



GREER MIDDLE COLLEGE
CHARTER HIGH SCHOOL
HOME OF THE BLAZERS

**Board of Directors Minutes
April 26, 2021**

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

Administration Present: Jimmy Armstrong, James Dillard, Jessica McCraw, Heather Timanus, David Gantt

Members Absent: John Mansure, Matt Williams

1. The meeting was called to order by Donna Smith, Chair at 5:35 PM.
2. Reading of the GMC Mission Statement: Pauline Nichol.
3. The board reviewed the proposed meeting agenda. Motion to approve the agenda from Tony Kouskolekas. Motion passed unanimously.
4. The board reviewed the meeting minutes from the March 22, 2021 board meeting. Motion to approve minutes from Jennifer Jones. Motion passed unanimously.
5. There were no public speakers.
6. Administrative and Committee Reports:
 - a) Development Committee- Heather Timanus presented the report:
 - i. Current school enrollment is 499 students. The current waiting list for the incoming class is 75 students and 221 for our current classes.
 - ii. The school hosted the makeup school intake meeting on April 22nd for 22 students.
 - iii. The Blazer Barbecue sold 200 meal tickets, which is highest total ever. We also received \$4,000 in sponsorship. The net revenue from the event was over \$7,000. These funds will be used for additional outdoor picnic tables and trash cans.
 - iv. The Senior project presentations will be May 20th. The Fine Arts festival is May 8th. Any assistance with either event would be greatly appreciated.
 - v. PIP is sponsoring the Senior Project portfolio grading meal and Teacher Appreciation Week the week of May 6th.
 - vi. Donna Smith asked about the students overall mental and emotional states. Ms. Timanus deferred to administration regarding the question. James Dillard stated that we have seen an increase in the mental health needs of our students. The total number of students receiving mental health assistance has essentially doubled. The school has designated a portion of the school's federal stimulus funds for a social and emotional learning counselor position for a period of two years.
 - b) Administration Report – Jimmy Armstrong presented the report:
 - i. Mr. Armstrong stated it was “good to be back at GMC”.

- ii. The school has two faculty positions open: A Spanish teacher and a Business Ed teacher position. Mr. Armstrong announced that Ms. Rosemary Small, the Business Manager, is changing careers and is retiring. The school has posted her position. The school has hired Kathy Derrick from Riverside High School, who has 30 years' experience, as our new Guidance Counselor.
 - iii. Administration is working on a list of facility needs, which they will bring to the Facilities Committee.
 - iv. The school's ESSER 2 funding request has not been approved by the state district yet. School construction requests from other schools has been holding up the final approval of the district's fund allocation. The federal GEER and ESSER II funds probably will not be received until fiscal year 2022, so 2021 budget numbers may not reflect these funding changes.
 - v. Mr. Armstrong stated that he has encouraged all staff and faculty to finish strong. The students have been in the building almost all year, which gives us an advantage other public schools.
 - vi. The administration team will meet over the summer for continued planning for the 2022 academic year. The school's IST team will also meet with Administration team to develop a long-term plan for school curriculum and courses. The administration wanted to insure the long-term plan received the faculty's input. The admin team believes that constant teacher Professional Development is the way to grow the faculty, which in turn grows the students.
 - vii. Because past two academic years have been impacted by the COVID pandemic, the school should develop a unifying theme to help re-establish school culture post-COVID. We have been fortunate that we haven't lost all school culture through this period. However, the school environment is still restricted due to Plexiglas and mask mandates, but the school will work to overcome those issues.
 - viii. The charter renewal is coming up. The charter renewal is very similar to a school accreditation process. The state district may want to "court" the school to stay with the district. We will involve all school stakeholders to make certain we are in good standing with the district.
 - ix. Elliot Figueroa asked about the academic year of the charter renewal. Mr. Armstrong respond that it may be 2023, but he believes that it is 2022. Jennifer Jones asked how should the Academic Excellence survey feedback be incorporated with admin team planning. Mr. Armstrong responded that he would like to be included in the Academic Excellence committee meetings to receive the feedback so it may be incorporated in school planning. Donna Smith said that the committee results should be reported to the board in the near future.
- c) Executive Committee Report- Donna Smith gave the report:
- i. Ms. Smith stated that the Executive Committee report was incorporated in Mr. Armstrong's presentation of his long-term strategic plans for the school.

- d) Finance Committee- Elliott Figueroa presented the report:
- i. Mr. Figueroa gave a synopsis of the school's financial condition as of March:
 - i. The school has \$3 million cash on hand and \$16 million in assets.
 - ii. The school has \$5 million in net equity.
 - iii. The yearly liabilities are in line with the school budget.
 - iv. The school's current revenue flows are off because of the district funding adjustments, which is creating negative cash flows on a monthly basis, but year-to-date school revenue is positive \$700,000 over budget.
 - ii. The Committee is working on refinancing the school's long-term debt, which comes due 2025. John Short stated that BB&T has changed our banking team, and the new team is looking at bond financing vs. traditional financing. The committee should have BB&T's guidance by the next Finance Committee meeting. Darin Scheidly stated that we are looking at a full loan pay down or a tiered reduction of debt. John Short also stated that a part of BB&T's review is the determination of fees and penalties for early payment.
- e) Facilities Committee- John Short presented the report:
- i. The committee has not received any feedback from GTC regarding the land lease request. Donna Smith stated that she would reach out again to GTC to schedule a meeting with Dr. Miller and Ms. DiMaggio. Jennifer Jones asked whether the school had any liability if a student is injured driving to a sports event. Mr. Dillard responded that we request liability waivers from the parents regarding driving to and from school activities or riding the bus, which should provide some coverage. Mr. Armstrong stated that we have limited liability if a student drives themselves as opposed riding our bus. Mr. Dillard stated that COVID limited our ability to use buses this year to avoid possible COVID contraction.
 - ii. Regarding the bus lawsuit, the school had received a new settlement offer from National Bus Services (NBS). NBS has offered another bus to trade. The potential bus offered is being reviewed by our local bus consultant. According to our attorney, the board needs to decide whether to accept the offer. The attorney says we need to decide whether to swap buses before resolving any liquidated damage issues. Mr. Dillard stated the offered is a newer bus and a better bus than the current bus we own. The offer requires NBS bring the swapped bus to South Carolina and take back the old bus. Our bus consultant says that it is a fair trade. Pauline Nichol asked how the school can confirm whether the offered bus is mechanically safe. Mr. Short stated we can agree to swap buses subject to a mechanical inspection by a bus consultant of our choosing. The secondary items can be resolved subject to a decision to swap buses. Mr. Short stated NBS has agreed in principle to make us whole.

- iii. John short moved to approve the settlement offer of trading buses subject to an inspection of the bus offered and a later resolution of the secondary issues. After discussion, the motion passed unanimously.
 - iv. The Facilities Committee will coordinate with admin team to schedule a meeting.
 - f) Policy & Governance Committee- No report at this time.
 - g) Academic Excellence Committee – Hannah Mahaffey presented the report:
 - i. The board surveys went out to the school stakeholders during the past two weeks.
 - ii. The committee had received responses from over half of the faculty and half of the parents. More than half of the students had also responded.
 - iii. The committee will send email reminders to everyone that hadn't responded by Friday, April 30th. The committee will compile the survey results and then meet with admin team to review them.
7. No new business was brought before the board
8. Darren Scheidly made a motion to adjourn at 6:14 p.m.
9. Next Board meeting is tentatively scheduled for **May 24, 2021 at 5:30 pm.**