

The Genesee Community Charter School
Board of Trustees
Education Governance Council

FINAL Meeting Minutes | June 9, 2021
Virtual Meeting via Zoom (Due to COVID-19)

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

Board Members Absent: (**Bold: BOT non-voting**)

Educational Governance Council Members Present: Maggie Deutschbein, Shannon Hillman, **Becki Mason** (**Bold: BOT non-voting**)

Educational Governance Council Members Absent:

Guests: Maureen Milke, Robin Blew

Legal Counsel Present:

Legal Counsel Absent: George DesMarteau

1. Welcome, Call to Order, Agenda Overview

Michele Hannagan called the meeting to order at 5:33 pm. A quorum is present.

2. Greeting -Sixth Graders

The greeting tonight was presented by the sixth graders. Ms. Stubbe introduced seven 6th grade students that are joining us this evening. Maya welcomed us and invited us to join them in a greeting. Board members are invited to share their names, pronouns they identify with and one thing they love about GCCS. Participants shared numerous things they love about the GCCS; examples include: how GCCS feels like a family, the 6th graders who are so fun and passionate, the sense of community and the way everyone really cares about each other, watching each personality grow from K-6th grade, arts and music projects that are shared across campus, the students and teachers who make GCCS so amazing, the creativity throughout every grade, GCCS's heart, how GCCS doesn't back away from a challenge, hands-on experiences and field studies, all about the 6th graders and their curiosity and willingness to challenge norms and themselves, the expeditions and integration of music, PE, and dancing, the critical thinking and culture of non-stop learning, finally taking off a heavy backpack and getting to your cubby, the building of trust between parents, staff, students, the exploratory learning and that the students have a voice in their learning, and GCCS's way of exploring different topics and learning styles.

Themes that were noticed include: *community, family, arts integration, trust and relationships, the people, creativity, staff and family connections, essence of feeling safe and a place where you can be yourself and explore what you are liking around you, opportunities that GCCS creates.*

Why was it important to share our pronouns as part of our greeting/welcome this evening?

Being able to use the right pronouns for someone reflects that you see them as themselves, creating a safe space, much like getting names correct when you meet someone it establishes a level of trust, respect and establishes a safe space for all.

3. Teacher Presentation and/or Sabbatical Share-Sixth Graders

Sixth Grade Presentation on Student Culture & Climate

Muriel introduced the work focused on belonging and identity that the 6th graders embarked on this year. She explained that students came back to school in a pandemic. They knew that they would need to be flexible and passionate and that building community would be important. 6th grade read texts on activism and how to use your voice to stand up for what you believe in. Students spent time learning about what they care about and made posters on topics they care strongly about.

Tah'jai introduced the winter exhibition which was remote where 6th graders continued to learn about identity and explored more about the teenage brain and how it's unique. This helped them learn about who they are as people. Students wrote poems after reading the book *Crossover* that were very personal. They spent a week learning about bias, what it is and how it impacts others and themselves.

Muriel continued the presentation and talked about the spring expedition focused on belonging. This includes what it feels like to belong and not belong. Students revised the Student Caring Community Survey and updated it and worked with Deb Hamner on data questioning work. GCCS students Kindergarten through grade 3 completed the survey and 6th grade analysed the findings.

What they found is that most students felt like they belonged at GCCS but some students--especially girls of color felt like they didn't belong at the school, others shared that they didn't know about gender or racial identity. Because of these findings the 6th graders led a teacher learning on a Wednesday to help them learn how to teach these concepts even to students in the younger grades. They reported that they are continuing to work on their final product, an Adobe Spark Page, that they will share with the Board when it's complete.

Audrey reported on the re-inventing of crew at GCCS to support social emotional wellness. There were hard conversations and sharing experiences, reading texts about hard stories, and finding a way for them to build community, hear each other, share more, and feel belonging. In staff groups, GCCS teachers take their experiences to help build the structure of the crew across GCCS next year.

Jacob explained that the data showed that girls of color don't feel like they belong to our school and need to change to feel like they belong. He stated that this needs to change and there is a need for teachers of color, not just teacher assistants. Having a curriculum that speaks to all students, cultural perspectives, and that teaches hard history with multiple perspectives allows students to create their own opinions. 6th grade recommends revising the curriculum to reflect these changes and needs to be done consistently at all grade levels. Teaching hard history lifts up multicultural perspectives and teaches about anti-racist work.

