

**The Genesee Community Charter School
Board of Trustees
Education Governance Council
FINAL Meeting Minutes
April 19, 2023
Held in the Family Center Room at GCCS
Hybrid Meeting**

Board Members Present: Michele Hannagan, Charlie Johnson, Adam Koneman, Danielle Lavell, Allison Shultes, Colin Orr, Tasha Stevens, Kevin Sutherland, Annemarie Wess, Jessica Winterhalt Wanner

Board Member Arrivals/Departures During Meeting in Progress: None

Board Members Absent: Eboni Henderson, Nolica Murray-Fields, VACANCY: 1 RMSC Rep and 1 Community Rep.

Educational Governance Council Members Present: Kemouy Bhalai, Allison Carlson, Shannon Hillman

Educational Governance Council Absent:

Guests: Robin Blew (Accounting & Payroll), Kendra Cadogan (prospective Board member)

Legal Counsel Absent: Kirsten Barclay

NOTE: * indicates that person participated remotely via ZOOM.

This meeting was recorded and is available for public viewing.

1. Welcome, Call to Order, Agenda Overview:

- Michele Hannagan called the meeting to order at 5:33pm.
- Roll call - A quorum was present.
- Welcome

2. Greeting - Shannon ... Say hello and how you are doing.

3. Approve Minutes

Motion 20230419.1

Upon Motion of Jessica Winterhalt Wanner and duly seconded by Michele Hannagan, RESOLVED, that the March 22, 2023 minutes be approved.

Voting in the affirmative: Michele Hannagan, Charlie Johnson, Adam Koneman, Danielle Lavell, Allison Shultes, Colin Orr, Tasha Stevens, Kevin Sutherland, Annemarie Wess, Jessica Winterhalt Wanner

Voting in the negative: None

Abstaining: None

Motion 20230419.1 Passed: 10 to 0

4. Finances - Robin Blew

- **Financial Sheets**

- Robin Reviewed the February 28, 2023 Summary Sheet which covered YTD. Variations between budgeted and actual were minimal.
 - A decision was made to not enroll students after the lottery. There is not much school year left and trying to integrate a new student could be counter-productive.
 - Food Service revenue is higher than we budgeted. We also got a grant to pay for milk.
- Robin reviewed the Balance Sheet for the Month ending February 28, 2023. Cash flow is still strong. Investments look good.

5. Leadership Update - Kemouy Bhilai

- Lottery - over 600 applications - Invitations were extended - and many have accepted. Now the chore of getting the enrollment packages completed and turned in. Tours and info sessions have been offered. More invitations will be offered.
- No lottery has been held for 6th grade as that is a transition year. The question was raised if we should reconsider this policy - but it was decided it is still a good policy.

6. Committee Updates

- a. **Community Engagement:** No report
- b. **Discipline:** No report
- c. **Academic:** No report
- d. **Governance:**
 - i. Recruitment: Kendra Cadogan, Maria Oliver, and Bill Gargan have all been asked to consider serving on this Board.
 - ii. Parent Representatives: We might consider leaving one of the seats open until we merge with Flower City so that there will not be a 3rd parent (charter calls for 2 parent reps).
- e. **Personnel:** No report
- f. **Safety:**
 - i. The Security Team is asking that new cameras and intercoms be installed at the doors. Current equipment is old and inadequate.
 - 1. The quote from Upstate is for \$26,000. This seems very high
 - 2. Lantek Security and Automation gave quotes.
 - 3. More conversation is needed with RMSC regarding the specific aspects of a new system.
 - 4. Staff education will be required for a new system and what the protocols are for specific situations. These new policies and procedures need to be reviewed by this Board before the end of this school year.

Motion 20230419.2

Upon Motion of Kevin Sutherland and duly seconded by Tasha Stevens, RESOLVED, that the two proposals from Lantek Security & Automation coming to a total of \$15,220.60. These proposals are for the upgrade and installation of exterior door and hall monitoring equipment. (see proposals for details)

Voting in the affirmative: Michele Hannagan, Charlie Johnson, Adam Koneman, Danielle Lavell, Allison Shultes, Colin Orr, Tasha Stevens, Kevin Sutherland, Annemarie Wess, Jessica Winterhalt Wanner

Voting in the negative: None

Abstaining: None

Motion 20230419.2 Passed: 10 to 0

- g. **Diversity:** “Spring Fling” Saturday April 29, 2023 from 2-5:00pm. This is a dance & food event with a silent auction. It is one of the major Family Association fundraising events.

