



GREER MIDDLE COLLEGE CHARTER HIGH SCHOOL

HOME OF THE BLAZERS

Board of Directors Minutes January 23, 2023

Members Present: Donna Smith, John Short, Pauline Nichol, Tony Kouskolekas, Jennifer Jones, Darin Scheidly, Elliott Figueroa

Administration Present: Jimmy Armstrong, James Dillard, Anne Goff, David Gantt

Members Absent: John Mansure, Jason Ross, Lori Larsen

1. The meeting was called to order by Donna Smith, Chairman, at 5:30 pm.
2. There were no public speakers who desired to address the board.
3. The Board opened public discussion regarding the school's federal ESSER III funding budget. These funds were COVID-related federal funding to address school-specific needs caused by the COVID pandemic. No public speakers addressed the ESSER budget and expenditures. Mr. Armstrong informed the board that the administration had amended its initial budget to address school security by adding additional closed-circuit cameras door access controls. In addition, the budget was amended to cover the salaries of additional personnel needed to address academic and emotional issues arising from the pandemic. Darin Scheidly asked if these budgets had to be exact. Anne Goff stated that the budget and its amendments had to be to the penny. Mr. Armstrong added that there were specific timelines for submitting budgets and filing reimbursement requests that would cause the school to lose the reimbursement from these federal funds if the deadlines were missed.
4. Donna Smith acknowledged that January is School Board Director's Appreciation Month and that Student Government and PIP had provided thank you, posters and food in recognition of our board.
5. Mr. Dillard presented the month's Blazer Brag recipients:
 - a. 9th graders: Alexa Harrison nominated by Ms. Esbenshade and Steve Homsher nominated by Ms. Long.
 - b. 10th graders: Anella Evans nominated by Ms. Esbenshade and Matthew Fortuna nominated by Ms. Long.
 - c. 11th graders: Madison Bowen nominated by Ms. Long and Lyric Rains nominated by Ms. Esbenshade.
 - d. 12th graders: Paul Rouse nominated by Ms. Esbenshade and Margo Norvell by Ms. Long.
 - e. Kelley Bailey was the school's Employee of the Month.
6. Reading of the GMC Mission Statement: Pauline Nichol.
7. The board reviewed the proposed agenda for the meeting. Darin Scheidly made a motion to approve the agenda. Tony Kouskolekas seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
8. The board reviewed the meeting minutes from the November 28, 2022, regular board meeting. Tony Kouskolekas made a motion to approve the minutes. Pauline Nichol seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
9. Administrative and Committee Reports:
 - a) Administration Report – Jimmy Armstrong presented the report:
 - i. South Carolina House Representative Brian Lawson from House District 30 visited the school.
 - ii. The school completed mid-term exams in December.
 - iii. The school held its annual Eduscape and Career Day the week after New Year's.

- iv. In the Fall semester, 214 students took 432 college courses. The overall passage rate was 97%. The students earned 294 A's in the 432 courses.
 - v. Academic Leadership team is working on new approaches for motivating students.
 - vi. Formal teacher observations are ongoing and will be completed by the end of March.
 - vii. New security features are being installed around the school.
 - viii. The school has both girls and boy's junior varsity basket teams this year, and we hosted a girls holiday tournament. The basketball teams are playing the region schedule now.
 - ix. School enrollment is above 500.
 - x. The rising freshmen enrollment packets are due. At present only 20 packets are outstanding.
 - xi. A web development company is evaluating the school's website with recommendations.
 - xii. The 15th year school celebration planning is in full swing.
 - xiii. GMC Spirit Week is coming up.
 - xiv. The school received two grants within the environmental science class. We received around \$2,000 in grants and additional media coverage.
 - xv. PIP sponsored a holiday employee luncheon before Winter Break.
 - xvi. Tony Kouskolekas asked whether our students are more motivated than other schools where Mr. Armstrong had worked. Mr. Armstrong said that our students are still teenagers and that they all need motivation. Mr. Armstrong added that teachers are trying to find different approaches to motivate both the high-end students as well as the struggling students.
- b) Executive Committee Report- no report was presented.
- c) Finance Committee- Anne Goff presented the report:
- i. Ms. Goff gave a synopsis of the school's end-of-month financial condition as of December 2022:
 - i. The school's investment fund accounts are earning 4.3% interest.
 - ii. The district has approved some federal funding budgets, and the school should be receiving reimbursements from these funds soon.
 - iii. The school has issued W2s and 1099s to all employees and contractors.
 - iv. The primary expense that is over the current budget is GTC tuition and books. We have more students taking more college hours, and the cost of the books have increased. We anticipate that the school will be around \$60k over budget for college tuition and books this year. Currently, we do not know if this college course increase is a one-time occurrence or a trend.
 - v. The school's on-hand cash and total assets are both up over \$200k since November. The school's liabilities are also up \$200k because of accrued salaries and benefits. Monthly revenues are about the same.
 - vi. The new school headcount numbers have not been adopted by the district yet.
 - vii. Based upon current budgeting information, it appears that the school will be compliance with the bond debt covenants.
 - ii. Darin Scheidly moved to accept the report. The report was accepted unanimously.
- d) Facilities Committee- John Short gave the report:
- i. The Facilities Committee requested that the Board enter Executive Session during New Business agenda item to discuss a contractual matter.
- e) Policy & Governance Committee- No report was presented.
- i. Darin Scheidly asked whether the new student-sponsored club policy had been disseminated to the faculty and students. Mr. Armstrong stated that the policy had been published and that the feedback from both faculty and students had been positive without reservation.
- f) Academic Excellence Committee – Pauline Nichol gave the report:
- i. The committee is preparing the annual school survey for parents/teachers/faculty.