Ellis continued the presentation explaining that the hiring of the restorative practices coach was very helpful and the students are very grateful for Kyle. However, the GCCS community school does not know about the new Code of Conduct document. 6th grade recommends that everyone should read it, so teachers and staff know what is included and for families to know what to expect during the school year.

Madison thanked the Board members for listening to the presentation and considering the 6th grade recommendations. The students believe that these changes will help them reach their full potential by creating a space to learn in a safe and welcoming environment.

The final expedition night is **June 17th at 7pm**, in the 6th grade classroom at GCCS. The presentation was opened up to questions and comments from the Board. Questions asked included: *What can the Board do to hold people accountable to the new Code of Conduct? The 6th graders believe that the Board can support this work by helping to educate.* Many positive comments and affirmations were shared about the project, the presentation and the use of data to support their recommendations. Students explained that this was hard and emotional work, but was important and meaningful.

4. Review & Approve Monthly Minutes

Review and Approve May 12, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Motion 060921.1

Upon motion of Annemarie Wess, and duly seconded by Jess Wanner, RESOLVED, that the minutes of May 12, 2021 be approved.

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

Voting in the negative: None

Abstaining: None

Motion 060921.1 passed: 11 to 0

Review and Approve May 28, 2021 Special Meeting Minutes

Motion 060921.2

Upon motion of Traci Terrance, and duly seconded by Nolica Murray-Fields, RESOLVED, that the minutes of May 28, 2021 be approved.

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

Voting in the negative: None

Abstaining: None

Motion 060921.2 passed: 11 to 0

5. Budget Review: April Financials & Flour City and River Campus Comparison -Robin, Kevin & Shannon

April 2021 Financial Review

Robin reported on the budget to actual review July 2020- April 2021:

- Revenue: On budget.
- Per Pupil Revenue: On budget.
- Grants: COVID grants & ESSER funds
- Title I, II, & IV: On budget.
- Food Service: Down due to COVID.
- Field Study: Down due to COVID.
- Administration: Nothing to report.
- Instruction: Nothing to report.
- Supplies: Nothing to report.
- COVID Technology/ESSER Cares: Nothing to report.
- Operations:
- Capital and Facilities: Nothing to report.
- Marketing and Recruitment: Nothing to report.
- Expenditures: Nothing to report.
- Overall: Nothing big to report, April was a quiet month.
- Balance Sheet Review: Cash on hand is strong and consistent to where it was last year. Restricted cash of \$100K is the required dissolution money. Accounts Payable: payroll always increases this time of year due to some teachers spreading their salary across the summer
- Investments: Vanguard-reports come quarterly so the number reported is from the end of March; Fidelity is a monthly report. Reporting a gain of \$1422 in investments.

Tasha asked about bussing for students on non-RCSd school dates. Maureen stated that she did reach out to some of the school districts for numbers and is waiting to hear back.

Flour City and River Campus Budget Comparison

During the last Board meeting a budget comparison was reviewed between the Flour City and River Campuses. Board members had a handful of questions regarding the planning for the next 5 years. Some changes were made to the document as a result.

The main differences in this budget from a normal GCCS budget lie in the Administrative category. More positions are being added to support both campuses. In the summary presented, new positions were identified and how they were utilized across both campuses over the 5 year plan was explained. There are other Instructor positions that toggle back and forth between campuses which were broken down in the review.

A review of the summary reveals an unequal distribution of salary expenses across campuses until Year 5 when the costs are just about equal across both campuses.

Shannon went back to the Expense/Revenue comparison of the campuses. There are a lot of unknown factors so they added the CSP grant and the two CARES and COVID grants since we know they are guaranteed. The administrative expenses are aligned now and the instructional expenses are now more lined up for both campuses. The operations line is still off because they still need to go through it line by line. Now by year 5 it looks much more manageable and a sustainable model.

The Board expressed accolades on the work done to present this comparison and to help walk us through the variances, planning process and get a better understanding of the shared expenses and expectations at the end of the 5 years. Pleased that this model reflects the sustainable model of replication and fiscal responsibility in the planning process.

