

**The Genesee Community Charter School  
Board of Trustees  
Education Governance Council  
Meeting Minutes  
September 11, 2019  
Held at RMSC Cunningham House, 657 East Avenue**

**Board Members Present:** **Rebecca Boyle**, Michelle Burack, Michele Hannagan, Marcia Joy, Nolica Murray-Fields, **Cheryl Moeller**, Jessica Nordquist, Allison Shultes, Kevin Sutherland, **Traci Terrance**, Sherita Traywick, Annemarie Wess

**Board Members Absent:** Nathan Hayes, Mark Schiesser  
(Bold: BOT non-voting)

**Educational Governance Council Members Present:** Becki Mason, Maggie Deutschbein, Shannon Hillman

**Legal Counsel Present:** George DesMarteau

**Invited Guests Present:** Maureen Milke, Robin Blew, Elizabeth Pietrzykowski, Jenny Cos, Audra Surman

Meeting called to order by Michele Hannagan at 5:31

**Teacher Presentation**

First grade teachers Jenny Cos and Audra Surman discussed the staff retreat in Ithaca. The focus of the retreat was on identity and how it plays out in their work. Teachers were journaling throughout the retreat, with selected readings to help support their reflections. Teachers also shared their journey that brought them to GCCS. They took a personality test, highlighting strengths and weaknesses, and reflected on how their personality types have been shaped by being at GCCS. They were introduced to “Forest bathing”, spending quiet time in the natural environment for centering and healing, recharging and refocusing. Staff discussed ideas for how to integrate the calmness that arose from being in nature into the classroom. Board members were provided with an object from nature to quietly observe in detail.

**Orientation for new board members**

The school mission statement and EL Education’s three dimensions of student achievement were provided to board members. Board members mapped words from the mission statement into the dimensions of student achievement to better understand the interrelationships.

Board members also reviewed a copy of the bylaws (available on the Board Google Drive), highlighting Article 13 (Code of Ethics). Legal Counsel explained the history of the Educational Governance Council, which arose due to legislation prohibiting school employees from serving on the Board. Board President also reviewed key work that the board oversees (Charter renewal, EL Credentialing renewal, approving contracts and important documents and protocols).

School leader provided a brief update regarding EL Credentialing renewal. She received some feedback about the renewal application, overall minor (e.g. retain more student work to document growth). The letter specifically stated “We have no concerns moving you forward in the process”. We are scheduled

for October 9th school-led conference for EL Education members (web-based presentation) to present the school's portfolio.

Committee chairs presented a brief summary of each committee's scope; new board members were asked to indicate which committee(s) they would like to serve on.

Sherita Traywick is planning to resign from the board due to a conflicting obligation. She will remain on as a voting member until a replacement member is approved.

### **Safety plan**

Updates were made to the safety plan per recommendations from the audit. One update was the procedure for notifying staff in the event of a crisis or lockdown situation. They successfully piloted the Crisis Go app on teachers' phones that simultaneously alerts everyone (as opposed to the prior plan of individual sequential calls) with broad satisfaction. Safety committee reviewed the plan and contributed to revisions. A comment was made that the approval is still after the September 1<sup>st</sup> deadline. Opening the plan for public comment will need to occur sooner so that the plan can be adopted during the August meeting in 2020.

#### **Motion 190911.1**

Upon motion of Annemarie Wess and duly seconded by Marcia Joy, RESOLVED, that the school safety plan be approved.

**Voting in the affirmative:** Michelle Burack, Michele Hannagan, Marcia Joy, Nolica Murray-Fields, Jessica Nordquist, Allison Shultes, Kevin Sutherland, Sherita Traywick, Annemarie Wess

**Voting in the negative:** None

**Abstaining:** None

**Motion 190911.1** passed 9 to 0

### **Minutes**

#### **Motion 190911.2**

Upon motion of Annemarie Wess, and duly seconded by Jessica Nordquist, RESOLVED, that the minutes of August 7, 2019 be approved.

**Voting in the affirmative:** Michelle Burack, Michele Hannagan, Marcia Joy, Nolica Murray-Fields, Jessica Nordquist, Allison Shultes, Kevin Sutherland, Sherita Traywick, Annemarie Wess

**Voting in the negative:** None

**Abstaining:** None

**Motion 190911.2** passed 9 to 0

### **School Leader update**

Summer professional development included the two day retreat (discussed in the teacher presentation) followed by two day refresher for Responsive Classroom. The latter (requiring board approval for the additional expenditure) was received with overwhelming positive feedback from staff. Over the course of the training they received 6 books which are being used in small group book clubs during fall professional development time, with plans for groups to share out their deeper learning. The self-learning teachers are doing is playing out in the classroom with teachers recognizing similar needs in students.

Teachers also looked at the zip code map of where students come from and each teacher took the bus to one of the zip codes on the map so they could take a closer look at where our students come from.

Teachers also took the implicit association test and discussed the results as well as their thoughts and reactions to the zip code visit with the support counselor.

Exuberant kindergartners started last week. “We are learning new strategies every day” to work with them successfully. The school leader highlighted how the response to challenges is different, with a strong team of support for students. Teacher on special assignment (Jean Hurst) will be working with the class multiple times per week. The school social worker has also been actively involved in supporting the team.

The submitted version of the Charter renewal documents are in the Board folder. Performance benchmarks are due October 15th. Renewal team meets tomorrow to discuss EL Credentialing feedback as well as the performance benchmark section for the charter renewal. Charter renewal site visit is slated for November 6 & 7; face-to-face meeting with board members is part of this. Prep for the site visit will occur at the October board meeting.

#### **Public Comment/Future Agenda Items**

After charter renewal is behind us, Board President wants to address strategic planning (including feasibility study for replication/expansion), possibly as a half-day retreat in January.

#### **Adjournment**

##### **Motion 190911.9**

Upon motion of Michelle Burack, and duly seconded by Annemarie Wess, RESOLVED, that the September 11, 2019 meeting be adjourned.

**Voting in the affirmative:** Michelle Burack, Michele Hannagan, Marcia Joy, Nolica Murray-Fields, Jessica Nordquist, Allison Shultes, Kevin Sutherland, Sherita Traywick, Annemarie Wess

**Voting in the negative:** None

**Abstaining:** None

**Motion 190911.9** passed 9 to 0

Respectfully Submitted,  
Michelle Burack  
Secretary of GCCS Board of Trustees  
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