

GREEN Charter School Board Meeting Minutes
Thursday October 5th 2021 6:00 pm
Chair: Chetan Vora
Location: Midlands Campus

Attendance Summary

Board Members	Present / Absent
Abdulbasit Aydin	Present via Zoom
Imtiaz Haque	Present via Zoom
Chetan Vora	Present
Mandy Townes	Present
Laurel Wiles	Present
Vincent Atkinson	Present
Chris Johnson	Present

Executive Director

Tom Cronin	Present
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CFO

Alkan Cevik	Present via Zoom
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AGENDA

1. Welcome / Opening Remarks - Meeting began at 6:04pm. Mr. Vora welcomes everyone to meeting and thanks Midlands campus for hosting.
 - Mr. Cronin: Thanks everyone for coming and thanks Dr. Best for hosting.
 - Dr. Best thanks everyone for coming, states that we are 1/4th through the school year and things are off to a good start. Gives update on Title 1 enrollment, thanks central office for their support as well as admin staff. Theme for the month is “what it means to be a scholar” and discussing how words have impact. Proud and excited of how the school is moving forward.

2. Public Comments - Before public comments, Mr Vora outlines guidelines for 3 mins of speaking time, ability to email public comment to board, and reminds public to reach out to administration with issues before bringing them to the board.

R. Sack - spoke about concerns about current policy for transgender students and concerns for student safety.

J. Fletcher - spoke about supporting transgender students and their rights in schools

A. Adams - spoke about Federal laws protecting transgender students and non-discrimination

J. Harris - spoke about lack of open bathrooms for students at Upper campus

S. Brockinton - spoke about changing quarantine options in regards to covid

T. Hornbeck - spoke about board needing to communicate more about policy changes

3. Approval of Agenda

- Motion: Haque
- Second: Johnson
- Vote was 7-0 (**PASSES**)

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4. Approval of minutes from September 9th 2021 meeting

- Motion to approve minutes: Haque
- Second: Townes
- Vote was 6-0 (**PASSES**) - **Johnson was not present at meeting and did not vote**

5. Update from Facility committee on contract with GC Harper Construction on Mauldin campus renovations

- T. Cronin: Has been attending facility meetings, made a few minor changes to floor plan. We have a good owner agent and there has been some contract language modifications. Met with DOT who stated that Harper does exceptional work
- Johnson: only concern for Harper is getting materials but they have been extremely good faith partners.
- Haque has questions about the scope of project for HVAC, roof etc. Asks if anything has been discussed for sustainable materials, etc.
- Cronin - not touching roof, HVAC will be updated for all sq. footage, will have robotics labs and flexible space.
- Haque asks if we believe the scope of project will increase, Cronin states does not believe so.
- Townes states that we will have access to Harper's project portal for transparency on all adjustments
- Vora states that we can consider sustainable materials when we get to that point.
- Haque wants to make sure that are aware of rising costs and GMP. Aydin concurs with Haque.
- Cronin states that language in contract was carefully crafted with our lawyer and owner agent and they are available for discussion.

- Mr. Vora pulls the design up on the screen and Mr. Cronin goes over the basic design for the public who have attended the meeting.

6. Approval of GC Harper Construction contract

- Motion to approve the agreement by having the board authorize Mr. Cronin or Ms. Townes to sign and carry out other ministerial duties, including correcting typos and other non-substantive errors in the documents : Johnson
- Second: Haque
- Discussion: Haque wants his concerns addressed because there could be substantive changes to the contract. Aydin agrees with Haque. Johnson states that negotiations have been ongoing for months, with both sides coming to middle. Language is standard for contracts of this size and scope. Haque agrees the detailed contract is OK but disagrees with the Executive Summary. Cronin informs that ES is just for information purposes and does not supersede contract. Aydin states that he doesn't like the way contract doesn't list all costs at onset.
- M. Townes restates Motion to be voted on
- Vote (7-0) **PASSES**

7. Update from election committee on election timelines for Charleston, Irmo and Greenville Upper campus.

- L. Wiles: 3 candidates from Upper, 1 from Midlands and 4 from Charleston. Attended pre-election meeting and SLED checks are due. Will be on website shortly. Oct 15th official list of candidates sent out. Oct 26th Charleston candidate forum, Oct 27th Upper candidate forum, Oct 28th Midlands candidate forum. Nov 8th voting ends, Nov 10th conflicts due, Nov 18th results announced. Mr. Vora reminds all parents and staff to please participate and vote.

8. Student Performance Update by Executive Director

- Mr. Cronin gave an update on GREEN student performance: GREEN has great kids/staff and GREEN exceeds state and district average - 10-20% better in ELA, Math and Science. Hopeful for a strategic plan that includes other ways to define success like parent/student survey, extracurriculars etc.
- Haque states that he is concerned about the differences in demographics between campuses. Cronin responds that this data is a minimum bar and more factors are part of the strategic plan as we move forward.

9. Approval of Fund Transfers to Process Payments for P&I Grant

- Mr. Cronin explains that this is approval to move money from one charter to another while waiting on P&I grants. This money will be reimbursed back to the original charter once the grants come through. Wants to move \$200,000 from Greenville charter to Charleston charter and \$125,000 from the Greenville charter to the Five Forks charter.
 - Motion to approve fund transfers: Haque
 - Second: Wiles
 - Vote (7-0) **PASSES**

10. Executive Session

Moved into Executive session at 7:23pm where board discussed GREEN Structure, Spartanburg and Greenville K-4 charter, Midlands Charter, and Board size and board composition

- Motion to end ES: Johnson
- Second: Wiles
- Vote (7-0) **PASSES**
- **Out of Executive Session at 8:48pm** -Vora recapped what was discussed in Executive Session.

11. Approval of Items from Executive Session

- Motion 1: Motion to end K4 charters at Greenville campus and Spartanburg campus.
 - Motion: Haque
 - Second: Johnson
 - Discussion: Vora and Atkinson explain rationale for ending K4 at these campuses. Program not a feeder for schools, parents have to go through lottery twice and not a part of future strategy. This will begin school year 2022-2023
 - Vote (7-0) **PASSES**
- Motion 2: Increase the size of the board from 7 members to 9 members. 5 elected and 4 appointed.
 - Motion: Johnson
 - Second: Aydin
 - Discussion: Vora explains rationale for expanding the board size. Haque states that we need to bring more diversity to the board with others that are not parents and aligns with the community. Atkinson agrees.
 - Vote (4-3) **PASSES**

Motion to adjourn: Johnson

Vote 7-0 (PASSES)

Meeting adjourned at 9:01pm

Signed and dated:

Vincent B. Atkinson 12/16/2021

Board Chairperson

Mandy Reeves Townes 11/29/21

Board Secretary