6. Committee Updates

- a. **Community Engagement (fka as Advocacy)** (Jessica Wanner)
Updates: Last meeting of the year was last night and they decided that next year they will focus on working with the new Director of Family & Community Engagement and on connecting with alumni.
- b. **Discipline** (Nolica Murray-Fields)
Updates: The committee met today to align with the Caring and Community Agreement and Plan to make sure it was aligning with the Guide to Discipline. The committee is meeting again this week and is working to ensure the report is ready to be presented to the Board at the July meeting.
- c. **Nominating** (Annemarie Wess)
Open Board Positions and Board Officer Elections:

Open Board Positions: Two board members will be leaving us--Luke and Tasha-- will be ending their terms. Thank you to both of them for sharing their time and talents with us on the Board. The Board is very grateful for their willingness to serve. However, Tasha would like to stay on the Board and serve as a Community Representative. With Luke leaving, there is now an open Community Representative position. Therefore,

Motion 060921.3

Upon motion of Annemarie Wess, and duly seconded by Michele Hannagan, RESOLVED, that Tasha Stevens be approved as a Community Board Representative for a term of 3 years starting July 1, 2021 and ending June 30, 2024.

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

Voting in the negative: None

Abstaining: None

Motion 060921.3 passed 11 to 0

Board Officer Elections:

Motion 060921.4

Upon motion of Annemarie Wess, and duly seconded by Jess Wanner, RESOLVED, that the slate of candidates as nominated by the Nominating Committee be approved, the candidates are Michele Hannagan as President of the Board of Trustees, AnneMarie Wess as Vice President of the Board of Trustees, Kevin Sutherland as Treasurer of the Board of Trustees, and Allison Shultes and Elizabeth Pietrzykowski as co-Secretaries of the Board of Trustees.

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

Voting in the negative: None

Abstaining: None

Motion 060921.4 passed 11 to 0

- d. **Personnel** (Michele/Shannon)
Open Positions & Hiring Process: In the process of interviewing candidates for the Director of Family & Community Engagement and the open art teacher position. Additionally, they are narrowing in on part-time positions for the upcoming maternity leaves. There is a new opening in a primary position and are now recruiting for that opening and are hoping to get through interviews and the demo lessons by the end of the year which is an important part of that process. The Personnel committee shared that more candidates are people of color than they have seen in the past and that there are many great applicants.

e. ***Safety (Shannon)**

Updates: None.

f. ***Diversity & Racial Equity (Traci Terrance)**

Updates: The committee has been participating in the interviews for the Director of Family and Community Engagement, last meeting for the school year is June 24th and will do some reflection and forward thinking.

7. School Leader Update: Year-End Board Report Presentation --Shannon

Year-End Board Report Presentation:

Shannon reported that this was a very unique and challenging year and while it is one that many of us are excited to forget, we will remember it for a long time. This year brought GCCS to a crossroads:

- We've achieved 20 years as a school
- We've reflected on what is important to us, what matters, and the path we want to take next
- Teachers, parents, students, and the Board have all learned a lot
- Staff have learned new ways to teach
- There is a strong school culture no matter where we are
- We learned about our key design elements in a different way and that even though they may look different GCCS still believes in expeditions and the core pieces of what makes this school special
- Took on replication and the Board decided to make some strong moves about new opportunities for more families in the city of Rochester including who we want to serve and how we'll do it

Data:

- Gains came from students who worked very closely with targeted instruction and intervention--these students tripled their growth. This was identified as a key helper in growth and the staff has been discussing how to replicate this model so all students get access to those same gains and opportunities for growth
- Report shows that there is still room for growth and gains in the vulnerable student populations

6th Grade Passage Presentations:

- It was reported that the 6th grade presentations from this year were some of the best in the history of GCCS. Students spoke very eloquently about their growth through the vulnerability they experienced in the conversations about belonging, racial identity, and bias. *Board members expressed interest in taking the recommendations made earlier in the meeting to heart and positioning student social and emotional growth as a strategic goal of the Board.*

Staff Conversations:

- Have been having conversations around the current Math curriculum. Teachers aren't happy teaching it and the 5th grade team surveyed 2nd-6th grade students to find out what they think about math. The findings are that students think it is fun, they like the teachers teaching it but results were mixed on student comprehension and understanding the content. Will be pursuing a new program/curriculum to support teachers in their growth in this subject area.

