

Global Scholars Academy (GSA) Board Minutes
Tuesday, August 17, 2021
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, Dr. Tawannah Allen, Mrs. Dorothy Mitchell, Mrs. Shelton Gore, Mr. Kirk McCoy, Ms. Tammie Hall, Dr. Zakiya Whatley

Board Members Absent: Dr. Sandra White, Dr. Linda Bass

Non-Board Members Present: Dr. Pamela Baldwin, Ms. Brittany Curry, Ms. Amy Noble, Dr. Khari Grant, Ms. Rita Wells, Ms. Miranda Markham, Mrs. Bettie Lyons, Ms. Marlisha Blakeney, Ms. Cheryl McNeely, Ms. Tiffany Chavis

Agenda Approval

The agenda for today's meeting was unanimously approved following a motion by Mr. Smith and a second by Mrs. Mitchell.

Public Input

None

Review Minutes

The Board minutes from Tuesday, June 15, 2021 were unanimously approved following a motion by Mrs. Mitchell and a second by Mrs. Gore.

Presentations

None

Standard Reports:

Academic Reports

Amy Noble – Executive Admin. Assistant Enrollment

Current enrollment stands at 211. EC is serving 22 scholars with 5 in progress and EL is serving 64 scholars. The lottery closed on Friday. We have 54 new scholars this year. This time last year enrollment was 207.

Dr. Khari Grant – Asst. Head of School Master Schedule 2021-2022

Dr. Grant shared about the enhanced instruction with a PBL learning block, an academic support block, and a foreign language immersion program. Eighth graders are taking Spanish 1 for high school credit. K-7th graders are taking Mandarin and Spanish simultaneously.

There is also time built into the faculty's schedule for PLC meetings, MTSS, and professional learning. They are planning collaboratively to bridge the learning gaps.

Dr. Khari Grant – Asst. Head of School EL Curriculum Implementation

The EL curriculum integration has been successful. The curriculum also expands to the STEAM curriculum. The teachers are excited about how the curriculum allows them to be innovative in their approach.

Dr. Khari Grant – Asst. Head of School Social Emotional Learning (SEL)

We have been focusing on SEL. K-3 starts the day with morning meetings, 3-7 is using Fly Five, 6-8 are focused on leadership activities including the ambassador program where they will partner with K-3 to support young scholars and help provide leadership.

Dr. Grant will continue collecting data regarding the impact of COVID on the mental health of our scholars in addition to the data we have from the mid-pandemic parent survey.

Dr. Pam Baldwin – Head of School Technology Stewardship

Dr. Baldwin provided an update on technology. All scholars and staff have received equipment back and we have an asset-tracking system. We are providing information to our scholars for keeping technology in good condition.

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

Ms. Curry gave an update on the 2021-2022 fundraising tracker. We are off to a great start with multi-year grants. There are some outstanding ESSER funds that have been approved. Our safety grant has been renewed. We have received a generous donation from The Durham, NC Chapter of The Links, Inc., and a donation from Tom Kenan for the MakerSpace. We have some outstanding grants we are monitoring as well.

10-year anniversary updates - we continue to raise money for the Makerspace. We encourage everyone to sign up for AmazonSmile and Harris Teeter Together in Education. We are planning two small school fundraisers - car magnets and t-shirts. We are looking at a few school celebration events to celebrate our 10-year anniversary. Donor thank you packets will be shipping this month. Ms. Curry encouraged Board members to send a paragraph reflecting on our 10-year anniversary.

William Smith – GSA Board of Directors Treasurer Financial Reports

Mr. Smith presented the financial report. The Board received the reports from Thomas and Gibbs and we will approve them at the next Board meeting.

Ms. Jamie Nobles is no longer with GSA. She has been removed from the bank accounts and credit card has been turned in.

The auditor - Ms. Barr is coming tomorrow to start the audit.

As of July 31, the Wells Fargo account has \$260,171.58. The Self-Help Credit Union account, our reserve account, has \$197,994.41. The account is low because every July we have to transfer money until we receive our State allocation. Thomas and Gibbs has been working with Dr. Baldwin to help us stay on course as we transition to the new GSA accountant. There will be a full report at the September Board

meeting. Ms. Rhonda Ashe is our new accountant. She started Monday. She comes with experience as a bookkeeper and account payable in the school system and at the university level.

Old Business:

None

New Business:

Dr. Pam Baldwin – Head of School Makerspace/STEAM Lab Furniture

We are excited to create spaces for scholars to experience what learning can look like in a non-traditional classroom. We have furniture coming in to turn the media center into a technological and project learning space. This item has already been approved in the 21st Century budget.

Dr. Pam Baldwin – Head of School Deaf and Hard of Hearing Teacher Contract

We have a need for a deaf and hard of hearing teacher for a scholar. It was not in the original budget that was approved, but because of the IEP for this child, it should and will be provided to support them. The cost is a little over \$23k for an annual contract. We need a motion to approve the contract.

Mrs. Mitchell moves to approve the contract with a second by Mrs. Gore. Motion carries unanimously.

Dr. Pam Baldwin – Head of School Proposed Charter Amendment

Dr. Baldwin brought before the Board a request to amend the charter to create a blended instruction mode. That model would look similar to what we did last year where we have scholars half the week at home and half the week in the building in groups A and B with one day all virtual to allow for deep cleaning. The proposal will need to be sent to the Office of Charter Schools at DPI for their approval. We do not plan to go to the hybrid model unless absolutely necessary. We would bring back to the Board the model we would use for a second vote. This cannot be done until we have permission from the Office of Charter Schools.

Dr. Baldwin asked for a motion and Board approval for a blended instruction model that will be amended in our original charter to be submitted to the Office of Charter Schools. Mrs. Mitchell moved to amend the charter to include a blended instruction model with a second by Mr. Kirk McCoy. Motion carries unanimously.

Mrs. Dorothy Mitchell – GSA Board of Directors Vice-Chairperson Board Elections

Tendered to re-engage Rev. Hammond on the Board as a director. He is one of the founding Board members. He has expressed interest in coming back. Mrs. Mitchell nominates Rev. Hammond to be reappointed as a Board director. Mr. Smith seconded the nomination to elect Rev. Kenneth Hammond to the Board of Directors for GSA effective immediately. Motion carries unanimously.

Dr. Linda Bass' term ended August 1, 2021. Mrs. Mitchell suggested holding off on the vote until they speak with her and gain her interest and commitment to the Board.

Looking Forward

Dr. Baldwin shared the upcoming events.

Ms. Curry shared about having a virtual Town Hall meeting coming soon. Board members will receive an invitation.

The Fall Intersession Camp will focus on STEAM and Literacy.

Dr. Baldwin mentioned how proud she is of GSA faculty, staff, scholars, and families making sure everyone is safe in the building during the pandemic.

Adjournment for Closed Session:

A motion was made by Mr. 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) at 6:50 p.m. with a second by Ms. Hall.

Open Session:

A motion was made to go back into Open Session by Mr. Smith at 7:01 p.m. with a second by Mrs. Gore.

Adjournment

Mr. Smith made a motion for the Board meeting to adjourn with a second by Mr. McCoy. The meeting adjourned at 7:02 p.m.