



GREER MIDDLE COLLEGE  
CHARTER HIGH SCHOOL  
HOME OF THE BLAZERS

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes  
September 26, 2016

Board Members Present: Patty Baucom, Jeff Bullock, Eddie Burch, Brian Dentler, Keith King, , Tony Kouskolekas, John Mansure, John Short, Pauline Sternick, Ryan Summey  
Absent: Donna Smith

1. Call to Order by Eddie Burch at 5:08 PM.
2. Approval of Agenda  
Motion to approve agenda: Patty Baucom  
2<sup>nd</sup>: Ryan Summey  
Vote: unanimous
3. Approval of August 29, 2016 Minutes  
Motion to approve August 29, 2016 minutes: Jeff Bullock  
2<sup>nd</sup>: Brian Dentler  
Vote: unanimous
4. Public Comments – none
5. FY16 Audit Review  
Report from our auditor, Rick Frans.  
Schedule 8 on page 42 of Audit Report  
Section I – Summary of Auditors’ Results  
No material weaknesses or deficiencies in internal control over financial reporting. No noncompliance material to financial statements noted.  
Section II – Financial Statement Findings – None.
6. Administrative and Committee Reports
  - a. Principal Report and Blazer Minute (see below)
  - b. Development Report (see below)
  - c. Chairman Report - none
  - d. Facilities Report - next Construction meeting is October 4.
  - e. Financial Report (see below)Motion to accept August Financials: John Mansure  
2<sup>nd</sup>: Keith King  
Vote: unanimous  
  
Motion to accept FY16 Audit: John Mansure  
2<sup>nd</sup>: Jeff Bullock  
Vote: unanimous  
  
Motion to approve GMCCHS participation in the SC Deferred Compensation: Tony Kouskolekas  
2<sup>nd</sup>: Ryan Summey  
Vote: Unanimous

Mr. Armstrong explained the SC Deferred Compensation program available from the state. Employees may deposit money into a 401K with no taxes withheld. This is a voluntary investment program that employees may choose to participate in. There is no cost or liability to GMCCHS.

f. Policy/Governance Report

- Gift Acceptance Policy Second Reading – send any suggested revisions before final vote in October.
- Naming Guidelines Policy Second Reading – send any suggested revisions before final vote in October.

Motion from committee to submit transfer application to the South Carolina Public Charter School District.

Vote: Unanimous

Motion to increase student enrollment to 480 for SCPCSD Transfer Application: Ryan Summey  
2<sup>nd</sup>: John Mansure

Vote: Unanimous

7. Motion to enter Executive Session to discuss contractual and legal matters at 5:43 PM: Patty Baucom

2<sup>nd</sup>: John Mansure

Vote: Unanimous

Motion to exit Executive Session at 5:51 PM: Pauline Sternick

2<sup>nd</sup>: Patty Baucom

Motion to appoint our attorney to draft a letter and negotiate settlement with Contractor A for a sum not to exceed \$7500 with the stipulation that GMCCHS will be held harmless and Contractor A will not discuss the settlement publicly: John Mansure

2<sup>nd</sup>: Jeff Bulllock

Vote: Unanimous

8. Board Events

- Nov. 15-17, 2016 PCSASC Annual Conference, Columbia – deadline for early bird registration is October 1. Having another upstate advanced board training was discussed. Pauline will check into possible topics with Alliance reps at the conference.
- Nov. 28 Upstate Legislative Dinner – this conflicts with our November board meeting date, so board meeting was moved to November 14 at 5:30 PM.

9. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 6:00 PM: Patty Baucom

2<sup>nd</sup>: Keith King

Vote: Unanimous

A big thank you to John Short and Shortfields Restaurant for providing the board dinner for our strategic planning session. It was enjoyed by all and much appreciated!

**Next Board Meeting: October 24, 2016**

*Minutes as submitted 09.26.2016 pds*

## Principal Report

- GMC has made requisition #3 of \$307,684.44. That should be reflected in the September finance report and will come from the BB&T loan.
- We had our first parent breakfast on September 7.
- We had techbook training for our online biology “books” and biology teachers on September 7.
- Our 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade parent night occurred on September 12.
- On September 13, we met with a representative about SC Deferred Compensation
- On September 15<sup>th</sup>, a small group of administration, teachers, and parents met with Langley and Associates to determine interior finishes for the new building.
- On September 15<sup>th</sup>, representatives from the SC Governor’s School for Science and Math met with a few of our students interested in the Accelerate program. If accepted into the program, this will allow our students to earn engineering college credit and still attend GMC.
- Progress reports were issued on September 16.
- Our 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> parent night occurred on September 19.
- We had our last fall “Dance on the Deck” on September 23.
- On September 26<sup>th</sup>, we had our GMC information night for 2017-2018 freshmen students and parents. Open enrollment for 2017-18 is from September 26-November 4.
- The perimeter of the new building has been established with some plumbing installed.
- Mrs. Sternick and I have completed the application for the SCPCSD. Thank you to Mrs. Sternick for the help. There has been no response from the GCSD.
- Parking-We believe our parking issue has been corrected with the senior alternative parking area opposite of our portables.
- Our teachers are developing project-based learning activities in Cluster. They hope to have a project-based activity ready by second semester.

