



# GREER MIDDLE COLLEGE CHARTER HIGH SCHOOL

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## HOME OF THE BLAZERS

### **Board of Directors Minutes November 27, 2023**

Members Present: Donna Smith, John Short, Lori Larsen, Tony Kouskolekas, Pauline Nichol, Pamela Adams, Darin Scheidly, Zach Salvato, Elliot Figueroa

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

Members Absent: Jennifer Jones

1. The meeting was called to order by Donna Short, Chairman, at 5:32 pm.
2. There were no public speakers who desired to address the board.
3. Blazer Brag – James Dillard recognized November’s Blazer Brag recipients:
  - a. Freshman: Lela McCraw nominated by Ms. Looper; and Andrew Rumsey nominated by Ms. McAllister and Ms. Looper.
  - b. Sophomore: William Quay nominated by Ms. Schonar; and Lilian Lee nominated by Ms. Teel.
  - c. Junior: Annalease Norris nominated by Ms. LaPoe; and Lilian McKenzie nominated by Mr. Cook.
  - d. Senior: Lucy Isaacs nominated by Ms. Rouse, and Adia Giorgio nominated by Ms. Quinlin.
  - e. The Employee of the Month was Ms. Whitney Looper.
4. Reading of the GMC Mission Statement: Pauline Nichol.
5. The board reviewed the proposed agenda for the meeting. John Short made a motion to approve the agenda. Zach Salvato seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
6. The board reviewed the meeting minutes from the October 30, 2023, regular board meeting. Darin Scheidly made a motion to approve the minutes. Lori Larsen seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
7. Administrative and Committee Reports:
  - a) Administration Report – Jimmy Armstrong presented the report:
    - i. Several of the faculty and staff members have attended several conferences throughout the month.
    - ii. We had a excellent turnout for our Incoming Freshmen Information Night.
    - iii. John Short and Mr. Armstrong met with SC Department of Transportation regarding the new school’s traffic pattern.
    - iv. The Youth-in-Government club attended the YIG Conference in Columbia and performed well.
    - v. The annual Veteran’s Day program was well attended and was well organized by Mr. Rainey.
    - vi. Mr. Armstrong met with the school district administration about the new charter due in the spring of next year.
    - vii. The school administrators’ team delivered goodies to faculty and staff for National School Week.
    - viii. Ms. Goff and Ms. Bing Gallion were recognized by the state district for meritorious compliance with federal grant programs’ guideline.
    - ix. In cross county, the girls team finished as state runners-up and the boys were state champions again.

