

GREEN Charter School Board Meeting Minutes
Monday, April 6th 6:30pm
Chair: Dr. Abdulbasit Aydin / Chetan Vora
Location: Green Spartanburg Campus

Attendance Summary

Board Members	Present / Absent
Abdulbasit Aydin	Present
Imtiaz Haque	Present - Zoom
Zulfikar Berk	Present
Chetan Vora	Present
Mandy Townes	Present
Vincent Atkinson	Present
Chris Johnson	Present

Executive Director

Ozan Sipahioglu	Present
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CFO

Alkan Cevik	Present
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AGENDA

1. Welcome/Opening
 - Time started: 6:32pm
2. Pledge of allegiance and vocal performed by Spartanburg campus NJHS students
3. Public Comments

4. Approval of agenda items

- Approved: Aydin
- 2nd: Johnson
- Vote was: 7-0 (**PASSES**)

5. Approval of the last meeting minutes (March 23)

- Approved: Aydin
- 2nd: Johnson
- Vote was: 7-0 (**PASSES**)

6. Election of the board officers

Aydin - honored to be a part of the board for several years. Served for 1 year at the beginning of school and came back in 2019 but now we have 4 newly elected members so he will step down from the chair position. Has no desire to serve in any elected positions on the board however, will stay on the board until the Fall at the district's direction. Makes motion for the board to create a committee to hold an investigation into Aydin's potential conflict of interests to be fair to our parents' concerns. Moves to make an amendment to agenda. Because the agenda has already been voted on and passed this is not seconded by any board member and was not agreed upon. C. Johnson suggests possibly adding it to the next meeting's agenda.

A. Aydin: We must elect a chair, vice chair, secretary and treasurer.

M. Townes: we do not have to vote on a Treasurer based on current bylaws.

A. Aydin opens floor for nominations

- Chair

C. Johnson nominates V. Atkinson for chair - he declines

M. Townes nominates Vora for chair. Vora accepts

V. Atkinson seconds

Vote is 6-0 (Vora did not vote) (**PASSES**)

- Vice Chair

C. Johnson nominates V. Atkinson for chair. A. Atkinson accepts

Aydin seconds

Vote is 6-0 (Atkinson did not vote) **(PASSES)**

- Secretary

Aydin nominates M. Townes. M. Townes accepts

C. Vora seconds

Vote is 6-0 (Townes did not vote) **(PASSES)**

New chair comments: C. Vora states to the parents and staff in the audience that our new board will work putting the students and their interests first and he is listening to emails and public comments at these meetings. None of us are in a position to make any promises and neither can but we are wanting to work together with you all.

New Vice Chair comments: V. Atkinson states that he wants to thank Spartanburg campus for hosting. He states that he values positive communication and is listening to you and wants everyone to know he has an open door and open lines of communication.

7. Review of the recent district letter

C. Vora - you all have the district letter. District has asked us to work on bylaws and hold officer elections which we just did. District has asked us to hold over the terms of Aydin and Haque for institutional knowledge. The new board members need to have training which should be completed in the next few weeks and we should open the search for the executive director in a few weeks.

8. Midlands location charter amendment

Mr. Oz - need to submit an amendment for the Midlands campus charter or keep it the same. If we keep the same we have to open high school next year which would be difficult due to the number of students There are only 10 8th grade students and there is not enough space for a high school classroom. There could be use of a potential portable but I don't recommend because it would not be a valuable high school experience. Don't see any flexibility or chance to open high school at current Midlands campus. I recommend we change the Midlands campus charter to be K-8 and submit to the district.

C. Johnson -As the Midlands campus rep I'm ok with voting to push this back because this is the second year we have had this issue with not adding 9th grade. Parents have been promised K-12. We need to quickly move to retain and recruit kids for 8th grade and parents are dropping out due to not having a high school. I'm not good with kicking this down the road indefinitely.

C. Vora - we have 2 motions:

- 1) C. Johnson's motion to postpone for 1 year
- 2) Motion to amend Midlands charter to K-8 based on Mr. Oz recommendation

A Aydin - in 2018 we looked into expanding the building to have high school but it didn't go well. I do not recommend permanently amending the charter because it will not bode well for the future of the school. I support C. Johnson's motion to postpone the amendment.

C. Vora - Is it even possible to do this in one year? Find a high school building in 1 year?

Mr. Oz - everything is possible but it is not practical. The demographics do not support having a high school. I have done my homework and we own the property so we would have to sell that property to buy another. Not trying to make it difficult and can say that we can postpone it for one more year but we cannot build a high school there in 1 year. It will take some time. We can use portables but people will not send their kids to a school with portables. We can start looking for a new location. That is the only possibility.

A Aydin - For Midlands location we can possibly do the same as Greenville. Have an Upper campus for Columbia like in Greenville. We have enough time to find a second location. This is my recommendation.

V. Atkinson - Buying time and the trend is going in the wrong direction for headcount. We can buy time but if we don't retain students is it for nothing

C. Johnson - We have been dealing with a pandemic, the drama for the last few months and we haven't pushed retention or building out high school. This is the lack of transparency we have been talking about.

C. Johnson - Motion to delay amend charter by 1 year.

- V. Atkinson 2nd

- Vote is 7-0 (**PASSES**)

A Aydin - makes motion to make ED along with Columbia principal to be in report at every board meeting about the progress of the expansion.

