

Greenville Technical Charter High School
Board of Directors Regular Meeting
September 25, 2007, at 6:00 p.m.
Greenville Technical College
CHS, RM 118

Approved on 10/23/07

Submitted by Chris Stolarski on 9/25/07

The meeting was called to order at 6:06 pm by Chairman Bob Nash. The following members of the Board were present: Dr. Bob Nash, Chris Stolarski, Dr. Julius Earle, Jayne McClain, David Dolge, Henry Parr, Sandy Brigmon, Ken Payne, Jay Whitacre, and Eric Adams. Board members not in attendance were Jerry Sprouse, Wanda Clark, Issie Wright, Dr. John Piccione, and Michael Burdine. Also in attendance were Fred Crawford, Skip Snow, Dr. Tony and Laurie Johnson, Ellen Pourmand, Bob Ground and Karen Kennedy, David Gantt and Mr. Allen (parent).

1. Agenda:

The agenda was reviewed. Dr. Nash recommended that an executive session be added to discuss two legal matters and the Development Office and Smart Board items be moved up in the agenda so the visitors don't have to stay to end of the meeting.

Dr. Earle moved that the agenda be approved as amended above and allow the chairman to change the order as needed. Mr. Payne seconded the motion. The agenda was approved unanimously.

2. Board Minutes:

The minutes from the August 28, 2007 board meeting were reviewed. Eric Adams motioned to approve the minutes as written. Dr. Earle seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

3. Development Office at GTCHS, GTCHS Foundation:

Ellen Pourmand:

GTCHS will not hold an auction this year. New fund raiser possibly in the spring. The development Office has sent a letter to parents requesting a pledge of \$ 400 to be paid over the school year. A committee has been put together to write grants outside the normal grants. The Hollingsworth grant was submitted and more to follow.

Dr. Tony and Laurie Johnson have created an Endowment for GTCHS. The vision is to raise one million dollars before the fifteen year. The goal is to grow the Endowment by \$ 50,000 each year. Dr. and Mrs. Johnson are pledging the sum of \$ 50,000 over the next ten years to the Endowment. They are beginning their pledge with a donation of \$10,000 this evening.

The first meeting of the Endowment board will be October 24, 2007 at the First Citizen's Bank downtown office building. Ellen Pourmand submitted a list of Endowment Board members (copy attached). The use of the funds in the Endowment will be left up to the GTCHS Board of Directors. An Endowment Bylaw draft has been drawn up.

Dr. Earle made a motion that this board express its appreciation to Dr. Johnson and his wife Laurie for initiating the creation of the Endowment fund for GTCHS and we express our appreciation for the significant financial contribution to this endowment. Mr. Dolge seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

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Ms. Brigmon made a motion that the draft bylaws be submitted to the Executive Committee of GTCHS Board of Directors for review. Mr. Payne seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

4. Smart Board Demonstration:

Karen Kennedy / Bob Ground gave a detailed and informative demonstration of the smart boards recently purchased by GTCHS. The fourteen smart boards, purchased at a cost of \$25,000 and training of \$17,000, are a significant addition to the school.

5. Chair report: Copy attached.

6. Finance:

Two members of the Finance committee met at 5:30 on September 25, 2007.

Annual Audit / Reporting:

The annual Audit went well and the auditor will submit an executive summary letter of the audit to GTCHS.

Finance committee recommends shifting to a quarterly reporting to the board to smooth out monthly swings in expenditures and income.

Mr. Parr motioned that the finance committee furnish the auditor's report at the next board meeting and submit quarterly finance reports to the Board of Directors. Mr. Dolge seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Budget Amendments:

Annual GTCHS budget amendments were discussed. Typically the GTCHS budget is approved in July and an amendment is considered in Jan / Feb once funding and grants are known. There is also a possibility of a final amendment in Jun at the end of the year. Although these are not typically done in for profit businesses, they are necessary for an entity that receives grant funding. Mr. Parr and Mr. Stolarski requested that when an amendment was brought to the board for approval by the finance committee, it clearly state which line items have changed, how much they have changed, and why.

Brashier Portable Lease:

GTCHS has received the first check from Brashier Middle College for rental of the four portable classrooms for the first three months.

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For the October Board Meeting:

Mr. Snow will contact the auditor to arrange them to present the audit findings at the next board meeting. In addition, he will ask the auditor to clarify / advise the board on the subject of budget amendments.

8. Principal's Report:

A request for funds from Gates for \$ 200K has been submitted to help with early college programs and for teachers to work with GT college teachers.

GTCHS had its open house on September 11.

The Junior and Senior parent meeting was last Monday. It was the biggest turn out for the meeting yet.

9th grade retreat is scheduled for next week. 96 of the 105 ninth grade students are signed up to go. Dr. Nash has agreed to go on the retreat.

Student led conferences are October 26. Last year 414 of 419 attended conferences.

Greer going to open next year. Their web site is up: www.greermiddlecollege.org

State board training plan is not approved yet. When the plan is approved the board will be informed.

Not all categorical funding is being received / following the student. A networking group of charter school operators has been formed to try to address the issues state wide.

Dr. Coleman will be here in Oct. He will present the performance and accountability results for GTCHS and the school report card including AYP.

