



# GREER MIDDLE COLLEGE CHARTER HIGH SCHOOL

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## HOME OF THE BLAZERS

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

Members Present: John Short, Pauline Nichol, Tony Kouskolekas Jennifer Jones, Lori Larsen, Darin Scheidly

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

Members Absent: Donna Smith, John Mansure, Elliott Figueroa, Jason Ross

1. The meeting was called to order by John Short, Vice Chair, at 5:34 pm.
2. There were no public speakers who desired to address the board.
3. Mr. Dillard presented the month's Blazer Brag recipients:
  - a. 9th graders: Alexa Harrison and Steve Homsher.
  - b. 10th graders: Anella Evans and Matthew Fortuna.
  - c. 11th graders: Madison Bowen and Lyric Rains.
  - d. 12th graders: Paul Rouse and Margo Norvell.
  - e. Kelley Bailey was the school's Employee of the Month.
4. Reading of the GMC Mission Statement: Pauline Nichol.
5. The board reviewed the proposed agenda for the meeting. Lori Larsen made a motion to approve the agenda. Darin Scheidly seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
6. The board reviewed the meeting minutes from the October 24, 2022, regular board meeting. Lori Larsen made a motion to approve the minutes. Darin Scheidly seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
7. Administrative and Committee Reports:
  - a) Administration Report – Jimmy Armstrong presented the report:
    - i. Mr. Dillard and Ms. Looper attended Charter School Alliance conference and presented an overview of our Blazer Boot Camp summer program.
    - ii. The Veteran Days' celebration sponsored by the school band and chorus was well attended and well received.
    - iii. The administrator and MTSS specialist are working with all students who have grades below mastery. Teachers and administrators are contacting students and parents to be proactive about improving their grades.
    - iv. The Girls cross country team was state runner-up, and the boys are four-time consecutive state champions.
    - v. Development: Our current enrollment is 509 students. We have received 252 applications for incoming freshmen so far. We hope to have more than 260 by Thursday, which is the deadline for the lottery drawing.
    - vi. The fifteen-year celebration agenda is mostly complete, and we are promoting the event through social media and other outlets.
    - vii. Ms. Bailey and Ms. Timanus attended a national school publicity conference in Charlotte.
    - viii. Jennifer Jones asked whether we promoted baseball or girls golf promoted at the incoming freshmen meeting. Mr. Armstrong said we didn't have enough students to attend the interest meeting for baseball to field a team this season. Those students interested in playing baseball can now play at their home high schools. Tony Kouskolekas asked why the school excelled at

cross country. Mr. Armstrong stated that we had elite coaches and many students applied to the school because of the quality of the coaches. In addition, we have attracted other quality coaches in other track disciplines that assisted in training in those specialty events.