- ii. The existing set of questions were being modified slightly to stay consistent with previous survey feedback. Lori Larsen is working on finalizing the survey questions in anticipation of distributing the surveys at the end of January.
- iii. The committee eliminated questions concerning the COVID pandemic and added some questions regarding Athletics.
- iv. Pauline Nichol asked if Ms. Dentler should be evaluated as part of the Guidance Department. Mr. Armstrong stated that Ms. Dentler's role related more to academic intervention support and administrative functions than guidance.
- v. Pauline Nichol asked when the best time is to release the surveys would be. Mr. Armstrong stated that the underclassmen can take the survey during Blazer Block, which meet every Friday, and we can schedule the seniors taking the surveys through College Seminar, Senior Project and Blazer Block. Mr. Armstrong asked that the surveys be completed and released within the next ten school days.
- vi. Darin Scheidly asked where the survey software tracked how many surveys had been started and how many had been completed. Pauline Nichol stated that the committee would check whether the survey had the feature. The board would offer gift cards to the parents again to incentivize them to complete the surveys. Faculty and student participation has been high historically. The committee will shoot to release the survey after February 10th through the 17th.

10. New Business

- a) Donna Smith moved that the board enter Executive Session to discuss contractual matters. John Short seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The board entered Executive Session as 6:02 pm. The board then exited Executive Session at 6:35 pm.
 - b) John Short moved that the board approve and execute the proposed resolution authorizing the school to issue new bonds to purchase property on Locust Hill Road for the purpose of building a middle school and athletic field complex. Elliot Figueroa seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
 - c) John Short moved for the school to enter into negotiations with Roebuck Builders, Inc. for a design-build contract to engage architects and subcontractors to design and build a middle school. Jennifer Jones seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
 - d) John Short moved that the school retain the Martin Law Firm to represent the school in negotiation to purchase property on Locust Hill Road for the middle school and athletic field facilities. Tony Kouskolekas seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
 - e) Engage Bunnell Lammons Engineering to perform necessary environmental studies on the property located on Locust Hill Road for its use as a middle school and athletic field complex site. Darin Scheidly seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
11. Jennifer Jones made a motion to adjourn the meeting. John Short seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 6:44 p.m.
12. Next board meeting is tentatively scheduled for **February 28, 2023, at 5:30 pm.**

Addendums



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Principal Report 11-28-2022

- On Nov. 1, we had our 8th grade parent night to start our enrollment month from Nov. 1 to Dec. 1.
- Mr. Dillard and Ms. Looper attended the Public Charter School Alliance of SC annual conference in Spartanburg. The duo presented on our Blazer Bootcamp.
- On Nov. 3rd, Mr. Dillard, Ms. McCraw, Mr. Gantt, and Officer Leopard “attended” the online safety webinar.
- GMC’s Youth In Government students attended the annual conference in Columbia the first week in Nov. Several bills were proposed by our students and at least 2 passed.
- On Nov. 11th, GMC held its second annual Veterans Day Program. It was well attended by Veterans in our community.
- On Nov. 12th, 29 volunteers collected 33 bags of trash from GMC’s adopted portion of 290.
- On Nov. 15th, our GMC Teacher Cadets observed grade level classrooms to learn about building community, lesson planning, classroom management, and other effective teaching skills.
- On Nov. 16th and as part of GMC’s community outreach, Ms. Elliott’s Yoga Class visited Greer Community Ministries to teach their Senior Diners a 30 minute Chair Yoga Class emphasizing movement and flexibility.
- As part of American Education Week, we treated our faculty and staff to a Thursday before Thanksgiving meal. On Friday, Nov. 18th, we treated our faculty and staff to a Continental Breakfast a la carte.
- Mr. Dillard, Ms. McCraw, and Ms. Dentler have met with several students and parents to develop plans to get students above mastery.
- Our girls’ cross country team finished as state runner up. Our boys cross country team won the state championship. That is 4 state championships in a row for our boys.



