli Bryant, 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. Sandra White.

Public Input

None

Review Minutes

The Board minutes from Tuesday, February 16, 2021 were unanimously approved following a motion by Dr. Sandra White and a second by Mrs. Dorothy Hairston Mitchell.

Standard Reports:

Academic Reports

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

Current enrollment stands at 193. EC is serving 23 scholars with 1 waiting on the process and EL is serving 46 scholars.

Melissa Tijerina - Instructional Specialist EL Education Adoption

Mrs. Melissa Tijerina shared an overview of ELED K-8. It coordinates with SIOP and ensures our lessons are accessible for English learners. This program has the highest rating from ED.reports.org. It has a very robust education. They include differentiated lessons and labs.

Leland Davis – I.T. Director Tech Stewardship

Mr. Leland Davis presented the Help Desk Summary. All unresolved issues are being addressed. We will launch Lightspeed and Jamf in Q4. These programs will allow us to monitor scholar use of GSA-issued equipment.

Board members shared about communicating more with parents regarding correct usage of GSA-issued equipment.

Leland Davis – I.T. Director 21st Century Community Learning Center STEAM Focused Updates

Mr. Leland Davis shared about program offerings and finding ways to increase attendance. We will also have Saturday programs for family engagement beginning April 7.

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

Ms. Brittany Curry presented the fundraising tracker. No major updates this month. We did receive a \$15k donation from Mr. Tom Kenan.

GSA received an official announcement from the NC State Board of Education that GSA's charter is renewed for another 10 years!

Ms. Brittany Curry shared some of the Communications Strategy for the stakeholder journey and the digital campaign wheel. We have some creative opportunities in social media. She also shared about SEO and content strategy.

Ms. Brittany Curry shared some of the major tenants of the 10-year anniversary, our alternate logos, details of our social media campaign, and anniversary big ideas. Finally, she shared about GSA's digital advertising and the campaign timeline.

Jamie Nobles – Accountant Financial Reports

Mr. William Smith - The finance committee met last night, 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 February 28, 2021. We have received 80% of revenue against the budget. For expenditures - we are spending slightly under and have some areas of savings. We did receive an additional \$15k from Mr. Tom Kenan and that will be reflected next month. Key updates - we opened our savings account at Self-Help Bank. We are also in the midst of budget planning. Our RFP for banking services - we received information from one bank. The Financial Committee approved having the deadline extended to the end of this month.

PPP Loan Forgiveness Update - Ms. Jamie Nobles shared the information regarding the application with the Board with the goal of having the funds forgiven by June 30. The Finance Committee has reviewed the application.

A move to approve the financial report as presented was unanimously approved following a motion by Mrs. Dorothy Hairston Mitchell with a second by Dr. Linda Bass.

Motion to approve for use to submit the PPP loan forgiveness application form 3508EZ revised on January 8, 2021 in the amount of \$404,842. A motion was made by Mrs. Shelton Gore with a second by Mrs. Dorothy Hairston Mitchell. Motion carries.

Budget for 2021-2022 – The Finance Committee will meet in 2 weeks to review the proposed budget and Board members will have a chance to look at the draft before the April Board meeting. We will ask the Board to approve the budget in May.

Old Business:

Amy Noble – Executive Admin. Asst. to Head of School/Office Manager Lottery 2021-2022

We have 82 applications. The lottery will be held virtually this Friday at 2 p.m. 98% of scholars plan to return to GSA next year.

New Business:

Patrice Johnson – Testing Coordinator EOG Re-Administration Plan

The State required us to submit a plan for scholars that do not pass the EOG assessment.

Ms. Patrice Johnson shared information regarding that plan. Remediation dates will be June 14-17 with a retake or makeups on June 21. The Board was provided a copy of the plan.

Motion to approve the EOG Re-Administration Plan as submitted by Mrs. Dorothy Hairston Mitchell and a second by Mrs. Shelton Gore. Motion carries.

Dr. Pam Baldwin – Head of School 2020-21 Summer Program

We would like to offer some additional programming to our K-3 scholars by invitation for those needing support in math and literature. This will be a 2-week program. We will continue to monitor our data and attendance.

