



GREER MIDDLE COLLEGE CHARTER HIGH SCHOOL

HOME OF THE BLAZERS

Board of Directors Minutes October 21, 2019

Members Present: John Mansure, Pauline Nichol, Tony Kouskolekas, Rita Danner, Hannah Mahaffey, Jamie Harvey, Kimberly Hall, Nikki Crabtree

Members Absent: Donna Smith, John Short, Darin Scheidly

1. John Mansure called the meeting to order at 5:34 p.m.
2. There were no public speakers to address the board.
3. John Mansure presented the school's Mission Statement
4. The board reviewed and approved the meeting agenda. Tony Kouskolekas moved to approve the agenda. Jamie Harvey seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
5. The board reviewed and approved the Meeting Minutes from the September 23rd Board meeting. Pauline Nichol moved to approve the minutes. Kim Hall seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
6. The school's accounting firm, Martin Smith & Co., represented by Mr. Ken Martin, presented their findings from the school's annual financial audit:
 - a. Applying Generally Accepted Accounting Principles and governmental auditing standards, the school received an unmodified clean opinion regarding the school's financial systems and controls. This opinion was based upon the firm's review of school's financial statements and account reviews of several of the school's financial accounts. The key findings of the audit were:
 - i. The school and management are responsible for implementing a set of controls for accounting and financial accountability. In addition to school's internal controls, Copper Advisors, a financial advisor firm, has an ongoing relationship with the school, which is a strong relationship.
 - ii. The auditors found no instances where the school failed to follow the school's and Copper Advisors' internal financial controls.
 - iii. The auditor performed auditing tests on various accounts. The auditing firm did not find the need to revise any of the school's financial records or record keeping processes.
 - b. The auditors developed a qualitative opinion regarding the financial statements. The auditors did not have to make any substantive corrective entries to the financial statements. There were no significant disagreements between the school's approach and the auditors' recommendations. The school is quite conservative from a financial perspective, which the auditors consider a positive approach. Overall, the report is a strongly positive one.
 - c. The firm also formed an opinion regarding the school's overall financial health. The school's Income Statement indicated that school annual revenue was up about \$500,000, which provided an excess of retained revenue over expenses of about \$540,000. The firm also observed a history of the school operating within its financial means. The firm strongly recommends the school maintain a positive fund balance. The school's overall fund balance is approximately \$4.3 million dollars. As a charter school, the firm recommends that it maintain a minimum of 30% of operating expenses as a fund balance. GMC's current fund balance to operating expenses ratio is about 38%.

- d. In conclusion, the audit report is very good and an improvement over previous years' financial audits.
7. Dr. Buddy Coleman present the school's annual Academic Audit report:
 - a. Dr. Coleman applied the South Carolina Graduate Profile standards as the standards for his review. The academic indicators used are: academic End-of-Course testing, graduation rates, parent/student/teacher surveys and various other metrics. These indicators sum to 100 points, and the state sets the basis for the various achievement level. The individual metric results were as follows:
 - i. English I End-of-Course passing results were maintained. There was a slight decrease Algebra I passing grades but EOC passing rates overall were maintained. The combined EOC passing score received an excellent rating.
 - ii. The Preparing for Success rating was also an excellent rating. These ratings have been consistent throughout an extended period of time.
 - iii. Student Engagement received a "good" rating. However, this rating is based on completely voluntary activities from the students' prospective. This indicator has been a problem throughout the state. This is a new indicator that was added two years ago.
 - iv. The results from the Parent/Students/Teachers survey indicated that overall, parents, teachers and students were very positive about the school with most survey results in the high 90s.
 - v. Graduation rate was 98.9% graduation rating. College readiness and Career readiness rating was about 80% for 4 out of the 5 indicators. This gave the school an excellent rating.
 - vi. ACT composite score trends were above the state's averages for significant number of years. SAT, ACT and GPAs were all positive.
 - vii. Dr. Coleman's recommendations were to review at Algebra I grading and to encourage student engagement, but the overall academic indicators were extremely high compared to other public high schools and charter schools in the area. Overall, the school had another outstanding year academically.
 - b. Jamie Harvey raised the question regarding ways to address the Algebra I score when we are looking back four years ago to those results. Mr. Crawford stated that we are implementing Algebra comprehension testing for incoming freshmen to provide appropriate assistance with Algebra I instruction.
 8. Committee Reports
 - a. Development Committee - Heather Timanus was not present but provided a written report:
 - i. The school is maintaining its enrollment goal of 480 students.
 - ii. The school had received 253 applications for the incoming freshmen class.
 - iii. Pledges for the Activity Center have reached over \$80,000. Beam Signing Ceremony had occurred earlier in the day.
 - iv. Ms. Timanus is working on Alumni communications via Social Media.
 - v. The Parents-In-Partnership Program is doing well. It is considering contracting with sole-source vender to simplify ordering cafeteria supplies.
 - b. Executive Director Report - Fred Crawford presented the report:
 - i. Memorandum of Understanding with Addendum regarding the vehicle disposition at end-of-contract had been executed with the Greenville County Sheriff's Office for the School Resource Officer. The district had not awarded the SRO grant to-date.
 - ii. A classroom furniture showcase was held last week with to allow teachers to make furniture requests. Based upon the requests, the school will select some standardized classroom sets.
 - iii. The school was ranked the highest academic performing charter school in the state. GMC should be receiving Palmetto gold banners for this year and last year. The school is considering whether to apply for the Palmetto's Finest award.
 - iv. GMC and the Greenville Tech sister schools are discussing some public relations assistance to promote the early colleges.

- c. Executive Committee – John Mansure stated there was no report.
 - d. Finance Committee - John Mansure presented the report:
 - i. The school’s current cash-on-hand balance is \$7.4 million dollars with a reserve balance of \$4.735 million.
 - ii. The school’s expenses are up but this tends to be front-end loaded annual occurrence. School expenses are up mainly due to increased utilities.
 - iii. The school’s current year-to-date income of \$400,000, which is a favorable 7% increase compared to budget.
 - e. Facilities Committee – Fred Crawford presented the report:
 - i. Building construction is on schedule for the April 1st completion date.
 - ii. Construction budgets are still on target with a few change orders. The building should be in the dry in the near future.
 - f. Policy & Governance Committee - No report was presented.
 - g. Academic Excellence Committee – Rita Hanner presented the report:
 - i. The committee met with South Carolina Public Charter Alliance, who is preparing an updated school survey. The survey will probably will go out December 6th. The committee recommends that some incentives be created to promote parent/student/teacher participation in the survey. The alliance hoped to have survey draft ready for review and approval by Friday, October 25th.
 - ii. The Board Training retreat is scheduled for Friday, October 25th at Shortfield’s Restaurant in Travelers Rest. Board training will occur from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Shortfield’s is providing lunch.
 - iii. The state no longer allows for online training. The school will host additional training on-premises in April.
 - h. Personnel Committee - No report was presented.
9. Kim Hall moved to adjourn the meeting. Tony Kouskolekas seconded. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 6:44 p.m.
10. Next meeting is November 18, 2019 at 5:30 p.m.