

Global Scholars Academy (GSA) Board Minutes
Tuesday, October 19, 2021
Held via Zoom at 6 p.m.
Meeting was called to order by Dr. James Johnson at 6:01 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, Rev. Kenneth Hammond, Dr. Sandra White, Mr. Kirk McCoy

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

Non-Board Members Present: Dr. Pamela Baldwin, Ms. Brittany Curry, Ms. Amy Noble, Dr. Khari Grant, Ms. Rita Wells, Ms. Rhonda Ashe, Mr. Leandro Rodriguez, Mrs. Bettie Lyons, Ms. Miranda Markham, Mrs. LaKeisha Thomas, Ms. Marlisha Blakeney, Ms. Rebekah Barr, Ms. Tartisha Bridges

Agenda Approval

The agenda for today's meeting was unanimously approved following a motion by Dr. White and a second by Rev. Hammond.

Public Input

None

Review Minutes

The Board minutes from Tuesday, September 28, 2021 were unanimously approved following a motion by Rev. Hammond and a second by Dr. Allen.

Presentations

Ms. Rebekah Barr, CPA, presented the drafted audit report with the statement of activities ending on June 30, 2021. There are no findings again this year. Standard unmodified report. Ms. Barr received the Management's Discussion and Analysis from Thomas and Gibbs received this afternoon and it will be inserted into the audit. Clean opinion for 2021. \$537,693 - total net position. No compliance issues.

A motion to accept the financial statements presented by Ms. Rebekah Barr for June 30, 2021 for Mr. Smith to sign on behalf of the Global Scholars Academy Board of Directors. Moved by Rev. Hammond and a second Mr. McCoy. Motion carries unanimously.

Standard Reports:
Academic Reports

Amy Noble – Executive Admin. Assistant Enrollment

Current enrollment stands at 204. EC is serving 24 scholars with 3 in progress and EL is serving 54 scholars.

Dr. Khari Grant – Asst. Head of School Beginning Teacher Support Program Goals 2021-2022

Dr. Grant asked for Board Approval of the Beginning Teacher Support Plan to be submitted to the State which is aligned with the State standards and Board policies.

Move to approve the plan as tendered by Mrs. Mitchell and second by Dr. White. Motion carries unanimously.

Leo Rodriguez - IT Technician Technology Stewardship

All the Chromebooks purchased were added to an asset management system. Internet phones that were faulty have been fixed.

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

Ms. Curry gave an update on the 2021-2022 fundraising tracker. The primary focus of Fall is locking in the Federal funding and submitting multiple Federal reports. Continuing to see value in kind gifts as well.

William Smith – GSA Board of Directors Treasurer Financial Reports

Mr. Smith presented the financial report.

The Finance Committee met on October 12 with Mr. Smith, Mrs. Mitchell, Mrs. Gore in attendance. They reviewed the September financial reports and examined cash balances. The committee asked Dr. Baldwin to give an update at the next meeting regarding lapsed salaries. They also asked Ms. Ashe to reevaluate Sale and Use tax.

Mr. Smith presented the topline tracker. Expenses are trending slightly under budget.

Bank accounts - as of September 30 in our operating account \$132,735.66, Tabitha account - \$60,068.00, Kenan \$40,166.92 for a total of \$232,970.58. In addition, \$198,044.05 in the Self-Help Credit Union reserve account. At the beginning of the year, some of the reserve account money is drawn down for the first few months of the school year to cover expenses until money is pulled down from the State. Once money drops from Federal and State, we will be putting money back into the reserve account.

No issues with audit this year.

UBC – donations picked up on October 6 and copies of the checks were made. GSA should resume receiving \$900 a month for common use areas.

Approval needed for June, July, August, September financial reports.

Mr. Smith moved to accept the June, July, August, September financial reports with a second by Dr. Allen. Accepted unanimously.

Old Business:

Dr. Pam Baldwin – Head of School Face Covering Policy

The State is requiring a face covering Board policy that will be in the Board minutes every month - current policy is that everyone wears a mask - scholars, staff, visitors.

Rev. Hammond moved to approve the current practices in place as a policy for face covering for October/November (until the next Board meeting) requiring every person in the building to wear face covering, second by Mrs. Gore. Motion unanimously approved.

Brittany Curry – Dir. of Development, Marketing, & Communications **COVID Testing**

Ms. Curry shared an update. All staff responded to the survey and 90% are vaccinated.

About 25% response rate so far on the wellness check survey. About 50% families are vaccinated and about 50-60% are willing to submit to weekly testing. Everyone who opts in will test weekly. Families can opt out at any time.

Mrs. Mitchell moved to approve GSA to become a registered COVID testing site. Second by Dr. White. Unanimously approved.

Dr. White moved to accept the frequency as indicated in the model as presented to the Board. Second by Rev. Hammond. One opposed to the frequency of the testing. Motion carries.

A discussion was had regarding concern over the lack of family participation in schoolwide parent meetings.

Brittany Curry – Dir. of Development, Marketing, & Communications **Family Survey Results**

Ms. Curry presented information on the wellness check survey that was sent out to families in early October regarding the impact of COVID, social and emotional needs, and to compare the 2021-2022 baseline to Fall 2020. About 25% response rate so far. Consistent SEL concerns. General high satisfaction with GSA's response to COVID 19. No major life needs. Of the few, food and childcare remain at the top. Consistent uneasiness around social/emotional development and academic gaps. Interesting insight on timing of parent events that may help increase engagement. With more parents responding, we plan to present additional findings in November.

A question was asked regarding a student perspective survey. Mrs. Thomas and Mrs. Bryant gave a survey to scholars. Mrs. Thomas shared how she completes a needs assessment with middle schoolers each quarter.

New Business:

Dr. Pam Baldwin – Head of School Teacher Highlight

Mr. Davis is our new Art teacher and he is doing a great job thus far.

Dr. Pam Baldwin – Head of School Month in Review

Dr. Baldwin shared pictures for the month in review. GSA is celebrating college month and Hispanic Heritage Month.

Forward Thinking

Dr. Baldwin shared the upcoming events.

Dr. Johnson shared concern for staff being on the front lines on a daily basis.

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 6:59 p.m. with a second by Rev. Hammond.

Open Session:

A motion was made to go back into Open Session by Mr. Smith at 7:23 p.m. with a second by Mr. McCoy.

Adjournment

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

Due to the timeliness of these events occurring before the November Board meeting, the Board voted and approved via email on October 28-29, 2021 for Friday, November 12 to be a Mental Wellness Day for GSA students, staff, and families with no school on that day.

Responses received by the following Board members: Dr. James Johnson, Mr. William Smith, Dr. Tawannah Allen, Mr. Kirk McCoy, Dr. Sandra White, Mrs. Dorothy Mitchell, and Rev. Kenneth Hammond.

On November 15, the Board voted and approved via email to amend the 2021-2021 calendar to change November 22 and November 23 to no school days as a part of Thanksgiving break.

Responses received by the following Board members: Dr. James Johnson, Mr. William Smith, Dr. Tawannah Allen, Mr. Kirk McCoy, Dr. Sandra White, Mrs. Dorothy Mitchell, and Ms. Tammie Hall.