

The Genesee Community Charter School
Board of Trustees
Education Governance Council

FINAL Meeting Minutes | May 28, 2021

Virtual Meeting via Zoom (Due to COVID-19)| Special Meeting

Board Members Present: Michele Hannagan, Nolica Murray-Fields, Ryan O'Malley, Mark Schiesser, Allison Shultes, Tasha Stevens, Kevin Sutherland, Traci Terrance, Jessica Wanner, Lukas Wilson
(Bold: BOT non-voting)

Board Members Absent: **(Bold: BOT non-voting)** Elizabeth Pietrzykowski, Annemarie Wess

Educational Governance Council Members Present: Shannon Hillman **(Bold: BOT non-voting)**

Educational Governance Council Members Absent: Maggie Deutschbein, Becki Mason

Guests:

Legal Counsel Present:

1. Welcome, Call to Order, Agenda Overview

Michele Hannagan called the meeting to order at 7:31am. A quorum is present. Welcome to all and thank-you for joining us for this special meeting of the Board of Trustees on an early Friday morning to discuss changes to the 2020-2021 school calendar.

2. Review & Approve 2020-2021 Calendar Changes --Shannon

The reason the Board was called together this morning is to review and approve one major adjustment to the 2020-2021 school year calendar. The proposed adjustment is to take off Friday, June 18th as a day to observe Juneteenth (Saturday, June 19th). While this is the fourth to last day of the school year, there are many reasons why this change is being proposed as a full day off for all staff and students:

- We are committed to our “diverse by design” model and by acknowledging this holiday are honoring our commitment to racial diversity, equity, and social justice. Last year, we acknowledged this day sending communication to families regarding our commitment to racial diversity, equity, and social justice. The news article is still on our website and can be found here: <https://www.gccschool.org/news/a-letter-from-gccs-regarding-racism-equity-and-social-justice/>. We want to honor this day and uphold the commitments we have set forth, especially given the recent national recognition of this important day we celebrate freedom.
- This would be in alignment with the Rochester City School District (RCSD). We have recently learned that RCSD will be observing Juneteenth as a National Holiday on Friday, June 18th this year and surrounding June 19th going forward. There will not be busing for RCSD on this day. Other districts seem to be making this change for next year, but it's unclear if they are changing their calendars this year.
- Shannon has reviewed the calendar for this year and it is possible for us to take June 18th off since we still had one additional snow day left. The addition of this day off would mean GCCS would have exactly 180 instructional days and no snow days for this year.

Shannon opened up the review and discussion to questions from the Board Members. Michele asked a question regarding if Shannon or the teachers had any concerns for student learning loss. Despite this being so close to the end of the year, there is no concern for learning loss and is being looked at as a learning opportunity for staff and students. Shannon shared that the staff is committed to doing some preparatory work ahead of the day off so students are learning more about the holiday and why the school has the day off. Going forward, the day does often toggle between the 3rd or 4th day before school ends and sometimes comes after school is out for the summer. Shannon will want to talk with staff about how they want to navigate this given the timing and placement of this new National Holiday for future years, but the staff is in full support of it this year. Next year's (2021-2022) School calendar will be re-reviewed at the next regularly scheduled Board meeting on June 9, 2021.

Shannon also noted and shared with the Board that this year's last day off school was scheduled to be a remote learning day but will be switching to an in-person day for a more meaningful last day for students.

Motion 52821.1

Upon motion of Allison Shultes, and duly seconded by Tasha Steven RESOLVED, to approve the amended 2020-2021 school calendar to include June 18th, 2021 as a holiday to observe Juneteenth.

Voting in the affirmative: Michele Hannagan, Nolica Murray-Fields, Ryan O'Malley, Mark Schiesser, Allison Shultes, Tasha Stevens, Kevin Sutherland, Traci Terrance, Jessica Wanner, Lukas Wilson

Voting in the negative: None

Abstaining: None

Motion 52821.1 passed: 10 to 0

3. Meeting Wrap-Up:

Michele thanked the Board members again for their participation in this specially called meeting to discuss and approve this calendar change and to all for their continued support and commitment to GCCS.

Motion 52821.2

Upon the motion of Michele Hannagan, and duly seconded by Traci Terrance, RESOLVED, that the Board adjourn the May 28, 2021 meeting at 7:37 am.

Voting in the affirmative:

Voting in the negative: None

Abstaining: None

Motion 52821.2 passed: 10to 0

Respectfully Submitted,
Allison Shultes
Secretary of GCCS Board of Trustees
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