7. Charter Renewal Update -

- We were not on the April agenda so we expect to be on the May 15-16 agenda. It is at this meeting that we are asking to merge with our Flower City School and expect a favorable response.
- We have received feedback from the most recent site visit. There were no surprises and in general the responses were positive.
 - Benchmark Nine is still not where it should be but we have lots of data to show our good-faith efforts. We are making significant progress in the last three years.
 - There were also some concerns raised about our lending money to the Flower City School despite our rigid adherence to guidelines. Our attorney helped draft our response, and this response will be attached to the report so that anyone who reads the report will also see our response.
 - It was noted that they were pleased that we had our legal counsel at Board meetings, which we currently do not have. It cost \$350/hour for the attorney to attend our meetings and we have opted to be judicious with our request for legal attendance at Board meetings and will ask for it when there are specific topics/issues that need their expertise.

8. 2023-2024 School Calendar

- After the discussion at the March meeting some changes are proposed
 - The Solar Eclipse (April 8, 2024) is currently a half day. RCSD has no school that day so there will be no transportation. Despite the loss of the opportunity to use the day as a teaching opportunity, the school will be closed all day. Special activities will be planned that it is hoped many students can participate in.
 - With the current calendar students have Juneteenth Day off and then return for one day of school before the summer break begins. This doesn't make a lot of sense. The 2023-24 calendar currently has 3 “Emergency Days.” It seems reasonable that this be cut to 2 “Emergency Days” and school would end the day before Juneteenth (6/18/24) for students, and staff will have the day after to pack up.

Motion 20230419.3

Upon Motion of Allison Shultes and duly seconded by Tasha Stevens, RESOLVED, that the 2023-24 school calendar be amended as follows:

- April 8, 2024 will be a full day off for students rather than a half day off.
- The last day of school for students will be June 18, 2024.

Voting in the affirmative: Michele Hannagan, Charlie Johnson, Adam Koneman, Danielle Lavell, Allison Shultes, Colin Orr, Tasha Stevens, Kevin Sutherland, Annemarie Wess, Jessica Winterhalt Wanner

Voting in the negative: None

Abstaining: None

Motion 20230419.3 Passed: 10 to 0

9. Acceleration Policy. Kemouy shared that she had spent a lot of time reflecting on the discussion about students skipping a grade and the various ramifications of such a move. She stated that there needs to be serious discussion about the specific language in this policy. She also shared that she has been exploring an “enrichment program option.” She has done research on Gifted programs. She also visited the Penfield Schools where they have a program for “gifted and talented students.” Kemouy asked that we not put an acceleration policy in the handbook, but rather say that we do not accelerate students but do that we do have an enrichment option that is built into our *response to intervention* model that supports students who are accelerating and explaining what that support looks like. Students who are performing above grade level would not be pulled out for separate programming, rather their work within the classroom would be adapted to their needs - very similar in concept to how we program for students who are behind grade expectations. This would allow students to receive instruction at their appropriate academic level while keeping them with their peers at their social/emotional level.

Motion 20230419.4

Upon Motion of Jessica Winterhalt Wanner and duly seconded by Michele Hannagan, RESOLVED, that the Acceleration Policy that was approved at the March 22, 2023 Board meeting be rescinded.

Voting in the affirmative: Michele Hannagan, Charlie Johnson, Adam Koneman, Danielle Lavell, Allison Shultes, Colin Orr, Tasha Stevens, Kevin Sutherland, Annemarie Wess, Jessica Winterhalt Wanner

Voting in the negative: None

Abstaining: None

Motion 20230419.4 Passed: 10 to 0

10. End of School Year Event

- Concern raised about the cost of such an event when there are concerns about our budget. How can we have a bigger event that doesn't have a big cost?
- Staff needs to be included in the discussion.
- We need to celebrate staff and Board members

11. Future Agenda Topics and / or Public Comment -

- Kevin raised the issue of now being the time to begin thinking about lease conversations for next year with RMSC.

12. Executive Session - None

Adjournment

Motion 20230419.5

Upon Motion of Michele Hanagan and duly seconded by Tasha Stevens, RESOLVED, that this meeting be adjourned.

Voting in the affirmative: Michele Hannagan, Charlie Johnson, Adam Koneman, Danielle Lavell, Allison Shultes, Colin Orr, Tasha Stevens, Kevin Sutherland, Annemarie Wess, Jessica Winterhalt Wanner

Voting in the negative: None

Abstaining: None

Motion 20230419.5 Passed: 10 to 0

Respectfully Submitted,
Tasha Stevens - Secretary of GCCS-River Board of Trustees
Scribe - Tracy Walker