



# GREER MIDDLE COLLEGE CHARTER HIGH SCHOOL

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## HOME OF THE BLAZERS

### **Board of Directors Minutes March 28, 2022**

Members Present: Donna Smith, John Short, John Mansure, Pauline Nichol, Tony Kouskolekas, Jennifer Jones, Elliott Figueroa, Matt Williams, Jason Ross, Lori Larsen

Administration Present: Jimmy Armstrong, James Dillard, David Gantt, Cathy Derrick

Members Absent: Darin Scheidly,

1. The meeting was called to order by Donna Smith, Chair at 5:34 pm.
2. There were no public speakers who desired to address the board.
3. James Dillard recognized our monthly Blazer Brag Recipients:
  - a. Cherie Furr was recognized as Employee of the Month
  - b. Felix Mikhail was nominated by Megan Schonhar and Jason Rainey
  - c. Donovan Sarlo was nominated by Cameron Cook
  - d. Liam Blackwell was nominated by Cathy Teel
  - e. Emma Davis was nominated by Kimberly Esbenshade
  - f. Diego Jorge was nominated by Jason Rainey
  - g. Cole Sanfor was nominated by Brian Leppard
4. Reading of the GMC Mission Statement: Pauline Nichol.
5. The board reviewed the proposed agenda for the meeting. John Mansure made a motion to approve the agenda. Tony Kouskolekas seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
6. The board reviewed the meeting minutes from the February 28, 2022, regular board meeting. Matt Williams made a motion to approve the minutes. Jason Ross seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
7. Administrative and Committee Reports:
  - a) Administration Report – Jimmy Armstrong presented the report:
    - i. The school had three groups visit during March. On March 1<sup>st</sup>, Leadership Greer toured the school. On March 2<sup>nd</sup>, the SCPCSD Leadership Team visited and present a plaque to the school in recognition of its charter renewal. On March 8<sup>th</sup>, the Leadership Team of the Orangeburg County High School for Health Professions visited to discuss education strategies and other administration issues.
    - ii. On March 9<sup>th</sup>, Ms. McCraw and Kelly Bailey attended the 84<sup>th</sup> annual Greater Greer Chamber of Commerce Gala where Donna Smith was awarded the South Carolina Order of the Palmetto, the highest civilian honor in the state. Mr. Armstrong recognized Ms. Smith and thanked her for her years of professional and community service to the school, the Greer community, and the State of South Carolina.
    - iii. On March 12<sup>th</sup>, the school held its Incoming Freshmen Intake Meeting. One hundred ten of the one hundred twenty-five students incoming freshmen attended the meeting and registered for their classes for next year. The remaining fifteen students are scheduled to register on the 30<sup>th</sup>. Enrollment numbers are above budgeted numbers, and the wait list is also good.

- iv. Ms. Timanus has applied for five grants from the local Wal-marts, and two grants have already been awarded. The school has submitted four additional mini-grants to the Greater Greer Education Foundation.
  - v. The school named Paula Rouse as its Teacher of the Year. The finalists for the award were Cameron Cook, Kaci Elliot, Jason Rainey and Ms. Rouse.
- b) Executive Committee Report- Donna Smith presented the report
- i. Ms. Smith recognized two GMC students, Emily Salvato and Bayleigh Weber, who were in attendance at the meeting. Emily and Bayleigh are writers for the school newspaper, the Forge. Emily and Bayleigh described the daily activities of the Forge, which is an online newspaper shared with all of the students.
- c) Finance Committee- John Mansure presented the report:
- i. Mr. Mansure gave a synopsis of the school's end-of-month financial condition as of January 2022:
    - ii. Current on-hand cash balance is \$2.877 million. Current school equity is \$15.6 million. Current long-term debt is \$10.4 million.
    - iii. The monthly net revenue was 19% above budget, while net expenses were below budget, which resulted in a net revenue of \$52 thousand for the month.
    - iii. Currently, the school has 195 days of operating cash on-hand, which is well above the bond requirements.
  - ii. John Mansure moved to accept his report. The report was accepted unanimously.
- d) Facilities Committee- Jimmy Armstrong presented the report
- i. Two of the three school buses have had new wraps applied to them. The third bus is scheduled to be wrapped the week of April 11<sup>th</sup>.
- e) Policy & Governance Committee- No report was presented.
- f) Academic Excellence Committee – Pauline Nichol presented the report
- i. The committee met on March 15<sup>th</sup> to discuss a request from Justin Lowman and Cathy Derrick to discuss the approval of board-approved elective courses. Ms. Nichol stated that the local courses required board approval for the school to obtain course numbers from the SCPCSD. For journalism and yearbook courses. Pauline recognized Cathy Derrick, Senior Guidance Counselor, who discussed the proposed local courses. Ms. Derrick stated that we have offered four distinct course codes for journalism and yearbook to allow students to take multiple years of either course. The South Carolina course catalog that establishes high school course codes is very limited, and it does not contain courses for multiple credits for either yearbook or newspaper. The school wants to create two distinct course code numbers for both yearbook and newspaper. The SDE is retiring some of the existing course code numbers for these same courses, which is the reason for the request.
  - ii. During the discussion concerning the request, John Short and Jason Ross commented on how much these courses have helped their children and their college students, especially in the mass communications major.
  - iii. Pauline Nichol moved to approve the request for the board approval of the local elective courses for yearbook and newspaper and to submit the request to the SDE to obtain course code numbers. Jason Ross seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
  - iv. The committee is preparing for the annual board survey of parents, students and employees regarding the school environment. This year's survey is schedule to be disseminated to stakeholders between April 23<sup>rd</sup> and April 25<sup>th</sup>. Donna Smith asked if the committee was making any changes from last year's surveys. Ms. Nichol stated that the committee will tweak them but not deviate too far from the previous questions to allow comparisons between the two. The committee is also working on incentives such as gift cards for parent participation.

