

Global Scholars Academy (GSA) Board Minutes
Tuesday, February 15, 2022
Held via Zoom at 6 p.m.
Meeting was called to order by Dr. James Johnson at 6:02 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, Judge Dorothy Mitchell, Rev. Kenneth Hammond, Dr. Sandra White, Mr. Kirk McCoy

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

Non-Board Members Present: Dr. Pamela Baldwin, Ms. Brittany Curry, Dr. Khari Grant, Ms. Amy Noble, Ms. Rhonda Ashe, Ms. Rita Wells, Ms. Tasha Lewis, Mrs. Bettie Lyons, Ms. Marlisha Blankney

Agenda Approval

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

Public Input

None

Review Minutes

The Board minutes from Tuesday, January 18, 2022 were unanimously approved following a motion by Judge Mitchell and a second by Mr. Smith.

Presentations

None

Standard Reports:

Academic Reports

Amy Noble – Executive Admin. Assistant Enrollment

Current enrollment stands at 196. EC is serving 27 scholars and EL is serving 53 scholars with 1 in progress. The lottery application period for the 2022-2023 school year runs through February 28. We've received responses from almost 80% of families, all of whom indicating their scholars plan to return to GSA next school year.

Dr. Khari Grant – Asst. Head of School Whole School Small Group Plan

Dr. Grant shared the benefits of small group instruction. We are also using data to plan math and reading groups - allowing us to focus on our scholars' individual needs and learning paths.

Spring Intersession will be focused on math and reading intervention support as we gear up for the end-of-year assessment. In addition, our scholars will also engage in SEL, STEM, and art-focused activities. We continue to look for innovative ways to target and attract all of our scholars and make Intersession more fun and engaging.

Ms. Tasha Lewis - 21st Century Program Director 21st Century Program Report

Ms. Lewis presented the 21st Century Program report.

We have a company partnership with Enrichment City, bringing us many virtual and in-person programs including Virtual DJing, In-Person Dance, Virtual Smartist, In-Person Sports Science, Virtual Bucket Drumming, and Board Gameology.

We also have college partnerships with NCSU, UNC-Chapel Hill, and NCCU where college students bring hands-on programming to our scholars.

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

Ms. Curry gave an update on the 2021-2022 fundraising tracker. We are waiting to receive confirmation on the ESSER amounts - between \$600-800K.

SRO Grant - We have \$18k with a \$9k local spend required. We are inquiring about some additional safety materials for purchase.

SEH Tabitha Foundation - They want to focus on some things in the Asheville area due to COVID, but want to continue to support GSA for an additional year.

William Smith – GSA Board of Directors Treasurer Financial Reports

Mr. Smith presented the financial report.

On January 31, 2022, the Finance Committee approved to recommend to the full Board approval of the Charter Success Partners (CSP) Service Agreement for the annual amount of \$39,204.41 subject to satisfactory references secured by Dr. Baldwin and contingent on any legal edits to the agreement by our attorney.

On January 31, 2022 the GSA Board voted via email to hire Charter Success Partners to be our new accountants at the cost of \$39,204.41 with the initial agreement running through November 30, 2022. This will allow us the opportunity to evaluate their service before entering into an annual agreement. The Finance Committee will meet with CSP next month.

Avin Teks support service agreement - request the Board to ratify that Mr. Smith signed this agreement before the Board meeting in order for GSA to have needed tech support and since the amount was over \$10k. The money will come from not replacing the vacant tech position.

Motion for the Board to ratify Mr. Smith signing the Avin Teks contract to provide IT services for GSA. Second by Mr. Hammond. Motion unanimously approved.

Mr. Smith will send information to the Board from Ms. Rebekah Barr regarding our audit for this school year.

Finance reports - last month, the Board received the November and December reports. On February 8, the Finance Committee reviewed them. Mr. Smith gave a brief overview of those reports.

At the end of January, revenue year to date of \$2,338,259 and expenditures year to date of \$2,333,625. Positive swing in revenue over expenses.

Bank accounts - in our operating account \$359,439.37, Tabitha account - \$60,070.01, Kenan \$18,511.18. Self-Help Credit Union reserve account - \$198,144.20. Total cash \$636,164.76. Some reclassifications in January.

Blue Cross Blue Shield's employer rate has increased for 2022.

Credit cards are back on schedule and in good standing.

Mr. Smith moved to accept the November 2021, December 2021, January 2022 financial reports as presented. Second by Dr. Allen. Motion carries unanimously.

Old Business:

Dr. Pam Baldwin – Head of School Face Covering Policy

We purchased some new N95 and KN95 masks for our scholars and received 2k masks from DHHS. We also received 500 masks from the Durham (NC) Chapter of the Links Incorporated and some from Union Baptist Church as well. Due to our protocols, we are one of the only schools that has not had a community spread.

The State requires 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.

Dr. White moved to accept the face covering policy as it currently stands for February/March (until the next Board meeting) requiring every person in the building to wear a face covering, second by Judge Mitchell. Motion unanimously approved.

New Business:

Dr. Pam Baldwin – Head of School Month in Review

Dr. Baldwin shared pictures for the month in review.

Rev. Hammond shared his experience of speaking with our scholars for GSA Career Day. He enjoyed interacting with scholars and sharing his story.

Judge Mitchell is a member of the George H. White Bar Association in Durham, and they are bringing an exciting event to GSA on February 28 at 4 p.m. - a presentation about the Royal Ice Cream Sit-In. GSA sits on this historic site. Speakers from the original sit-in and protest will speak.

Forward Thinking

Dr. Baldwin shared the upcoming events.

She shared about the tough challenges of the past couple of years for our educators and about the Great Resignation. Anything we can do to continue to support our educators, we will continue to do.

Dr. Johnson echoed the outstanding work the staff has been doing.

Adjournment

Mr. Smith made a motion for the Board meeting to adjourn with a second by Rev. Hammond. The meeting adjourned at 6:47 p.m.