- x. Regarding Development, the school received a grant from the Spinx Foundation. The school is also organizing a pickleball tournament fundraiser for the spring.
  - xi. Regarding Parents-in-Partnership, PIP hosted a coffee truck for a morning treat for the faculty and staff.
  - xii. Regarding enrollment, the school has a substantial number of applications for the incoming freshmen lottery.
  - xiii. The Miss GMC pageant will be held on December 9<sup>th</sup> in the Activities Center.
  - xiv. We are still working on using PowerSchool for the student enrollment process. We have been working with the state district on purchasing the enrollment package through the district.
- b) Executive Committee Report- Donna Smith gave the report.
- i. Ms. Smith expressed the board's condolences for the passing of Pamela Adam's mother.
- c) Finance Committee- Elliot Figueroa presented the report:
- i. Mr. Figueroa gave a synopsis of the school's end-of-month financial condition as of October 2023:
    - i. The school has \$3.7 million cash on-hand.
    - ii. The school has \$14.6 million in assets. It has current liabilities of \$679 thousand, \$9.8 million in long-term loans, with \$4.8 million in net equity.
    - iii. The school's general fund net income has been \$26 thousand favorable year-to-date. Total net income \$37 thousand for October 2023.
    - iv. The school has 211 days cash on hand.
    - v. State student funding has been adjusted for our five-day student headcount. Per pupil funding is below the expected budget amount but should be offset by additional federal ESSER funding.
    - vi. The LLC had two additional invoices for the land purchase in October.
  - ii. Elliot Figueroa moved to accept the Financial Committee's report including the school's financial statements. The motion passed unanimously.
  - iii. The committee researched whether the school might qualify for the federal employee retention credit program. Based upon references provided by the school's accounting firm, the committee recommends that it apply for these funds. Elliot Figueroa moved to spend approximately \$30 thousand for the preparation fee to the CPA firm to apply for the federal refund. There was no additional discussion. The motion passed unanimously.
- d) Facilities Committee- John Short presented the report:
- i. The committee reviewed the seven Request for Qualifications submitted by state construction companies. After reviewing the RFQs', the committee selected two candidates, J. Davis Construction and Vannoy Construction, to present their proposals for the building design project to the committee. After the presentations, the committee sent additional follow-up questions to both candidates. The questions requested itemized budgets, the proposed square footage of each design, the specifications regarding the infrastructure included in the design and the infrastructure for the athletic facilities. Vannoy's design had two phases with only 16-18 classrooms at \$19.5 million. J. Davis Construction's design contained 28 classrooms, a gymnasium and athletic fields for \$20.5 million. J. Davis's proposal is the only proposal that came in with the right scope of work within the school's funding range. It's design contained a two-story school building. Both proposals contained approximately 50 thousand square feet. Vannoy's proposal did not contain any athletic fields.
  - ii. Based upon the two proposals, J Davis's bid was within the price range discussed with our financing firm. Both companies had similar timeframes to complete the building and

infrastructure. The septic field only has to be about 2 acres, which is significantly smaller than the original 10 acres proposed. Pamela Adams asked why the design required a septic field. Donna Smith indicated there is no sewer service immediately available for the property. Tony stated that J Davis's bid was well below Vannoy's, but based upon the specifications provided he felt that J Davis could deliver the design within the budget. Darin Scheidly asked whether athletic fields could be delayed if we had a budget issue. John Short stated that the athletic fields could generate revenue from the high school to the community school to help offset the cost of the project.

- iii. John Short stated that both applicants indicated that moving forward with the project was critical because of the delivery delay times of the materials needed for the project.
  - iv. John Short made a motion that Greer Middle College select J Davis Construction as the vendor for the design-build project for the community school based upon the proposal bid amount of \$20.5 million. Elliot Figueroa seconded the motion.
  - v. Tony Kouskolekas asked Mr. Armstrong for his perspective regarding delaying the project further. Mr. Armstrong stated we could move forward with the Office of School Facilities, but we could not proceed forward with the financing of the project without a cost from the construction standpoint. It would not hold up the charter process, but it would hold up the financing component of the project. John Short asked Mr. Armstrong about his impressions of the applicant presentations. Mr. Armstrong said both presentations were good, but that J Davis Construction's employees, not the architect, led its presentation. The company's owner was present for the presentation. Elliot Figueroa stated that J Davis has an excellent reputation with his company, and they work with numerous construction companies.
  - vi. There was no further discussion. The motion passed unanimously.
- e) Policy & Governance Committee- Darin Scheidly presented the report.
- i. The committee met and reviewed four board possible policies. The committee tabled two of the proposed board policies. The first was the Board Conflict of Interest policy. They felt that they needed to discuss the potential ramifications of the policy further. The second policy was a paid parental family leave policy. Currently, employees receive paid sick leave. In addition, the FMLA allows twelve weeks of unpaid leave from work. The new policy would provide them with paid family leave without using their sick leave. This policy is specifically limited to leave for a newborn child or a newly adopted child. This policy would provide them with six weeks of paid leave. The school could offer an amount left than six weeks because of charter school exemption. The parental paid time is during FMLA. Some districts are offering two weeks. Some districts are offering the six week leave policy. The committee is further investigating the policy.
  - ii. The Unencumbered Time policy addresses high school special education teachers' unencumbered time of thirty minutes per day to focus on special education. The committee recommends that the policy be approved by the board. The second policy that the committee recommended was the state's testing and security policy, which was adopted at our last meeting.
  - iii. Darin Scheidly moved to accept the unencumbered time policy to provide thirty minutes of unencumbered time to special education teachers. Elliot Figueroa seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- f) Academic Excellence Committee – No report was presented.

