

APPROVED



## Girls Global Academy

### Minutes

#### October GGA Board Meeting

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##### **Date and Time**

Tuesday October 25, 2022 at 6:30 PM

##### **Location**

We are inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

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This meeting is governed by the Open Meetings Act. Please address any questions or complaints arising under this meeting to the Office of Open Government at [opengovoffice@dc.gov](mailto:opengovoffice@dc.gov).

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### **Trustees Present**

Beth Blaufuss (remote), Elaine Harris (remote), Janice Parker (remote), LaKisha Myrick (remote), Laura Bartos (remote), Mary Pendleton (remote), Maureen Colburn (remote), Shobha George (remote)

### **Trustees Absent**

Calvena Jordan, Max Levasseur, Shalini Benson

### **Guests Present**

Julie Shepperson (remote), Nadia McCrimmon (remote), Shayne Swift (remote)

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## **I. Opening Items**

### **A. Record Attendance/Recognize Quorum/Connect**

### **B. Call the Meeting to Order**

Beth Blaufuss called a meeting of the board of trustees of Girls Global Academy to order on Tuesday Oct 25, 2022 at 6:38 PM.

## **II. Internal Business**

### **A. Approval of Minutes from August 10th Board Meeting**

Laura Bartos made a motion to approve the minutes from GGA General Board Meeting on 08-10-22.

Maureen Colburn seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

#### **Roll Call**

Shobha George	Aye
Shalini Benson	Absent
Max Levasseur	Absent
Mary Pendleton	Absent
Elaine Harris	Aye
LaKisha Myrick	Aye
Laura Bartos	Aye
Beth Blaufuss	Aye
Calvena Jordan	Absent
Maureen Colburn	Aye

**Roll Call**

Janice Parker     Aye

**B. Vote on Board Candidate Dr. Andrea Wisler**

Janice Parker

Andrea will make a great match with GGA Board.

She works in Georgetown University.

She is interested in working as a Board Member to share her resources and contacts.

She has received the application.

She is out of the country. When she returns, we will propose her as a candidate and then move her for nomination in the November Board meeting.

Karen Venable-Croft

Andrea is pro-school, pro-mission.

She is interested in social justice at the school

Karen endorses Andrea to join the Board.

Beth Blaufuss

Andrea runs a program, which teaches peace making strategies, for girl-students.

Suggestions: Andrea should consider joining community engagement & academics.

Beth thanks Maureen for suggesting Andrea to join the Board.

Maureen Colburn

Andrea and Maureen have taught together.

She vouches for Andrea's passion to support girls.

Elaine Harris

Elaine is very impressed with Wisler background.

To Elaine, she seems like a great fit for the community engagement committee.

Love the potential adds to academics, too.

**C. Executive Director's Report**

Because YOU Matter Culture: Progress, Data, and Updates

Levers discussed at June 2022 meeting - Below is follow up on Leadership Team's feedback

1. Academic lever

a. Staff members are normalizing routines with effective instruction

b. In Initiation Phase, staff members are building relationships in classrooms via professional development and classroom observations.

- c. Teaching plan, rubric and personal instructional coach have been provided to staff members.
  - d. Implementation phase is next
  - e. Next steps
    - i. Deep Dive and reflect on progress in student non academic and academic data
    - ii. Identify best practices and peer to peer learning from inspecting what from teachers on what to expect
    - iii. Board Committee work - metrics-reports at next Board meeting
  - f. Example of student life in school
    - i. Ms. Kang founding teacher sees why we focus on normalizing strong routine of effective instruction
    - ii. ownership and pride appears when there are academic interdisciplinary connections.
- Ex. The Handmaid's Tale combined with English class to create book cover.

## 2. Sisterhood lever

- a. Every adult and student believe that they can thrive together.
  - b. Staff weekly facilitates community circle with student to build understanding, connection and trust. Additionally to create pride and togetherness culture.
  - c. Experiences in and out of the classroom operationalize sisterhood culture with students and teachers.
  - d. Nadia presented how Sports build sisterhood culture, where 97 students have signed up to participate one sport.
  - e. Safety, belonging, curriculars and discipline metric-review shows retainment of student body.
  - f. Mary asks, "What is the strategy to get the 50% up? Or is that not required by all staff members?"
- Karen responded, "On Friday, 50% of teachers are out of compliance in conducting community circle. Next steps are to show teachers how to do this belonging-exercise with feedback and plan."