- b) Executive Committee Report- no report was presented
- c) Finance Committee- Anne Goff presented the report:
  - i. Mr. Scheidly gave a synopsis of the school's end-of-month financial condition as of August 2022:
    - i. School has \$3 million cash-on-hand. Total assets are \$15.3 million with total outstanding debt at \$10.1 million. Current total school equity of \$5.2 million. Total equity decreased from last month due to year-end depreciation costs being recognized.
    - ii. For the month, school revenue was unfavorable against budget due to an adjustment to our funding from the state district. However year-to-date revenue is still favorable for the year.
    - iii. The state per pupil funding is still below our expected funding level. We will wait for the monthly funding adjustment based upon our school's 45-day enrollment.
    - iv. The tuition invoice for Greenville Technical College is higher than anticipated.
    - v. We are waiting for some amendment approvals from the district for the federal funding we have been allocated, which will offset some existing expenses.
    - vi. John Short asked about the reason the funding from the state had changed. Mr. Armstrong said the district had reallocated some of the funds it received, which reduced the funding for the high school. Ms. Goff explained that there was a spike in overall charter attendance in the state, which impacted the district's per pupil funding.
    - vii. Mr. Armstrong said that we will bring in students at the end of the semester to keep enrollment to keep our current enrollment at 510. The goal is to keep our average daily enrollment above 507 for the entire year to keep our funding consistent with the budget. Mr. Armstrong stated that we have plenty of students on the waiting list to fill any openings.
    - viii. Darin Scheidly asked if we have more students taking college courses. Mr. Armstrong stated that students are taking more hours total at GTC than the previous year. The school is over 300 college credit hours higher than Fall 2021.
  - ii. Darin Scheidly moved to accept report. The report was accepted unanimously.
- d) Facilities Committee- No report was presented.
- e) Policy & Governance Committee- Darin Scheidly presented the report:
  - i. Mr. Scheidly requested that Mr. Armstrong present the new school policy regarding student-led organizations.
  - ii. Mr. Armstrong reviewed the student group policy regarding school-approved organizations and the procedures for starting, overseeing and terminating a school-approved club. These policies and procedures are for student-led clubs that are not "threatening" or "disruptive" to operation of the school. The policy provides specific requirements for starting a club and grounds for terminating the club.
  - iii. Lori Larsen commented that the policy does not discuss whether there will be a warning or other discussion prior to termination. Darin Scheidly stated that the policy gives the school administration latitude based upon the severity of the action of a particular club and whether discipline or termination is.
  - iv. Tony Kouskolekas noted that first amendment issues are involved in this policy and inquired whether the principal or other employees would be involved in the disciplinary decision. Mr. Armstrong stated that the policy requires the administration to decide whether an action or communication is "threatening" vs. "inappropriate". Mr. Kouskolekas discussed the complexity of language and whether a club's purpose or actions are protected by free speech or other constitutional protections.
  - v. Jennifer Jones recommended that the policy be amended regarding a disciplinary action from "will" to "may" to provide additional flexibility. Jimmy stated that all student-led clubs must

have an adult school employee as a sponsor. Mr. Scheidly accepted Ms. Jones' recommendation to amend the policy amended to change the word from "will" to "may". Jennifer Jones moved to accept the policy as amended. Tony Kouskolekas seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

f) Academic Excellence Committee – No report was presented

8. New Business

a. John Short moved to enter Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter. Pauline Nichol seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The board entered into Executive Session as 6:12 pm. The board then exited Executive Session at 6:17 pm Donna

b. John Short moved that the school give a holiday bonus of \$100.00 to each school employee. Pauline Nichol seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

9. Tony Kouskolekas made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Darin Scheidly seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

10. Next board meeting is tentatively scheduled for **January 23, 2023, at 5:30 pm.**

## Addendums



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### Principal Report 11-28-2022

- On Nov. 1, we had our 8<sup>th</sup> 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. 3<sup>rd</sup>, 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. 11<sup>th</sup>, GMC held its second annual Veterans Day Program. It was well attended by Veterans in our community.
- On Nov. 12<sup>th</sup>, 29 volunteers collected 33 bags of trash from GMC’s adopted portion of 290.
- On Nov. 15<sup>th</sup>, our GMC Teacher Cadets observed grade level classrooms to learn about building community, lesson planning, classroom management, and other effective teaching skills.
- On Nov. 16<sup>th</sup> 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. 18<sup>th</sup>, 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.

### Greer Middle College Charter High School Club Policy Proposal

All clubs must have the approved paperwork on file with administration to operate.

All clubs must have at least one current employee, volunteer sponsor present at all meetings and events.

The operation of the club or its members...:

- can in no way interfere with the orderly conduct of educational activities within the school or school function.
- must not interfere with order and discipline on the school premises or any school function.
- must never threaten the well-being of students and/or faculty nor infringe on the rights of others.
- must ensure attendance of students at meetings and events is voluntary.
- must make known to the employee sponsor 2 weeks in advance of any guest speaker, and guest speakers may not be continuous speakers.

Violation of the above requirements, or any other action deemed inappropriate and/or detrimental to the school by GMC administration, will result in either a 12 month suspension of the club or full disbandment.

GMC administration reserves the right to add or delete to this policy at any time.

All interpretations and decisions are at the full discretion of the school administration.

Updated 10/25/22