

GREEN Charter School Board Meeting Minutes
Thursday February 17th, 2022 6:00 pm
Interim Chair: Vince Atkinson
Location: Virtual

Attendance Summary

Board Members	Present/Absent
Vincent Atkinson	Present via Zoom
Imtiaz Haque	Present via Zoom
Mandy Townes	Present via Zoom
Laurel Wiles	Present via Zoom
Trishka Hornbeck	Present via Zoom
Katherine Ponder	Present via Zoom
Keelah Truesdale	Absent

Executive Director

Tom Cronin	Present via Zoom
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Agenda

1. **Welcome/Opening Remarks** - Meeting started at 6:04 pm. Mr. Atkinson welcomes everyone and thanks all stakeholders. He thanks everyone for attending the February session and states that GREEN has been busy and gaining direction and establishing GREEN Culture. GREEN is branding ourselves and Mr. Atkinson is excited to see what happens. He states that we are here to discuss the direction and governance of GREEN Charter Schools and hopes our meetings continue to be informative and transparent.
2. **Public Comments (limited to three minutes per speaker, 30 minutes in total)** - Mr. Atkinson states that there were several email inquiries, but no one wanted to speak - there will be no public comments tonight.

3. Approval of February 17th Agenda - Mr. Atkinson requests to move line item #7 to after the executive session. He states that any appointments will be at the end of the session.

- Motion to approve agenda as revised: Ms. Townes
- Second: Dr. Haque
- Vote: **6-0 (Passes)**

4. Approval of minutes from January 13th Meeting -

- Motion to approve January Minutes - Ms. Townes
- Dr. Haque states that he will not vote because he was not at this meeting
- Second: Mr. Atkinson
- Vote: **5-0 (Passes)**

Stakeholder Joshua Buchanan requests to ask a question as he missed the public session. Mr. Atkinson states that this part of the agenda has ended and that Mr. Buchanan may ask his question in the March meeting or request a private meeting outside of the Board meeting.

5. GREEN Charter Student Successes - Mr. Atkinson moves to item #4 on the Agenda. He states that he is excited about this and turns the meeting over to Bobby Rollins.

- Mr. Rollins would like to recognize GREEN Seniors for their academic successes and highlight their achievements.
 - *Haya Kidwai* is the Valedictorian of 2022, will be majoring in public health, will be pursuing summer research at Wofford, is the current Beta Club president, enjoys baking and decorating cakes.
 - *Sathvik Bodepudi* is focusing on a career in medicine, has received National Merit Special Recognition, is a Palmetto Scholar, likes to research, and enjoys photography.
 - *Christopher Shober* enjoys graphic designing and desires to produce graphic designs for advertising. He is a National Merit Semi-finalist, a Palmetto Scholar, and enjoys time to himself occasionally.
 - *Case Morton-Lill* is in his 8th year at GREEN, is a National Merit Scholar Semi-Finalist, is a Presidential Scholars Candidate, and a Palmetto Scholar. He wants to study mathematics as an undergraduate degree and receive a doctorate of math and teach college. He enjoys reading books and computer programs.
- Mr. Rollins thanks the seniors and thanks Mr. Atkinson and the board.
- Dr. Haque states that he is so proud of each senior.
- Mr. Atkinson thanks all seniors and states the board is proud, appreciative and and thanks them for sharing.

6. Executive Director Update - Mr. Atkinson turns over the meeting to Tom Cronin. Mr. Cronin thanks Mr. Atkinson and the board. He notes to seniors that it is humbling to see young people with promising futures.