## 8. New Business

- a) Financial Advisor Meeting - Mr. Armstrong and Ms. Goff met with two public institution financial advisors to discuss financial advisory services regarding the new school. Mr. Armstrong said that they would meet with the Finance Committee to discuss the retention of one of the two advisors to provide the school assistance in the financial advisement regarding build-design project and the potential options of financing the project.
9. John Short moved to adjourn the meeting. Tony Kouskolekas seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 6:40 p.m.
10. Next board meeting is tentatively scheduled for **January 22, 2024, at 5:30 pm.**

## Addendums



# GREER MIDDLE COLLEGE

## CHARTER HIGH SCHOOL

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### HOME OF THE BLAZERS

#### Principal Report 11-27-2023

- On Nov. 2, Ms. Bailey and Ms. Timanus attended the Public School Relations Conference in Greenville.
- Had a great turnout for our 8<sup>th</sup> grade student/parent night.
- Ms. Looper, Ms. Derrick and Ms. Kirkland attended the data conference and Ed. Tech conference in Myrtle Beach.
- Met with DOT on Nov. 8 on acquired property.
- GMC's Youth In Government attended the conference in Columbia.
- We had a great Veterans Day Program at GMC.
- Attended the SCPCSD Leaders Meeting on Nov. 14.
- Attended the SCPCSD New Charter Application Meeting on Nov. 15.
- As part of American Education Week, Ms. McCraw and Mr. Dillard delivered goodies to our faculty and staff. Also, had a Thursday before Thanksgiving meal during lunch.
- Ms. Goff and Ms. Gallion were recognized by the SCPCSD as completing the necessary processes with federal monies.
- Because of Thanksgiving Break, GMC was closed Wednesday, Nov. 22-Friday, Nov. 24. Students returned Monday, Nov. 27.
- Cross Country—girls finished as state runner up. Our boys won the state championship. Basketball teams are practicing and have started their season.

## Development Report

- GMC received a \$1,000 grant from the Spinx Family Foundation to assist with the cost of the microbus.
- GMC is planning a Pickle Ball Tournament as a fundraiser for the Athletic Department. It is tentatively scheduled for March and more info will be coming out over the next month with details and sponsorship opportunities.
- Our end-of-year annual campaign letters will go out to all GMC families in early December. We request 100% board giving in whatever capacity you can.

### PIP

- hosted the Villa Nova Coffee Truck on October 31 as a treat for teachers and staff
- covered the cost of the Thanksgiving meal for teachers

## Enrollment Report

### **Enrollment:**

Rising Freshman Applications: 232 (as of 11/21)

9th- 141, 85 on waitlist

10th- 140, 43 on waitlist

11th- 137, 5 on waitlist

12th- 106, 68 on waitlist

Will bring in 2 Freshmen, 3 Sophomores, 2 Juniors for January enrollment. Will begin that process in the first week of December.

We had over 300 people attend Info Night on 11/2! We've had 4 very full tours so far with 4 to go. All of which have 40+ attendees registered. The Lottery will be held on December 4th.

The NSPRA conference was great! Provided a lot of great insight into communication, AI in education, and more!

Started building a list of community members to request Support Letters for the new school. Will send those out first of December.

Miss GMC will be held on Saturday, December 9th. We'd love to have you there!

PowerSchool Demo for Lottery/Enrollment was incredible. Using their software would be seamless for our lottery and enrollment processes and beneficial for current student re-enrollment each year as well.