Michele suggested continuing this conversation at the July meeting.

Outstanding Business:

8. None.

New Business:

9. Approve 2021-2022 Vendor Contracts

Food Service

The provided contract is comparable to last year's contract and costs for meals were only increased by a few cents. Board members had questions regarding the option of snacks and it was shared that these would be very costly and they could only be provided during the after school hours

Motion 060921.5

Upon motion of Michele Hannagan, and duly seconded by Traci Terrance, RESOLVED, that the food service contract with Julia K Catering be approved.

Voting in the affirmative: Michele Hannagan, Ryan O'Malley, Mark Schiesser, Allison Shultes, Tasha Stevens, Kevin Sutherland, Traci Terrance, Jessica Wanner, Annemarie Wess

Voting in the negative: None

Abstaining: None

Motion 060921.5 passed 9 to 0

School Mint

SchoolMint products and services to support your enrollment and behavior practices and the Good Schools Roc application and lottery process.

Motion 060921.6

Upon motion of Mark Schiesser, and duly seconded by Annemarie Wess , RESOLVED, that the contract with SchoolMint for the school lottery be approved.

Voting in the affirmative: Michele Hannagan, Ryan O'Malley, Mark Schiesser, Allison Shultes, Tasha Stevens, Kevin Sutherland, Traci Terrance, Jessica Wanner, Annemarie Wess

Voting in the negative: None

Abstaining: None

Motion 060921.6 passed 9 to 0

IT Specialist

Motion 060921.7

Upon motion of Mark Schiesser, and duly seconded by Annemarie Wess, RESOLVED, that the contract with Ken Haslip and Spectrum Solutions be approved.

Voting in the affirmative: Michele Hannagan, Ryan O'Malley, Mark Schiesser, Allison Shultes, Tasha Stevens, Kevin Sutherland, Traci Terrance, Jessica Wanner, Annemarie Wess

Voting in the negative: None

Abstaining: None

Motion 060921.7 passed to 0

EL Education Contract

Motion 060921.8

Upon motion of Michele Hannagan, and duly seconded by Traci Terrance, RESOLVED, that the contract for with EL Education be approved.

Voting in the affirmative: Michele Hannagan, Ryan O'Malley, Mark Schiesser, Allison Shultes, Tasha Stevens, Kevin Sutherland, Traci Terrance, Jessica Wanner, Annemarie Wess

Voting in the negative:

Abstaining: None

Motion 060921.8 passed 9 to 0

The contracts for the Legal Counsel and Accountant will be considered and approved at the July meeting of the Board.

Open Forum:

10. Future Agenda Topics and/or Public Comment

Michele Hannagan opened up the meeting to public comment at 7:42 pm.

Future Agenda Topics:

July Agenda:

- Committee positions/assignments
- Approval of contracts for the Legal Counsel and Accountant and management letter for Heveron & Heveron
- Discussion regarding the Lease Agreement
- Discipline Committee: Code of Conduct Report
- District Safety Plan
- New Hires
- School Leader Evaluation

August Agenda:

- How do we re-engage with strategic goals and Board work with Deb Hamner

11. Executive Session

Executive Session was not called during this meeting.

Meeting Wrap-Up-Allison Shultes

12. Review Actions and Agreements

Motion 060921.9

Upon the motion of Michele Hannagan, and duly seconded by Traci Terrance, RESOLVED, that the Board adjourn the June 9, 2021 meeting at 7:49 pm.

Voting in the affirmative: Michele Hannagan, Ryan O'Malley, Mark Schiesser, Allison Shultes, Tasha Stevens, Kevin Sutherland, Traci Terrance, Jessica Wanner, Annemarie Wess

Voting in the negative: None

Abstaining: None

Motion 060921.9 passed: 9 to 0

Respectfully Submitted,
Allison Shultes
Secretary of GCCS Board of Trustees
GCCS Board Minutes/ June 9, 2021