- a) GREEN Charter Organization - Mr. Cronin states there is a slight adjustment to the org chart and that Melanie Hammack has agreed to take on Marketing and Recruitment efforts.
 - Mr. Cronin states that he is repositioning for a Growth and Compliance Director to stay ahead for amendment and compliance issues. This will lower the need for legal advice although occasionally the attorney will be needed. This will help us expand and grow according to Mr. Cronin. The org chart is updated and Mr. Cronin worked with the Governance Committee to change the responsibilities. This will give GREEN bandwidth to expand and support families. Mr. Cronin states we will know the fiscal financial change, he will provide the board where we are this year and a breakdown for going into next year's Fiscal Year.
 - Dr. Haque supports Mr. Cronin
- b) GREEN Leadership - Mr. Cronin states that next on the agenda is that the Director of Human Resources was vetted through the personnel subcommittee. He introduced Dawn DeBoer who will be joining GREEN at the end of February.
 - Ms. DeBoer thanks Mr. Cronin and states it's a pleasure to join the team. She is looking forward to serving GREEN with years of experience. She hopes to be of value to the leadership of GREEN and a resource to staff members.
 - Dr. Haque welcomes Ms. DeBoer
 - Mr. Cronin states that Dr. Johnson is not here yet so Melanie Hammack will do the Enrollment Update first.
- d) Enrollment Update - Ms. Hammack states that as of today, there are 2,269 students that will return to GREEN or that are new applicants. In Greenville Lower, there are over 200 people on the waitlist. The Upper campus is almost filled with only 12 spots available. Spartanburg has 21 spots left. Greenville Upstate High School has a maximum enrollment capacity of 425 and is at 247 now. She states that the Lowcountry is still needing to fill 156 seats and 73 are still needed in the Midlands. Ms. Hammack notes that there are big plans for recruitment efforts. All principals have been fantastic in assisting with recruitment efforts.
 - Ms. Hammack also states that the existing website is being updated by our new company and they're also building a new website simultaneously.
 - Mr. Cronin thanks Ms. Hammack and states that it is important to note that looking at the Upper Campus and High School there are almost 700 kids with only 400 now. Moving the High School over to Five Forks was a good sign. GREEN has full control of the website and in the next month or two will build a new one from scratch on an advanced platform. This will provide more flexibility and custom services. Mr. Cronin also thanks Susan Markford as this application process has been protected and each student is fairly treated and there has been significant time for each campus saved with less mistakes.

- c) Introduction of New Medical Advisor - Mr. Cronin states that he will introduce Dr. Johnson and have her update once she arrives. In his past, Mr. Cronin states that he has always operated with a Medical Supervisor. Dr. Johnson is a pediatrician who can write prescriptions and can advise on unique decisions. Mr. Cronin notes that we wanted to have a Medical Advisor to make medical decisions, so he secured Dr. Tamara Johnson. Mr. Cronin asks if Dr. Johnson is on the call yet. She was not currently on call so moved on to the next update.
- e) GREEN Upstate High School Project Update - Mr. Cronin moves on to Chase Willingham to provide an update.
 - Mr. Willingham states that he is meeting with parents and hosting course registrations for internal and external students.
 - Launched a temporary High School website for information - www.greenupstatehigh.com
 - Mr. Willingham notes that he's working with a great team at Harper and they've stayed on time and added team members devoted to this project
 - Nearing completion of framing. Mr. Willingham states that there were a significant amount of structural reinforcements that were not foreseen and they are almost completed.
 - There have been a few change orders but could reconfigure a new site plan to offset.
 - On time and within budget
 - Upcoming - in floor plumbing, re-pour concrete, creating mock classroom to test sound bleed, still on track to wrap up in mid-July.
 - Confident in the supply-chain and opening on time. Mr. Willingham opens up the floor for questions
 - Dr. Haque - Requests Gantt chart of milestones. Mr. Willingham - states there is one and will share
 - Dr. Haque - Notes that Charleston has missed things and asks for clarity on what we have and lessons learned on Charleston to ensure a tight ship on this one. Mr. Willingham - agrees with Dr. Haque and continuously thinks about this project. He states he will work hard to catch any and everything.
 - Mr. Cronin - States we are finalizing furniture purchase now to ensure it shows up well ahead of time and is assembled. We are using an approved state contract. There are a lot of things different about this project and we hold weekly meetings to ensure we're on top of it.
 - Ms. Townes - notes to Dr. Haque that there was a Gantt chart provided in January but is out of date now. Ms. Townes also requested pictures of the project as they were not included in the board packet. Mr. Willingham - ensures will share and to check out images located on the High School website.

