



## Gestalt Community Schools

### Minutes

#### GCS Board Meeting

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**Date and Time**

Thursday April 25, 2019 at 8:30 AM

**Location**

Power Center Academy - Southeast, 8220 Shelby Drive, Memphis, TN 38125 - Audio  
Conference 901-213-5161 Enter Extension 1216, Guest Password 5152

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**Directors Present**

A. Evans Blackwell, D. Selberg (remote), D. Williams, K. Satterthwaite, K. Walker Burt (remote),  
Y. Lewis

**Directors Absent**

H. Coleman, P. Ray, S. Elswick, T. Williams

**Guests Present**

A. Butler, B. Turner, L. McGee, M. McFarland, Norriese Jackson

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**I. Opening Items****A. Record Attendance and Guests****B. Call the Meeting to Order**

A. Evans Blackwell called a meeting of the board of directors of Gestalt Community  
Schools to order on Thursday Apr 25, 2019 at 8:35 AM.

Ashanta opened the meeting by acknowledging that there has been a shift in Administrative duties with BoD meetings. Yetta has taken the reigns and it is noteworthy, so Kudos for the evolution. Also, The Hard Hat Tour was exciting to go from the picture to actually walking through a building and seeing the excitement of the teachers and staff that this is real. Kudos to Adrianna and all who are involved in the day to day process of making this happen. Finally, welcome back to Katie who's been on maternity leave.

### C. Minutes

A. Butler arrived.

### D. Approve Minutes

## II. Finance and Development Updates

### A. Finance Report

Norriese updated the Board on Finance.

We are set to end the fiscal year with \$2.1M. Between April and June, we project revenues totaling roughly \$5.6 M. The bulk of this coming from **BEP**. We are estimating our final BEP payment to be around \$1.7M. This is conservative given the fact that our final BEP payment last year was \$1.685M based on 1,891 scholars. We have approximately 100 more scholars than this time last year.

There are several areas of concern in regards to the income statement, depreciation having the highest variances. The good thing is depreciation is a non-cash item; but it is still important that we budget properly. The other areas of concern include:

**Liability Insurance:** Need to pass the Mendenhall portion of property coverage to Mendenhall

**Teacher Supplies:** Did not budget for

**Communication Services:** Incurred additional expenses

**Student Recruitment:** Incurred additional expenses

**Advertising:** Incurred additional expenses

Student Recruitment, communication services, and advertising are areas that we incurred additional expenses (over what was budgeted). These expenses were necessary and played a major role in getting the enrollment results we're experiencing.

### B. Academic Update

Bobbie Turner gave an update on the current state of academic progress. The report reflected the March data from the schools third interim assessment and winter Map data. The trend reflected a progress in four of the schools.

### C. Mendenhall Construction Update

Adrianna updated on the Mendenhall project. The hard hat tour was a success. The Teachers were very excited to see the new space with visibly larger classrooms. They actually clapped as they saw certain spaces. We are 90 percent complete. We are scheduled for final inspection of 9th Grade Academy by Fire Marshall on today, April 25th. We are scheduled to have substantial completion on the north side of the Elementary. The 9th grade Academy is scheduled to be complete on May 15th.

### **III. Scholar and Teacher Recruitment**

#### **A. Scholar Recruitment**

Yetta Lewis spoke on student recruitment. The big changes are that we are investing more into scholar recruitment as it drives revenue and sustainability for our schools. We are centralizing recruitment and enrollment functions at the network level to ensure consistency, quality, and customer service (We added more resources and started earlier). Enrollment has increased 15% over this time last year. We are 80% overall (K-12) enrolled as of this date.

##### **Upcoming Recruitment Event:**

June 1st - Community Enrollment Carnival

#### **B. Teacher Recruitment**

Mike McFarland spoke on Teacher Recruitment. We started our year with Goals to retain 75% of our talented teachers in each school. As of April, 84% of our teachers are returning. We currently have a goal to have all positions filled by April 30th. It is a stretch but we feel like we can get close. We are also working closely with the Academic Team in our selection process. We have one Application Tracking System for Onboarding that allows us to better communicate with the Candidate throughout the entire process.

### **IV. Recruitment Event for New Board Members**

#### **A. Need for Additional Board Members**

Yetta stated that we need to have a recruiting event for May or June whereas the current Board Members can bring perspective candidates to network with. Each Board member will do pre-work such as (asking potential candidates, "can you make meetings?" etc.) It was suggested that we try May 22nd for Happy Hour. It was also suggested that they be invited to events as well. We also need to select a date for the Board retreat.

Wednesday or Friday days were suggested in June either AM or PM for the Board retreat. Ashanta suggested we do a doodle for the events.

### **V. Closing Items**

#### **A. Adjourn Meeting**

Y. Lewis made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

D. Williams seconded the motion.

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

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 10:00 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,  
L. McGee