Dr. Pam Baldwin – Head of School Proposed Return to School in 4th Quarter (April 7, 2021)

The current model has an A group and B group - 2 days per week and 100% virtual on Friday. We propose for the 4th quarter to be 4 days a week offered to all face-to-face families and Friday will continue to be 100% virtual. We currently served about 85 scholars face-to-face. We will work to create space in our building to provide this offering. Families will still have the option to do virtual learning.

Motion to approve the proposed 4-day week face-to-face learning with Friday's being 100% virtual beginning April 7, 2021 by Mrs. Shelton Gore with a second by Dr. Sandra White. Motion carries.

Dr. Pam Baldwin – Head of School 2021-2022 Calendar

Dr. Pam Baldwin proposed a calendar to the Board for the 2021-2022 school year. The first day of school would be July 19. This allows for more time for professional development prior to the first day of school. The administrative team will return July 6 and teachers will return July 13. This calendar meets required days, holidays, breaks, etc.

Motion to approve this 2021-2022 calendar with a school start date of July 19 by Dr. Sandra White with a second by Mr. Kirk McCoy. Motion carries.

Mrs. Dorothy Hairston Mitchell GSA Board Member Bylaws Amendment Proposal

The Bylaws Amendment Proposal was sent to the Board. From the Bylaws Committee research, the bylaws used are the ones submitted with the original charter application. A lot of the changes are cleaning up the formatting. Mrs. Dorothy Hairston Mitchell shared some of the updates including added language, changes in Board terms (including founding members), sections that were moved for flow, updated Open meetings law, qualifications and designations of officers, standing committees (executive committee, finance committee, governance committee), a section concerning loans, capital and unbudgeted expenditure limitations, and a purpose of the bylaws section.

Mrs. Dorothy Hairston Mitchell shared the motion for the resolution to approve revisions and admissions to approve the Bylaws. Whereas the Global Scholars Academy Bylaws were created and duly adopted by the action of the corporation and submitted with the charter application in May 2011. Whereas the Bylaws and Policy Committee appointed by the Chair of Board has conducted a comprehensive review of the Bylaws to determine whether any existing provisions should be updated or revised. Whereas the Bylaws and Policies Committee has given a detailed report describing the issues it considered and the changes it recommends. Whereas the Bylaws and Policies Committee provided a written copy of the changes it recommends and provided proper notice to all Board members in advance of the meeting to address such recommendation. Whereas the Board members have read and discussed the recommendations and agreed to the proposed revisions and amendments. Now therefore be it resolved that pursuant to applicable law the undersigned acknowledges that at least two-thirds of the sitting Board of Directors of Global Scholars Academy hereby consent to approve and adopt the revisions and amendments as shown in the attached redline version of all articles in accordance with Article 13 of the Bylaws. The motion was second by Dr. Sandra White. Motion carries.

Mrs. Dorothy Hairston Mitchell thanks Board members that worked on this proposal.

Ms. Sharon Watford & Ms. Lakeisha Holliday 4th & 5th Grades Participate Learning Partners

Ms. Sharon Watford and Ms. Lakeisha Holliday shared information regarding the GSA pilot program with Participate Learning Partners. The lessons are designed around sustainable development goals. These lessons help our scholars think globally and act locally.

Dr. Pam Baldwin thanked Ms. Sharon Watford and Ms. Lakeisha Holliday for their hard work with this program.

Looking Forward

Save the Date! Upcoming Dates given

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) and to consider the qualifications, competence, performance, condition of appointment of a public officer or employee or prospective public officer or employee. North Carolina General Statute 143-318.11(a)(6) at 8:15 p.m. Second by Mrs. Dorothy Hairston Mitchell.

Open Session:

A motion was made to go back into Open Session by Mrs. Dorothy Hairston Mitchell at 9:00 p.m. with a second by Mrs. Shelton Gore.

Adjournment

Dr. Sandra White made motion for the Board meeting to adjourn with a second by Mr. Kirk McCoy. The meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.