



Girls Global Academy

Minutes

GGA Board General Meeting

Meet the GGA Board

Date and Time

Monday November 29, 2021 at 6:30 PM

Location

This meeting will be conducted over video conference.

Trustees Present

C. Miller (remote), E. Harris (remote), J. Parker (remote), K. Bryant (remote), L. Myrick (remote), M. Colburn (remote), M. Dunn (remote), M. Edmunds, M. Levasseur (remote), M. Pendleton (remote), S. Benson (remote), S. George (remote)

Trustees Absent

B. Blaufuss

Ex Officio Members Present

K. Venable-Croft (remote)

Non Voting Members Present

K. Venable-Croft (remote)

Guests Present

I. Caisey (remote), J. Mellen (remote), N. McCrimmon (remote), S. O'Neal (remote), S. Swift (remote)

I. Opening Items

A. Record Attendance/Recognize Quorum

B.

Call the Meeting to Order

M. Levasseur called a meeting of the board of trustees of Girls Global Academy to order on Monday Nov 29, 2021 at 6:32 PM.

II. Meet the Board of GGA

A. Introduction of Board Members

Each board member introduced themselves and their roles plus one word that described them.

B. Q&A with Parents and Students of GGA

Parent question: After the 1st trimester last year, students could do recovery work on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Will there be an opportunity in the 2nd trimester for students this year. GGA started tutoring early this year plus Saturday support. Staff and peer tutoring by six 10th graders has also started.

Max question: How has adherence to protocol for Covid 19 been over the past month. Jason serves as point of contact when students enter the building. There were no positive cases in the month of November.

Janice: GGA did not have capacity for virtual learning when she had to keep her child home. Are you building capacity for distance learning or is that not going to be an option. Jason: There's make up work through Google classroom. There's no capacity for at home instruction this year.

LaKisha: Have student numbers risen- more choosing to be vaccinated? Jason: Yes. Sports participation requires vaccination. There's less conspiracy theory talk.

Shalini: What's being done to make sure there's not a lot of learning loss or that the girls are too socially isolated from peers for long times as they may have to stay at home for quarantine. Karen: There is no penalty for being out. Mary: If a student is out, they are checked on via the text messaging system and to see what they may need when they return.

Janice: Did we lose Miss Potter because of the Covid mandate? (The chemistry teacher has been out). She left, not because of Covid. Jason spoke to each class to answer questions. New teacher starts on Monday.

Two guest attendees: Mrs. Donnuel Sinclair plus Ilesha Caisey (staff)
With the quarter behind us, how are you feeling about how the year is going and what's ahead?

Shayne: One reporting period seems to settle people out. Ilesha: Feeling hopeful; students came in refreshed.

Maura: Is there anything you wish the board knew or should be doing?

Ilesha: How is the info provided being used?

Max: Our role (the Board)- we are accountable for achievement and have fiduciary accountability for the school. Details to help paint the picture of school health come through reporting and responses to questions posed to Karen and the leadership.

Perceived risk will prompt more questions and information. Information is to reach/address root causes or get context for remediation or decision making. A big part of our role is also long-term planning. It's a shift the board wants to make. More strategic planning. Trying to look out at the whole forest. Address risk. Improve challenges and pain points. What would you like the Board to do with the information?

Shamira: Wish the board knew that it is a really hard school year. Social emotional health. Quarantine. 1M +1 Tackling the to-do's. Teaching and mental health are top priorities. There are a lot fewer issues. Hoping things will come to fruition in the 2nd trimester that were started in the first.

Maura: Does this mean you feel like we are not empathetic or our expectations are off? We need to know that. Maybe there's a disconnect between how it's provided and seen and used. The Academic Committee gets a good view of Operations, but Finance does not have a lot of information and has to frequently ask for information. What would make me feel better, is sharing transparently what's going on. "How I spent my week." "What have you done vs how is it going?"

Lakisha: Parents see all the sides and can be a bridge.

Janice: Come at things from a different perspective. Think about other parents' perspective plus what students and staff are feeling. Want the staff to understand what students are feeling. Lots of concern about loss. Teaching/learning should be a priority. But need sensitivity to where students are coming from. Adults have a different way of seeing a new normal. Students may need more time to catch up. Need to re-visit parents having access, so parents can be kept aware. Every teacher's email should be on the website. If positions change; that needs to be on the site. Don't know who to reach out to. Jason does an exceptional job in Operations. Needs to be easier for parents to connect and share with the staff.