- Dr. Haque - asks about staffing. Mr. Willingham - states has confirmed with current leadership on core staff that are to stay and go to the High School. Prioritizing hard to hire positions and has been working on this a while.
 - Ms. Ponder - requests website again and it is provided
 - Dr. Haque - Asks about outreach to Mr. Willingham. Mr. Willingham - meeting with internal students and working on plans for the community. Temporary sign is placed on the location for notice.
 - Dr. Haque - asks about targeting other schools. Mr. Cronin - reached out to NEXT and received Dr. Haques suggestion about Fisher Middle & AJ Whittenburg.
 - Ms. Townes - asks questions about the potential for sound carry between classrooms. If the sound bleed is too loud what are budget additions? Mr. Willingham states this is being tested soon, there should not be a need for any additions as initial plans were highest rated items. Mr. Willingham stated ceilings in 95% rooms will have changed and will not be using previously existing tiles.
 - Dr. Haque - thanks Mr. Willingham for his hard work.
 - Mr. Atkinson - asks if the curriculum has been tied into GREEN Charter. Mr. Cronin states that some of that is being worked on with Teaching & Learning Director.
 - Mr. Cronin thanks Mr. Willingham
- c) Introduction of New Medical Advisor - Mr. Cronin states that Dr. Johnson is on the call and asks her to introduce herself
 - Dr. Johnson thanks everyone and is excited to partner with GREEN Charter. She's excited to use her skills outside of the clinic and provide a medical lens moving forward.
 - Mr. Cronin thanks Dr. Johnson and states that Dr. Johnson can assist with training for nursing supervisors and nurses.
 - f) E-rate Policy Approval Requested - In taking precaution that we have internet safety, requesting approval for E-rate Policy to be in compliance. Will enable us to get reimbursement for the internet and technology. Gretchen Taylor found that we have not been accessing the education network concertia and just by accessing that will be a 50k savings alone.
 - Motion to accept policy as written: Dr. Haque
 - Second: Ms. Ponder
 - Vote: **6-0 (Passes)**
 - g) Draft Strategic Plan - Mr. Cronin states that the Draft Strategic Plan adjusted as the directors took shape and we developed a simplified strategic direction. Made a living document that supports the four goals introduced a month ago. Draft Strategic Plan answers critical questions on achievement of success. GREEN will be changing to Global Renewable Energy Education Network and

will allow expansion in programs and services we can offer. Shortened and tightened mission. With Board's support, the Leadership team will start touring each campus introducing the Strategic Plan and answering questions.

- Dr. Haque - Thanks Mr. Cronin for putting together and excited. States it comes down to execution. Would like to see the kids doing so well that more than four are presented to the board.
- Ms. Townes - agrees with Dr. Haque and states it has great vision but wants to see how Brand Promise is actualized.
- Dr. Haque - states he is excited to see how GREEN works to develop the whole person of each student.
- Mr. Cronin - states results happen when kids feel great in school. Notes that a lot of people talk about achievement gap but is just the preparation gap.
- Dr. Haque - asks if Mr. Cronin requests a vote. Mr. Cronin - states that needs board's support, a vote is simple but consensus will do
- Ms. Hornbeck - Questions the vision and that it exceeds current capacity - wanted to makes sure that more students aren't going into current buildings. Mr. Cronin - states that pushing to ask what else we can do and what can we do to serve more families.
- Dr. Haque - should vote to go on the record that we've approved so there's no question. Mr. Atkinson - agrees to have on record
- Motion to approve Strategic Plan as presented by Mr. Cronin: Dr. Haque
- Second: Ms. Ponder
- Vote: **6-0 (Passes)**

7. Executive Session - Mr.. Atkinson notes that it is time to move into Executive Session. Requests all stakeholders to leave the meeting and rejoin so that they can be put back in the waiting room.

- Motion to go into Executive Session: Ms. Townes
- Second: Dr. Haque
- Vote: **6-0 (Passes)**

Into Executive Session 7:12 pm

Back Into Public Session 7:56 pm

8. Committee Appointments - Mr. Atkinson states that per the bylaws, there are four standing committees that exist to take action whenever necessary.

- *Governance Committee* is made of officers of the board: Vince Atkinson, Mandy Townes, and Imtiaz Haque
- *Audit Committee* is chaired by Katherine Ponder and includes Keelah Truesdale and Vince Atkinson

- *Financial Oversight Committee* is chaired by Mandy Townes and includes Laurel Wiles and Trishka Hornbeck
- *Personnel Committee* is chaired by Imtiaz Haque and includes Vince Atkinson and Laurel Wiles.

Mr. Atkinson states that we are always looking for people to serve and add their value. Any stakeholders who want to serve don't hesitate to reach out to the board.

9. Approval of items from Executive Session if any - Mr. Atkinson states there is nothing to vote on from Executive Session.

10. Adjournment -

- Move to adjourn: Ms. Townes
- Second: Mr. Atkinson
- Vote: **6-0 (Passes)**

Meeting Adjourned 7:12 pm

Signed and Dated:

Vincent B. Atkinson

4/13/2022

(Board Chairperson)

(Date)

Mandy Reeves Townes

3/10/2022

(Board Secretary)

(Date)