

Global Scholars Academy (GSA) Board Minutes
Tuesday, November 30, 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, Rev. Kenneth Hammond, Dr. Sandra White, Dr. Zakiya Whatley

Board Members Absent: Mrs. Shelton Gore, Ms. Tammie Hall, Mr. Kirk McCoy

Non-Board Members Present: Dr. Pamela Baldwin, Ms. Brittany Curry, Ms. Amy Noble, Dr. Khari Grant, Mrs. Bettie Lyons, Ms. Marlisha Blakeney, Dr. Rachel Person, Ms. Meera Butalia, Mr. Sahib Chandi, Mr. Bryan Wilson

Agenda Approval

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

Public Input

None

Review Minutes

The Board minutes from Tuesday, October 19, 2021 were unanimously approved following a motion by Mrs. Mitchell and a second by Dr. White.

Presentations

None

Standard Reports:

Academic Reports

Amy Noble – Executive Admin. Assistant Enrollment

Current enrollment stands at 200. EC is serving 24 scholars with 5 in progress and EL is serving 52 scholars.

Dr. Khari Grant – Asst. Head of School Formative Assessments - NC Check-Ins

Dr. Grant shared a report on formative assessments. NC Check-Ins were recently administered. NC Check-Ins assess where our scholars are to enhance our focus and learning. This is not a timed assessment. It is done online. He explained what the check ins focus on and how they prepare for success and spiraling back to previous topics to keep ideas fresh, test taking strategies, and time to practice vocabulary words.

Update on EOG test scores – we recently received an update on some of the scores. Some of the ELA scores were significantly late as they were re-normed this year. Administration will bring more information to the Board.

Dr. Pam Baldwin – Head of School Technology Stewardship

Dr. Baldwin provided an update on technology. Inventory is being updated on staff laptops and scholar Chromebooks. New technology is ready to be configured and set up such as interactive TVs, Class Virtual Reality goggles, and iPads. We are examining different device management tools for Apple products.

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

Ms. Curry gave an update on the 2021-2022 fundraising tracker.

We received the Johnson and Johnson check this week to offset our nurse.

Our 21st Century budget has been approved.

ESSER funds - allotments have been adjusted. We are awaiting confirmation as to the final allotment. We will do a budget amendment if necessary.

SRO grant - they have shifted the indicators to also allow for the purchase of some safety equipment.

Title funds and ESSER Nutrition specific funds have been budget approved and are moving through DPI finance. That will offset some STEAM, ESL, and EC expenses.

A question was asked regarding Value-In-Kind gifts. Ms. Curry is working with accounting to ensure receipts are given where needed.

Today is Giving Tuesday! An email campaign went out to almost 1500 people. Ad buys going out on Meta and some direct mail items going out. A reminder on Board giving.

William Smith – GSA Board of Directors Treasurer Financial Reports

Mr. Smith presented the financial report.

The Finance Committee met Nov. 9 and looked at October financials, lapsed salaries, credit cards, and bank account balances.

Cash balances as of October 31: Kenan Trust - \$40,167.26, Tabitha account - \$60,068.51, Operating account - \$214,099.53, Self-Help Credit Union reserve account - \$198,044.05 for a total cash balance of \$512,404.58.

This is the first month of the year that we have had more revenue than expenses. We are currently spending in reserve until money is available to draw down from the State. Year-to-date activity for revenue is \$1,185,867 and expenses are \$1,444,679.

Met with Thomas and Gibbs on the process for drawing money down and will continue to review what they do for us.

Last year, we looked at changing banks but did not get the response from the RFPs. We will look at another time.

Credit cards are paid to zero each month.

A few issues were resolved from the transition in employees.

\$60k lapse in salaries with people leaving and replacements.

Expenses and revenue trending well.

Audit was submitted to NCDPI on October 25th.

The State budget has been approved.

Approval needed to accept the October financial report. Mr. Smith moved to approve the October financial report with a second by Mrs. Mitchell. 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.

Mr. Smith moved to approve the current face covering policy (until the next Board meeting), second by Dr. Allen. Motion unanimously approved.

Brittany Curry – Dir. of Development, Marketing, & Communications
Wellness Check Family Survey

Fall 2021 GSA

Ms. Curry presented information on a 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. 45 family responses with 76 scholars represented. About 8 scholars per grade represented and a good split on ethnicity.

Key items - 66% have rated GSA a 4 or 5 out of 5 on our COVID response. Remaining responses rated a 3.

57% feel their students are prepared for the next grade. 73% of families are comfortable reaching out regarding academic progress, 64% on social and emotional needs. Social and emotional concerns vary. Familial relations rated higher as a concern when scholars were polled vs. what their parents indicated. Most families doing ok. About 20% struggling. Top needs are healthcare and childcare.

A conversation was had regarding parent engagement, low survey participation, and how we do hear from parents when there is an issue. Some do not complete the survey as they do not see it as a need. Incentive suggestions were offered,

Survey discussion continued - some families still want remote/virtual instruction. Spanish-speaking families - more translation efforts.

We are using all the right platforms for communications. 88% rate communications efforts 4 or 5 out of 5. Some conflicting feedback regarding communication to analyze. From an engagement perspective - time slots that ticked up are 6, 6:30, and 7 in the evening for best times to hold events.

49% of families are not discussing school with other families.

Parents discouraged by low parent participation.

COVID-19 - some uneasiness about shift in quarantine procedures and guidelines for NCDHHS and CDC. NSD GUDIANELINE. 47% indicated all eligible persons in their household are vaccinated and 53% yes to testing.

Dr. Baldwin - lower grades(K-4) are doing a great job with communicating to parents on little victories.

New Business:

Dr. Pam Baldwin – Head of School Board Thank You

Dr. Baldwin thanked the Board for agreeing to change November 12 to a Mental Wellness Day and to amend the calendar to reflect November 22-26 as a full week for Thanksgiving break. Staff, scholars, and families really appreciate it.

Brittany Curry – Dir. of Development, Marketing, & Communications Teacher Highlight

Ms. Curry spotlighted Dr. Person - our STEAM Director at GSA. Dr. Person spoke about our STEAM lab and our Makerspace - scholars are employing the building of skills and collaborative learning. We have a partnership with NC State CEI (Civic Engagement Initiative) - excited to have them on board so our scholars can go into a huge environment and create hands-on experiences that help them prepare for the real world and college. She introduced the Park Scholars – all are sophomores at NC State (Ms. Meera Butalia, Mr. Sahib Chandi, Mr. Bryan Wilson). Each student spoke about what the project means to them. This NC State team is helping design, develop, and program the Makerspace. Board members thanked the students for all their work and getting involved. Thank you for the way they are serving as role models. Thanks to Dr. Person - she is a difference maker!

Dr. Pam Baldwin – Head of School Month in Review

Ms. Curry shared pictures for the month in review.

Forward Thinking

Dr. Baldwin shared the upcoming events.

Dr. Johnson congratulated the staff for all their hard work. Grateful to you!

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 7:13 p.m. with a second by Mrs. Mitchell.

Open Session:

A motion was made to go back into Open Session by Mr. Smith at 7:52 p.m. with a second by Mrs. Mitchell.

Mr. Smith moved to approve a financial gift for staff with a second by Mrs. Mitchell. Approved unanimously.

Mrs. Mitchell moved to approve the personnel report and a salary increase for a social worker with a second by Dr. Allen. Approved unanimously.

Adjournment

Dr. White made a motion for the Board meeting to adjourn with a second by Mr. Smith. The meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.