Parents have come to Lakisha with safety concerns. The level of fighting and fights on social media are causing the GGA brand to look bad really fast. Is there anything to help with the anger? Even the tutors are off the chain. Leaving school property, recording, bullying. What's being done to get things under control? Have observed to understand what's outside of the building and comes into the building.

Social media is not a kind place for black and brown girls. They are talking about things the school is dealing with.

How to address toxic culture that comes into the building? Have to de-stigmatize what it means to get help. That's what the Care Team does. They spend a lot of their day helping students figure out how to help. Looking at how to use the Advisory more effectively. Making progress in helping students with strategies. Addressing as a group.

Student leadership will have chairs for the 'pillars'. Understanding who is on the other side of the thumb. Working on supporting culture and sisterhood. We don't want to make it feel like policing. That has other implications. Want a holistic support system. Starts with communications.

Ilesha: Phones aren't going anywhere. Self-empowerment, self-esteem, addressing stress throughout the day. Building our nations' daughters. Looking at family dynamics. Looking at y- Empowering Girls. Social work intern site established at GGA. Bringing in more social/emotional support. Sister-to-Sister.

Ms. Lyles joined around 7:27. GGA is different. Enjoying it so far. Try to schedule at least 2 meetings specifically with parents but all meetings are open per OMA.

III. Internal Business

A. Approval of Minutes from Oct 2021 General Meeting

M. Levasseur made a motion to approve the minutes from general meeting on Oct. 25, 2021 GGA Board General Meeting on 10-25-21.

S. Benson seconded the motion.

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

B. Approval of Minutes from Budget Revision Mtg on Nov. 15, 2021

Motion to approve the minutes from SY21-22 Budget Revision on 11-15-21.

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

Roll Call

M. Levasseur	Aye
E. Harris	Aye
B. Blaufuss	Absent
C. Miller	Aye
M. Dunn	Aye
M. Edmunds	Aye
L. Myrick	Aye
M. Pendleton	Aye
S. Benson	Aye
M. Colburn	Aye
J. Parker	Aye

C. Board Member Candidate - Shobha George

Shobha George was referred by Max. Maura: She volunteers in a lot of areas related to youth, mental health. She is excited about the mission of GGA and being a part of it.

M. Levasseur made a motion to Bring Shobha George into the Girls Global Academy Public Charter School organization as a member of its Board of Trustees, effective immediately.

M. Dunn seconded the motion.

No questions

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

Roll Call

M. Levasseur	Aye
M. Pendleton	Aye
C. Miller	Aye
J. Parker	Aye
M. Edmunds	Aye
L. Myrick	Aye
M. Dunn	Aye
K. Bryant	Aye
B. Blaufuss	Absent
E. Harris	Aye
S. Benson	Aye

Roll Call

M. Colburn Abstain

D. GGA Board "World Recognition"

From Janice...

The new (World Recognition) recipient is Marilyn Bowser: Great collaborative member of the GGA Board of Trustees. Always has thought-provoking questions and is solutions-oriented. She usually has suggestions for how something can be addressed.

E. Update on Audit of SY21

Shalini reported: The audit is complete. No findings. Pleased with the cooperation. Accepting the audit will occur at a future date!

IV. School Update

A. Work toward IB Authorization

School visit with an IB consultant is scheduled next week (12/8- 12-10). Shayne has coordinated an IB program before and will lead the process. (The Board) will learn more about the program and how it is supported. The application is not yet open. When it opens again, Shayne will upload info by the beginning of Feb.

There are 3 phases:

- Why IB?
- Candidacy phase. Verification.
- Decision/authorization

B. Other Academic Matters

C. Executive Director's Report

D. Development - End of Year Campaign

Giving Tuesday starts tomorrow. "Because She Matters" and "Network for Good". Leadership will add designating GGA on the Amazon Smile campaign to the Look Ahead for Friday. (A percentage of Amazon purchases will go to GGA with this designation.

Fundraising will extend until MLK Day of Service.

V. SY22 GGA Organization Goals

A. Review of Committee Charters

Make sure dates have been added to charters for meeting cadence.

B. Final Review and Revising of Organization Goals

C. Approval of SY22 Goals

M. Levasseur made a motion to Approve the set of finalized goals captured in the SY22 Organizing document as the GGA organizational goals for SY22.

S. Benson seconded the motion.

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

Roll Call

M. Pendleton	Aye
K. Bryant	Aye
J. Parker	Aye
L. Myrick	Aye
M. Levasseur	Aye
C. Miller	Aye
M. Colburn	Aye
M. Edmunds	Aye
E. Harris	Aye
S. Benson	Aye
M. Dunn	Aye
B. Blaufuss	Absent

VI. 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 8:38 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
E. Harris