## D. Strategic planning update

### Education Forward DC and Bellweather

- Karen and Shamira are participating in a strategic planning coaching process, which is sponsored by Education Forward DC.
- Bellweather is coaching GGA with 3 other schools on a strategic planning cycle.

### Goals

1. Revise 3 yr strategic plan
2. leadership growth
3. get training to operationalize strategic plan

### **Bellweather's 1/2 day, walk-through findings to date**

- Evidence of shared and warm culture

### **Next steps**

1. Coaching Karen and Shamira
2. cohort of 4 schools continue with training
3. Stakeholder feedback to help move strategic plan forward

## **E. Enrollment Update**

### **GGA enrolled 162 students instead of 236**

- We didn't enroll as many students as anticipated.
- \$1.3 deficit in revenue meant reducing expenses in salary reduction, curriculum and student supplies for a total of \$816K

### **Additional cuts**

also include Development Specialist and adjust rent

### **Assumptions**

need to have 30 days of cash on hand, no rent relief, net neutral and reduce expenses by an additional \$70

### **Enrollment strategies**

5 efforts underway (ex. referral campaign)

Implementing levers will increase opportunities for students/parents to be GGA ambassadors

Get in front of more middle schools

### **Julie Shepperson & Shayne Swift's efforts to attract more student to GGA**

Julie & I will co-run a focus group with some current GGA families to discuss their why and what about the materials or people led them to enroll with us.

Will get input on brochures, brand, IB material promotion, open house attendance, reasons to join GGA

### **Nadia McCrimmon's input**

Athletics will begin going to middle school athletic events and tournaments to recruit students, as well as, building a winning athletic programming.

### **Recruiting Phases**

Sept - Oct Pre-Work Phase

Oct - Feb Recruitment Phase

April - Oct Enrollment Phase  
Feb - Aug Re-engage phase

## **F. Finance and Facilities Update**

### **Laura's input**

#### **Finance**

1. Adjust expense budget efforts over next 4 weeks for need to have 30 days of cash on hand
2. Opportunity = lease review for rent relief for either this year and/or next year
3. For Nov Board meeting, update on net neutral budget and lease-negotiation will be provided.

#### **Facilities**

1. Expansion project update - School looks great
2. OSSE Loan will be used to pay invoice
3. Costs was higher by \$82K and PM is trying to negotiate this cost down to less than \$25K

## **III. Other Updates**

### **A. Board Business**

Elaine Harris asks, "What are the current students most excited about at GGA? Just curious so I can use if I have the opportunity. Have any students left since the start of the school year?"

- Lakisha Myrick said, "My daughter stated that she is most excited about the growth of GGA the fact that we are marking towards 4 years."
- Shayne Swift said, "Attending Ron Brown's homecoming dance and having them as guests at the community meeting tomorrow has gotten our students excited in addition to our purple out and spirit week"

Elaine asks, "Are these things highlighted in social media?" and "How many people are in a circle?"

### **November Board meeting**

KPI review over next 4 weeks with Committee input  
Budget revision for vote

Community Engagement input on recruitment

**Board Chair's efforts**

Dashboard ready for review by mid-month

Informing Board member on Committee meetings

**Board Chair's inquiry on making Dashboard more useful**

Beth asks, "Are there efforts to complete to make the Dashboard more helpful?"

Mary Pendleton responded, "Dashboard is helpful. If there something missing, pls share when the missing information will be shared. Push status on when there is a delay in delivering missing information."

**Capitalize on BOT advantages**

Committee Chairs should calendar meetings in BOT for reminders to be sent

Shobha and Janice will ask BOT about how best to support Committee Chairs: set up meeting in BOT, share documents and collaborate on documents

Zoom Czar

**Audit**

Underway status per Karen

Field work began on October 24, 2022

**IV. Closing Items**

**A. Adjourn Meeting**

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Maureen Colburn