

Gray Collegiate Academy Charter School Board Meeting
West Columbia, South Carolina
January 22, 2018
~Minutes~

1. Call to Order:

Jason Fields called the meeting to order at 2:04 pm. Those present included the following:

- Board Members: Cedric Wright, Pennie Peagler, Brett Marlowe, Libbi Sheridan and Jason Fields.
- Gray Collegiate Academy Staff Members: Dr. Brian Newsome and Coach Adam Holmes
- Pinnacle Staff: Mike D'Angelo and Todd Helms.
- Mike Miller of San Cap CPA joined via webex.

2. Public Notice:

Posted

3. Public Input:

No public comments presented.

4. Mission:

Mission statement read by Jason Fields:

Gray Collegiate Academy will serve high school students in a safe, family-centered, setting who seek the opportunity and challenge of a rigorous curriculum, high academic standards, outstanding athletics while earning up to two years of college credit while in high school.

5. Adoption of Agenda:

Cedric Wright moved to adopt the agenda as posted and Libbi Sheridan 2nd the motion. All voted in favor to adopt the agenda as posted.

6. Approval of Minutes:

Cedric Wright recommended some grammar and spelling changes. All agreed to make the grammar/spelling changes. Libbi Sheridan approved to accept the minutes with the grammar/spelling corrections. Jason Fields 2nd the motion. All voted in favor to accept the minutes with the grammar/spelling corrections.

7. Financial Report:

Mike Miller presented the following report:

- Revenue from our funding sources totaled \$350,000 for the month of December. This compares to budgeted revenue of \$342,000 or \$8,000 over budget because we are receiving funds based on our 135 day count (from last school year). This funding amount will be adjusted beginning with our January 2018 receipt. Budget was based on enrollment of 450 students and our 135 day count total was approximately 420 students. We expect to be over budget for each of the next 6 months through the end of the school year.
- Expenses for December totaled \$366,000. This compares to total budgeted expenses of \$343,000 or \$23,000 higher. We were over budget primarily due to the p[ayment of bonuses in the month and the purchase of two buses.
- Year-to-date our expenses are over budget by approximately \$216,000. This large over-budget condition is largely attributable to the \$110,096 purchase of the modular classrooms, \$27,000 for the purchase of school buses, higher marketing costs due to the new TV ad campaign and higher than anticipated repair, replacement and maintenance costs on the building and equipment.
- Our loss for the month was \$7,000 and our year-to-date loss is \$84,000. This compares to a year-to-date budgeted profit of \$39,000. We should return to profitability when our new funding amounts are received in January 2018.
- Operating cash balances have been fairly stable over the last few months since we have been operating at or slightly below the breakeven level during this time. The operating case balance was \$501,000 as of January 12, 2018. This represents 53 days of cash on hand.

8. Principal's Report:

Dr. Brian Newsome reported the following:

- Amber Haver, Special Education Director, resigned Friday to take a new position at Columbia International University. Dr. Newsome has begun interviewing candidates to fill the position, and hopes to have a final update at the February board meeting.
- 2nd semester started last week and it is going well.
- Dr. Brian Newsom reported they are working through a new policy that Dr. Brian Newsome put in place this year with Edmentum and on-line courses. If a student is not 50% complete with the course, an Edmentum was added to help them "catch up". Last year over 70% of the students started their on-line class in May. This will improve with this change.
- "Bring a Friend to Gray" day will take place on Wednesday of the week. Approximately 50 students have signed up so far and it is anticipated that number will increase this week.
- Dr. Brian Newsome has begun pricing out the cost of adding another portable for next year. Dr. Newsome anticipates student attendance to continue to grow and he is preparing for the that growth.
- Dr. Brian Newsome had a wonderful meeting last week to discuss overall school facility improvements. The group met with a firm to discuss adding some fencing to the school perimeter, a digital sign our front, the weight room construction, and etc.

Libbi Sheridan inquired if an additional access gate for the lower entrance was discussed. Todd Helms reported it was included in the discussion.

9. Athletic Report:

Coach Adam Holmes reported the following:

- Gray Collegiate Academy (GCA) is in the mist of their Winter Sports season. The Varsity Boys Basketball team is playing really well. Since the last board meeting in Novmeber, the Varsity Boys Basketball team made it to the championship game of the Chick-fil-A Tournament. The Chick-fil-A tournament is one of the biggest tournaments in the country and played here in Columbia, SC. The Varsity Boys Basketball team played hard and lost in overtime to a team out of Charlotte, NC. The Varsity Boys Basketeball team is currently ranked number one in 2A and ranked number one in the Midlands. They are undefeated in region play and have a big game this Friday at Keenan. Junior Juwan Gary scored his 1,000th point Friday night in a win over C.A. Johnson and was honored with a game ball at halftime. Coach Adam Holmes invited the board members to come and watch the team play.
- The Varsity Girls Basketball team is 3-2 in the region and is on a three game winning streak. They have two big games coming up this Friday and next Tuesday against Keenan and Saluda. These games could decide if they finish first or second in the region and host a playoff game. The Varsity Girls Basketball team also had a win Friday night against C.A. Johnson. Coach Golden has been doing a really good job with the team.
- Tryouts for the spring sports are January 29th. This year GCA will have a JV and Varsity Baseball, Varsity Softball, Varsity Girls Soccer and JV and Varsity Boys Soccer team. Tryouts for baseball will be at Dooley Field. Tryouts for Softball will be at Reco Field. Tryouts for soccer will be at West Columbia Metro Soccer Complex. All those trying out will need to have a physical and be academically eligible.
- Coach Amber Haver has resigned as she received and took a job at Columbia International University. It has been a dream of Coach Haver to coach at the collegiate level and GCA wishes her the best. Coach Haver did a great job with the Volleyball team, winning back to back region titles and taking them to the upper state championship this past year. Coach Adam Holmes will start the interview process next week.
- Since the November Board meeting, with the consent of Dr. Brian Newsome and Teresa Brazell, GCA purchased two more buses. The money left over from the old War Eagle account was used to purchase a big and small bus.
- The Booster Club is at the end of their fist fundraiser – selling Boston Butts. Orders will be taken through this Friday.

10. Operation Report:

No additional information to report.

11. Accountability and Compliance:

No additional information to report.

12. Change to Lottery Date:

Dr. Brian Newsome presented a change to the enrollment package date from February 1st to September 15th. This change required an amendment to the Bi-Laws. Brett Marlowe made the motion to change the enrollment date from February 1st to September 15th pending the approval from the Charter Institute at Erskine. Cedric Wright 2nd the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

13. Executive session-contracts/legal:

No Executive session held.

14. Any actions as a result of executive session:

No Executive session held.

15. Adjournment:

Pennie Peagler made a motion to adjourn. Cedric Wright 2nd the motion. All members unanimously voted to adjourn at 2:53 pm.