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Board of Directors

November, 2022 Finance Report

January 20, 2023 Finance Committee Meeting

November, 2022 Financial Highlights

- **Balance Sheet**
 - As of November 30, Cash Balances were \$3,222,896.
 - Total Assets were \$15,005,678 for the month.
 - Total Current Liabilities were \$351,102.
 - Total Long-Term Liabilities remained at \$10,134,000.
 - Total Equity was \$4,519,775.

- **Statement of Revenue & Expenses**
 - **Revenue**
 - Total General Fund Income for November was \$438,033 against a budget of \$464,000 (\$25,967 Unfavorable). Other funds' revenue was \$175,702. We are \$1,047 Unfavorable to the General Fund budget YTD.
 - **Expense**
 - Total General Fund Expenses for November was \$431,138 against a budget of \$429,893 (\$1,245 Unfavorable). Unbudgeted expenses in Special Revenue Funds were \$244,442. We are \$38,428 Favorable to the General Fund budget YTD.
 - **Net Income**
 - November General Fund Net Income was \$6,895 versus a budget of \$34,107, which was \$27,212 Unfavorable. Total Net Loss, including all funds, was \$(61,845). We are \$37,381 Favorable to the General Fund budget YTD.

- **Notes:**
 - **Debt Covenant Requirements:**
 - Days of Cash on Hand = 207 Days. Bond Covenant requires 120 days.
 - Debt Service Coverage is projected to be 1.27, with a requirement of 1.20.
 - Unrestricted net assets are projected to be \$3.1 million, with a requirement of \$1.5 million.

- o **Income and Expense Variations:**
 - State funding is still being distributed on the current year 5-day weighted pupil counts. The projected per weighted pupil funding was originally anticipated to be \$3,827 but is currently being distributed at \$3,757 by the state. However, other special revenues are higher than anticipated at this point, which are currently offsetting part of this decrease.
 - GTC tuition is over budget due to increase student participation, higher tuition per credit hour, and increased hours taken per student. However, some of this increase will be billed to the students for a portion of the extra courses taken cost. We anticipate, at this point, that the budgeted item will be over budget by a net of \$60K. GTC has promised to get the spring invoice to us by mid-February, which will give us a clearer picture of what the total impact will be for this fiscal year.



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Board of Directors

December, 2022 Finance Report

January 20, 2023 Finance Committee Meeting

December, 2022 Financial Highlights

- Balance Sheet
 - As of December, Cash Balances were \$3,348,478.
 - Total Assets were \$15,137,812 for the month.
 - Total Current Liabilities were \$452,662.
 - Total Long-Term Liabilities remained the same at \$10,134,800.
 - Total Equity was \$4,550,350.
- Statement of Revenue & Expenses
 - Revenue
 - Total General Fund Income for December was \$433,820 against a budget of \$468,500 (\$34,680 Unfavorable). Other funds' revenue was \$186,452. We are \$35,727 Unfavorable to the General Fund budget YTD.
 - Expense
 - Total General Fund Expenses for December was \$411,297 against a budget of \$425,118 (\$13,821 Favorable). Unbudgeted expenses in Special Revenue Funds were \$178,400. We are \$52,249 Favorable to the General Fund budget YTD.
 - Net Income
 - December General Fund Net Income was \$22,523 versus a budget of \$43,382 which was \$20,859 Unfavorable. Total Net Income, including all funds, was \$30,575. We are \$16,522 Favorable to the General Fund budget YTD.
- Notes:
 - Debt Covenant Requirements:
 - Days of Cash on Hand = 212 Days. Bond Covenant requires 120 days.
 - Debt Service Coverage is projected to be 1.30, with a requirement of 1.20.
 - Unrestricted net assets are projected to be \$3.1 million, with a requirement of \$1.5 million.

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 - State funding is still being distributed on the current year 5-day weighted pupil counts. The projected per weighted pupil funding was originally anticipated to be \$3,827 but is currently being distributed at \$3,757 by the state. However, other special revenues are higher than anticipated at this point, which are currently offsetting part of this decrease.
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 - Some additional federal and state funds were approved in January, 2023 so future months will see some increases to special revenue funds, while decreasing general fund expenditures.



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Academic Excellence Committee Meeting Minutes
Wednesday January 18, 2023

Board Members Present: Pauline Nichol, Jennifer Jones, Eliot Figueroa, Lori Larsen(virtual)

- 1- Call to Order by Pauline Nichol, Secretary 330 pm
- 2- The purpose of this meeting was to discuss our annual survey and make any necessary modifications.
- 3- Reviewed 2021-22 academic years GMC Board survey that was distributed to faculty, students and parents.
- 4- Changes made to the survey for the 2022-2023 academic year mostly included deletion of Covid related questions, additions of athletic department questions, added changes in personnel in the guidance department.
- 5- Survey sent to Principal Armstrong to review for any additional recommendations regarding survey questions.
- 6- Decision to discuss the optimal date to release the survey will be at the next monthly board meeting on January 23rd
- 7- Meeting adjourned at 540 pm