9. Old Business:

None

10. New Business:

Future board meetings:

October 23, 2007 - Need to meet in Oct for Dr. Coleman's presentation, the auditor's report, and the quarterly financial statement.

November and December 2007 - Plan to cancel.

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January 2008 - Plan a special call meeting in Jan 2008 right after school is back in session.

February 2008 – Meet as scheduled.

Meeting with Greenville Tech Board of Directors:

GTCHS Board is scheduled to meet with the Greenville Tech Board of Directors when they meet with the delegation. This would give us an opportunity to make a presentation to the board before Dr. Barton retires. Tentative date is set for Dec 6, 2007

Greenville Tech also holds an annual meeting at County Square for public inquiry. Representative Smith, Senator Thomas and possibly one other that will come in and visit the classroom.

Executive Session:

Dr. Nash requested the board move into executive session to discuss a legal contractual matter and legal matter. Mr. Parr motioned the board move into executive session. Mr. Payne seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously. The board moved into executive session at 7:41 pm. with Ms. Brigmon abstaining from the executive session.

Mr. Payne motioned the board come out of executive session. Mr. Parr seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously. The board moved out of executive session at 8:03 pm.

Dr. Nash noted that Mr. Henry Parr has been selected by his peers as one of the best lawyers in America for 2008.

11. Adjourn:

Mr. Dolge made a motion that the GTCHS Board of Directors adjourn. Ms. Brigmon seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously. The board adjourned at 8:09pm.

Attachments: Chairman's report – 9/25/07
GTCHS Endowment Board list.

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Chairman's Report to
GTCHS Board of Directors
September 25, 2007

1. Attended the Greenville County School District Trustees Meeting on August 28, 2007 and spoke about the critical issue of funding Charter Schools in a growth phase in a timely manner.
2. Was appointed to the GCS District Task Force created to address the issue of funding Charter Schools in a timely manner.
3. Attended and participated in both meetings of the Task Force on September 13th and September 24th.
4. Published email reports with information about the Charter School funding issues to parents of GTCHS students. Content below:

Email to GTCHS Board Members and Parent/Partners on Sep 13, 2007

The special Task Force Committee established by the Greenville County School (GCS) Board to resolve the issue of funding charter schools with increased student enrollment in a timely manner met Wednesday afternoon at 4:00PM and adjourned at 5:30PM. As customary, the first meeting was one in which members became acquainted and established a working environment for defining problems to be discussed by the committee. The main issue discussed revolved around a timing issue in which funds from the state for student growth in the Charter Schools are not received by the district until January of the following year. As a result the district does not transfer the funds to the Charter Schools until they are received from the state. Exceptions were made for this school year with the understanding that this issue would be resolved for future years. Those who argued against this position state that this growth in Charter schools is not new students to the school district but transfers from one school to a Charter School and that funding should follow the students. The only action taken by the Task Force was to invite financial representatives from the State Department of Education to discuss the timing issue at our next meeting scheduled for Monday,

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September 24th, at 4:00PM. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me at rnash1@bellsouth.net.

Email to GTCHS Board Members and Parent/Partners on Sep 24, 2007

The Greenville County School District Task Force met on Monday Sep 24, 2007 at 4:10PM in the GCS Board Conference Room with representatives from the State Department of Education Finance Department, Len Richardson, Mellanie Jinette, and J.C. Ballew from the Safe Schools and Youth Department who also is Liaison Representative for Charter Schools with the State Department. The meeting consisted of much dialogue between the Task Force members and the SDE Representatives, in an effort to find a solution to the issue of funding Charter Schools. It seemed the more we worked, the more SDE problems were revealed. For example, the SDE uses a computer system over 30 years old, the SDE works with 83 other school districts which open with various schedules. Therefore the SDE Finance Department establishes their funding and reports based on the last district (Horry County) to open or begin their school year, and the State Superintendent of Education, Dr. Rex has created two task force committees to evaluate different aspects of the SDE program including funding. The Senate has a task force committee as well, and the state law (Education Finance Act of 1977) does not address funding for years 2, 3, or 4 of a new Charter School.

The good news is that the SDE Representatives will report back to the GCS District Task Force Committee in a few weeks, hopefully with some solutions to the issues that were presented. In the meantime, the task force will meet on Monday, October 3rd at 4:00PM in the Board Conference Room with representatives from the Greenville County Delegation to discuss the issue of funding as defined in the Education Finance Act.

With patience, I feel confident that the timing issue of funding Charter Schools will be soon be resolved to the satisfaction of the Charter Schools. The members on the committee representing the Charter schools are working hard to reach these objectives. You may contact me at rnash1@bellsouth.net if you have any questions.
Bob Nash

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5. Attended Open House at GTCHS and met students, parents, and GTCHS employees.
6. Invited Mr. Alex Martin, Assistant Superintendent of Career & Technical Education Business Relations and appointed Liaison with Greenville County Charter Schools to the GTCHS Board meeting on September 25, 2007.
7. Met with Mr. Crawford to discuss the possibility of GTCHS Board meeting with Greenville Tech College Board and the Greenville County Delegation in January or February 2008.

Dr. Bob Nash, Chairman

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