8. New Business
  - a. Donna Smith thanked Mr. Dillard for implementing the monthly Blazer Brag program, which allowed the board to meet both school employees and students.
9. John Mansure made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Tony Kouskolekos seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 6:04 p.m.
10. Next Board meeting is tentatively scheduled for **April 25, 2022 at 5:30 pm.**

## Addendums



# GREER MIDDLE COLLEGE CHARTER HIGH SCHOOL

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## HOME OF THE BLAZERS

Principal Report 3-28-2022

- On March 1, Leadership Greer toured our facility.
- Members of our Beta Club raised funds to purchase and install a Library Box at Dunbar Child Development Center. The GMC Beta Club completed a book drive to fill and maintain the library.
- Our Blazer Tribe visited Moonshine Mountain Snow Tubing Park.
- On March 2, SCPCSD leadership toured our facility and presented a plaque in honor of our charter renewal.
- On March 3, Ms. McCraw attended Special Education training with the SCPCSD.
- On March 8, the leadership team from the Orangeburg High School for Health Professions toured our facility.
- On March 9, Ms. McCraw and Ms. Bailey, as part of the current Leadership Greer Class, attended the Greater Greer Chamber of Commerce 84th Annual Celebration. As part of the celebration, our Board Chair, Donna Smith, received the Order of the Palmetto.
- On March 10, our Senior Capstone Project faculty members met with junior parents to inform them about requirements for next school year.
- On March 12, it was great to have the Class of 2026 with us at GMC for our intake conferences. Students and parents were informed of school processes and completed course requests.
- March 14-16, Mr. Dillard and Coach Owens attended the SC Athletic Administrators Association Conference.
- On March 17 and as part of the career and technology education requirements, GMC collaborated with Greenville Tech Charter and Brashier to hold an advisory meeting with business partners, Greenville Technical College, and the commerce department of SC.
- On March 21-25, GMC students, faculty and staff had Spring Break. All returned March 28.
- Under the facilitation of our marine science faculty member, Ms. Sawicki, students developed projects and presentations related to global oceanic issues.
- Under the facilitation of our drama faculty member, Ms. Daryng, students rehearsed and performed scenes from plays in front of other classes at GMC.
- Congratulations to GMC faculty members as finalists for Teacher of the Year at GMC-  
-Mr. Cook, Ms. Elliott, Ms. Rouse, and Mr. Rainey. Ms. Paula Rouse is our 2021-2022 Teacher of the Year at GMC!



GREER MIDDLE COLLEGE  
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Academic Excellence Committee Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday March 15, 2022

Board Members Present: Pauline Nichol, Jennifer Jones, Lori Larsen  
Administration: Jimmy Armstrong  
Guidance Counselor: Cathy Derrick

- 1- Call to Order by Pauline Nichol, Secretary 310 pm
- 2- Cathy Derrick and Jimmy Armstrong requested a meeting with the Academic Committee to discuss local board approval for 4 courses that would allow our students to receive course credit for classes in Newspaper and Yearbook courses.
- 3- Cathy Derrick handed out two information sheets for review. One sheet outlined the progression of Newspaper courses and one outlined the progression of Yearbook courses at GMC. These two information sheets will be handed out to each board member on Monday March 28, 2022 with our recommendation for approval.

**ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:**

The Academic Excellence Committee recommends local board approval for four new courses (2 Yearbook courses, 2 Newspaper courses) so that students can receive course credits.

- 4- Discussion regarding a follow-up survey to be distributed to students, faculty & staff and parents.
- 5- Academic Committee will meet on Monday March 28, 2022 at 430 pm for a planning meeting to further discuss survey questions. Tentative date for survey distribution will be April 21-25<sup>th</sup>.

Meeting adjourned at 4 pm.