- C. Johnson 2nd
- Vote is 7-0 (**PASSES**)

Mr. Oz - wants clarification on if we are wanting to look for a new campus for a Midlands Upper campus.

A Aydin - Yes, we can look for a new location like the Greenville model.

9. Approval of Search Committee for Executive Director

C. Vora nominated V. Atkinson for chair of Search Committee

M. Townes 2nd V. Atkinson is approved without vote

C. Vora nominated M. Townes

C. Johnson 2nd M. Townes is approved without vote

I.Haque - states that as chair C. Vora can just create the committee. C. Vora agrees that we need to ask outside of the board members to be on this committee including Staff and/or parents. Xavier Pearson is nominated to serve from outside the board. C. Johnson clarified that this committee just begins the process of searching for a new ED.

10. Approval to Review of bylaws

Approval to begin process of reviewing bylaws with assistance from District

- Approved: C. Vora
- 2nd: C. Johnson
- Vote was: 7-0 (**PASSES**)

11. Faculty/Staff pay scale discussion/amendment

Mr. Cevik - not prepared for a discussion of amending the scale.

C. Johnson - we would like to see a revised scale for Master's plus and Bachelor's plus.

Mr. Cevik - We have to include that it is non-certified teachers as well and bring revised proposal for next meeting.

12. Approval of Reimbursement Resolution for Expenses Prior to the Issuance of Bonds

Mr. Cevik - during the last meeting we approved resolution - this is an additional item to help with bond refinancing. This is for extra expenses while waiting for the bond to close and to get reimbursement.

A. Aydin - what if we are not successful to close the bond? What is the expectation for that cost? It's going to cost \$300K. How soon do we need this approval?

Mr. Cevik - to move on we need to approve it now. We have 2-2.5 months til closing to get the best deal.

A. Aydin - I don't recommend this because the new board may change direction with new campuses etc.

C. Vora - I agree we shouldn't move forward with this until we know more about the new campus. Makes a motion to table this item til the next meeting.

- Approved: C. Vora
- 2nd: M. Townes
- Vote was: 7-0 (**TABLED UNTIL NEXT MEETING**)

13. Restructuring of Management and Administration/ Central Office

Mr. Oz - This was a task given to me by the previous board and is something I have been working on. Came up with different positions including Human Resources, ESOL coordinator, Literacy coach, Math coach, Maintenance person and others. This approval gives the ability to start searching for and hiring these positions.

Aydin - I think it is vital to have a restructuring of organization at Green. However, we can do this at board retreat and decide then when this could be done. Now at the board is not the right time.

M. Townes - Does this have to be done now because existing staff will be filling some of these roles?

Mr. Oz - Yes, ideally.

C. Vora - I think these positions are important and now is not the time to postpone this. Motion to give Mr. Oz approval to begin hiring additional personnel as needed.

- V. Atkinson seconds.
- Vote 7-0 (**PASSES**)

V. Atkinson - I want to make a motion to form a committee on this.

- A. Aydin seconds

I. Haque - to look at restructuring? I agree, the board and I asked Mr. Aydin to do this several years ago. It is sorely needed.

A. Aydin - This is something I started several years ago. Myself and a principal traveled north and looked at New York and New Jersey charter schools to see how they are structured.

C. Vora - I will create this committee and ask Mrs. Isaacs to sit on this committee. She agrees via Zoom.

C. Johnson is nominated by M. Townes and agrees to be on Committee for restructuring

14. New/Old Businesses

C. Vora - The opening of Five Forks school is new business. Looking at current affairs of the schools, I don't think we need to be adding new schools and growing further without fixing the problems that we have.

I. Haque - Concur that we need to take care of what we have. This is supposed to be about the children and I'm open to someone to explain to me why we should do otherwise and open another campus.

A. Aydin - Wants to clarify that the board cannot vote during new business - this is just comments. Mr. Cervik and other staff have worked very hard on the new location and have already postponed this opening for one year. Current prospect is in Mauldin in the Samsung building. Understands the new board members' reluctance and offers the option to table this and see if it is something that we really can do in the current state of affairs. Would like to ask for consider Five

Forks location for one high school for the entire Upstate. Have 2 separate K-8 schools in Greenville and the Mauldin location for high school.

Haque - We now have a new board and need to have a new vision for where GREEN Charter should go. We need to talk about this at the retreat and new board to figure out what the new board wants GREEN Charter to stand for and what we want to accomplish for the school. We certainly can improve the experience for our students and if any of these changes improve things for students they should be carefully considered.

C. Johnson - I agree with Mr. Vora and would like to table until the next meeting.

I. Haque - It is new business and therefore will not need a vote.

C. Vora - New Business #2 - need a central policy not have each school have it's own handbooks, etc. We need to have a committee to address this so each green student has the same policies no matter the campus.

Aydin - I agree this is important. The board sets policies for all campuses, not just individual campuses. This needs to be considered when making decisions.

15. Executive Session (to discuss personnel matters, legal matters, and contractual matters related to acquisition and financing of certain real property, hiring of HR, Marketing, Grant Writer, controllers, maintenance staff)

- Motion to adjourn to executive session made at 8:45pm by C. Vora
- C Johnson seconds
- Vote is 7-0 (**PASSES**)
 - Time In: 8:45pm
 - Time out: 10:45pm

16. Approval of Actions, if any, from Executive Session

NONE

17. Adjournment

- Approved: Vora
- V. Atkinson seconds
- Vote was 7-0

Time: 10:47pm