## Development Report

- We have 443 students enrolled at GMC.

9th -114

10th -117

11th -111

12-101

### **Waitlist**

9th -0

10th -0

11th -36

12th -13

- The new lunch program PIP implemented over the summer has been very well received. It allows students to order up until 8am the morning of. Our profits are approximately \$1,500 over where we were this time last year.
- Fall 4 GMC has been rebranded to the Trailer Park Trot. The Trailer Park Trot will take place on the campus of GMC on Friday, October 28th at 5pm. It will be a Halloween themed carnival event with an obstacle course/trail run through the campus of GMC including food and activities for all. We have \$5,750 in committee sponsor dollars so far.
- The consultant from the Winkler Group has been here every other week working with us on the Raise Blaze Initiative. The steering committee is being assembled and will be chaired by Kristen and John Short. The first meeting will be Tuesday, September 27th .
- We presented the major gifts priorities for the first time at GMC parent meetings on September 12th and 19th at the parent meetings. All feedback that I have received has been positive.

- A formal proposal has been sent by Mr. Armstrong to a potential major donor to GMC.
- A school raising ceremony is being planning for Tuesday, October 25th at 9am at GMC. Community leaders, parents, and legislators will be invited.
- Open enrollment for incoming freshmen for the 2017-2018 school year will take place September 26-November 4. Our information night is September 26th at Praise Cathedral beginning at 6pm. We have issued press releases and placed yard signs and advertised in several local papers and posted on social media. Tours began September 20th.
- Spirit week will kick-off October 21st will all proceeds going toward the outdoor learning courtyard at GMC. Combined with the Trailer Park Trot our goal is to exceed \$30,000 for the new Outdoor Learning Courtyard.
- Based on the recommendations of the Winkler Group, we are also starting an annual fund at GMC. A letter to parents will go out at the beginning of December to encourage year-end donations.

### **Finance Report**

Aug highlights:

- Cash Balance: \$8.32M, including construction account of \$5.84M
- Monthly Income exceeds expenses by \$258K
- Construction costs are included under the Facilities sections. Costs for month: \$265k

Revenue

- Base funding of \$240,606 is under budget by \$11,862. This is based on the FY16 135 day headcount. The district should update for the new WPU (weighted pupil) in January. No other special revenue was received in August.

### **Governance/Policy Committee Report**

Members Present: Patty Baucom, John Short, Pauline Sternick

Others Present: Eddie Burch, Jimmy Armstrong

Called to order at 4:10PM

The Committee held a meeting on 9/14/16 to discuss the following:

- 1) Consideration of application to SCPCSD  
Motion was made to submit an application to the South Carolina Public Charter School District pending a response from the letter sent to Dr. Royster and the Greenville County School District on 9/14/16. Letter attached highlights the success of GMC and seeks permission to add 40 students for the 2017-2018 school year.
- 2) Corrections and updates were discussed concerning the current Charter and Bylaws of Greer Middle College Charter High School but the application to SCPCSD specifically asked for the original/current document so we will inquire with SCPCSD concerning the changes needed after we submit the application.
- 3) Briefly discussed future meetings to discuss needed updates to the Charter and Bylaws. Dates and times TBD.

Meeting Adjourned at 5PM

Letter to GCSD dated September 13, 2016

Dr. Burke Royster:

As a continuing partner with us in education, we would like to update you on GMC academics, construction and growth.

The GMC Class of 2016 composite ACT score of 22.3 was the highest of all Greenville County high schools and the 8<sup>th</sup> highest in South Carolina. Our graduation rate is 97% with 96% of the GMC Class of 2016 pursuing post-secondary education. Both our instruction, based on mastery and project-based learning models, and the benefit of taking university transfer and career courses due to our partnership with Greenville Technical College (GTC) provide our students with opportunities to achieve academic success and to be exemplary ambassadors for the Greenville County School District.

As you know, GMC facilities at present consist of a “village” of 28 portable classrooms. In 2015, we secured a ground lease for construction of a new facility on the Benson Campus of GTC and hired a bond attorney and financial consultant to pursue Jobs-Economic Development Authority (JEDA) Bond funding in the amount of \$6.8 million dollars. This was approved by the SC State Fiscal Accountability Authority in June and funded on June 30, 2016.

OSF and the Greenville Area Commission approved buildings plans designed by Langley and Associates, Arbor Engineering, and Triangle Construction. In July, we broke ground on Phase I, which houses 26 classrooms and our administrative offices and is scheduled for completion in the early fall of 2017. Phase II, housing a cafeteria and health and wellness center, will follow as funding permits.

Based on the high level of academics we offer to students, the generous amount of room our new academic facility provides, and the expenditures generated by our building program, we believe it is time to grow our student capacity at Greer Middle College Charter High School. For the 2017-2018 school year, we respectfully request the Greenville County School District Board to give 40 more Greenville County students the opportunity for academic success that GMC provides. Increasing our enrollment to 480 students will enable us to maintain our middle college model of small classrooms while at the same time help us to complete our building program.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Jimmy Armstrong  
Principal GMC

Eddie Burch  
Board Chairperson