

**The Genesee Community Charter School
Board of Trustees
Education Governance Council
Meeting Minutes
February 13, 2019
Held at Triline Automation, 1000 University Ave**

Members Present: Michelle Burack, *Christopher Dolgos, Jennifer Elahi*, Michele Hannagan, Nathan Hayes, *Shannon Hillman*, Marcia Joy, Jessica Nordquist, Jack Peltz, Mark Schiesser, Molly Snell-Larch, Kevin Sutherland, Sherita Traywick, Annemarie Wess
(Italics: EGC; Bold: BOT non-voting)

Members Absent: Larry Coley

Legal Counsel Present: George DesMarteau

Invited Guests Present: Maureen Milke, Robin Blew, Maureen Lockner, Erica Barone, Sarah Johnson

Meeting called to order by Michele Hannagan at 5:37

Teacher presentation

Arts teachers discussed the resources used in the recent 4th & 5th grade expeditions focused on abolition, using music, dance, and visual arts to deepen human connection to the subject matter. This expedition made links across arts modalities, for example Indinkra patterns and polyrhythms in the music illuminating how repetition yields combinations to create new patterns. They highlighted other expeditions that also synergize across different arts modalities (e.g. water cycle)

Minutes

To be reviewed and approved at March meeting due to delays in dissemination.

Finance review

Title I, II, and IV funding has been approved. Some Title 1&II monies from last year that were not used last year were discovered; the school leader is submitting an addendum to be able to use these funds to increase the school counselor's hours (from 2 days to 3). Dissemination grant expenses in January were high; revenues for expenses reimbursed to the school are anticipated. Some January and February payments arrived in December, yielding a higher cash on hand compared to last year.

School Leader Update

The first round of student-led conferences were held today. School leader commented on the depth of students' comments about their growth as writers. Parent representatives on the board also shared comments about their childrens' experiences with student-led conferences.

The board reviewed iReady Data, and resources for supporting students were discussed. Supports include volunteers (including a retired reading specialist and her husband) who work 1:1 with students. The board discussed options for additional support, weighing pros and cons of in-school versus after-school opportunities. The possibility of having GCCS alumni serve as volunteer tutors for after-school help was discussed. Transportation logistics were highlighted as a possible barrier to access.

The school leader also reviewed recruitment efforts, including new initiatives to satisfy good faith efforts to diversify student enrollment. The school leader discussed the format of parent information sessions, which now includes a new option of a tour during the school day for parents to see the school in action. Tour guides stay for a student panel, with a condensed version of the information provided at the regular parent information sessions. The new GCCS Facebook page has launched. Targeted advertising efforts aimed at supporting the school's enrollment diversity goals include: RTS--ad panels above the seats on busses plus an ad on the digital display on the monitor in the main transit display; Radio and TV ads through venues used in previous years, but with a new updated script and images; direct visits by school leader and advocate at refugee centers.

Committee Updates

Discipline (Jessica Nordquist) The committee reviewed the zero tolerance policy, and are working on revisions to language to reflect actual practices (i.e. restorative practices).

Nominating (Annemarie Wess): Recruitment day was held at end of January, with 3 board candidates on site at the school; feedback was positive. Another board candidate is coming for a visit tomorrow tomorrow. Interview day for all of these candidates is planned in the next few weeks. There is a good breadth of candidates from different sectors of our community. School leader reached out to new RMSC president about RMSC representation on the board.

Charter renewal

The Transition Team has evolved into the Charter Renewal team. The team visited Elmwood Village Charter School in Buffalo to learn more about how they achieved diverse enrollment. They do not weight their lottery to achieve diversity targets; they recruit from the surrounding neighborhood.

The board was notified of receipt of a letter from NYSED requesting corrective action plan for insufficient enrollment of English Language Learners and economically disadvantaged students relative to expected targets. Elements of a response to the letter were discussed, including requesting an extension to allow board to review the full response at the next meeting.

The board also discussed different strategies for garnering support for county-based rather than city-based demographics, highlighting other charter schools that have been deliberately designed to be diverse and to mitigate concentrated poverty. The next advocacy committee meeting will discuss in detail. A plan to invite the Regents to visit the school is in progress, and the School Leader and Board Chair will talk to Charter School Authorizers David Frank and Susan Gibbons prior to the visit re: the scope of expected response to the letter.

Adjournment

Motion 190213.01_BOT (and EGC)

Upon motion of Jack Peltz, and duly seconded by Michelle Burack, RESOLVED, that the February 13, 2019 meeting be adjourned.

Voting in the affirmative: Michelle Burack, *Christopher Dolgos*, *Jennifer Elahi*, Michele Hannagan, Nathan Hayes, *Shannon Hillman*, Marcia Joy, Jessica Nordquist, Jack Peltz, Mark Schiesser, Molly Snell-Larch, Kevin Sutherland, Sherita Traywick, Annemarie Wess

Voting in the negative: None

Abstaining: None

Motion 190213.01_BOT (and EGC) passed 11 (14) to 0

Addendum: Summary of minutes to be shared with GCCS families

The board devoted the majority of February's meeting to discussing efforts to recruit a diverse population of students, as well as strategies for ensuring that the upcoming charter renewal process anticipates and addresses the differing expectations regarding enrollment diversity (county versus city demographics).

Respectfully Submitted,
Michelle Burack
Secretary of GCCS Board of Trustees
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