

GEORGIA CYBER ACADEMY (GCA)

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

DATE: March 20, 2019 | **TIME:** 6:00 PM – 7:30 PM; (begins at 6:10 PM)

**LOCATION: ROBBINS ROSS ALLOY BELINFANTE LITTLEFIELD LLC, 500 14th Street, NW,
Atlanta, GA 30318**

CONFERENCE CALL DIAL-IN #: 1.515.739.1469 | **ACCESS CODE:** 675050#

Blackboard: <http://tinyurl.com/GCA-Board-Room>

Attendees: Kenneth Tennyson (Board Chair), Charlie Harper, Ben Brumfield, Andrew Lewis, Eric Cochling

Absent: Juliann McBrayer

Board Employees/Contractors: Angela Lassetter (HOS), Michael Kooi (Executive Director), Alexa Ross (General Counsel).

Staff Attendees: Melissa Komolafe (Admin), Julie Hawkins (Admin), Jennifer Mitchell (Admin), Alicia Kelley (Admin), Rosie Lowndes (MS Admin), Maria Waters (ES Admin), Kristen Blanda (HS Admin), Aleksandra Berry (Admin), Maria Blencowe (Communications), Gentry Lowe (Admin), Michelda Watson (Admin), Joan Wilson (Admin), Maura Salberg-Griffith (Admin), Michelle Gilyard (Admin), Kristy Howard (Admin), Trina Weaver (ES Admin), Adamika Brown (COUN), Amina Ross (Admin), Jean Perpich (Admin), Sherene Mueller (FAST), Kate Pruitt (HS Admin), Michelle Blackwell (Admin), Ingrid Bailey (ES Admin), Crystal Adams (MS Admin), Natalie Williams (HS Admin), Andre Hopewell, Lucretia Nolan, Rachel Gunn, Jess O’Kelley, Staci Kimmons, FAST, Allison Yawn, Joy Peterson, Konteint Redmon, Crystal Amey (FSL), Amber Hagy (Admin), Caitlyn Pichette (Admin), Karen Miller (Admin), Tammy Bullock (Admin), Rachel Kuglin (Admin), Jessica Elzey (Admin), GCA_ES_Janet Wheeler (Admin), Julie Ferrer_Title III (Admin), Brianne Carter_ES (Admin), Tamie Bradley_OPS (Admin), Tameka Edgecombe_COUN (Admin), Holly Witcher_Admin (Admin), Jeffrey L (Admin), Britten Langley _ HS (Admin), Amy Schorr (Admin), Caroline Johnson_HS (Admin), Karen Smith_HS (Admin), Mary Gutierrez (Admin), Kayla Deyton (Admin), Kelly Henderson_HS_SE (Admin), Stacy Clendenen_ES AA (Admin), Chelsie Powell_HS (Admin), Brad Ferguson_HS (Admin), Susan Rudd_ES (Admin), Tammy Cruz_HS (Admin), Rebekah Claar_ES (Admin), Cathy Harper_HS (Admin), Kelley Nihill_HS (Admin), Maura Salberg-Griffith_HS (Admin), Stephanie Murphy_ES (Admin), Deb Palmer, LDM (Admin), Christy Teague _ HS (Admin), Elissa Newman_HS (Admin), Dorothy Brawner_HS (Admin), Kelly Hanna_HS Data (Admin), Mary Bryant_MS (Admin), Kelly Blackmon_HS #2 (Admin), Courtney Hale_ES (Admin), Amanda Johnson_ES (Admin), Kayla Wilson_ES (Admin), Elizabeth Fuqua_HS (Admin), Donna Palazzolo_HS (Admin), Melissa Lee_ES (Admin), Lynea Laws_SE (Admin), Heather Sweetin_HS (Admin), Ellen Holland_SE (Admin), Larenda Gilmer_SE (Admin), Jessica Greear_ES (Admin), Amy Brady (Admin), Shannon Spath_ES (Admin), Holly Bishop_HS (Admin), Becky Moody_SE (Admin), Caroline Robertson_HS (Admin), Terri Kramer_MS (Admin), Debra Cleland_HS 1 (Admin), Jessica Stubbs_MS SADC (Admin), Hollyanne Craft_ES (Admin), Jennifer Hale_HS (Admin), Angie Vandiver (Admin), Melanie Holodnak_MS (Admin), Catherine Margrave FSL (Admin), Kelly Brooks_MS Lead (Admin), Kara Bridgers_ES (Admin), Mia Venisee-Gardner_HS (Admin), Todd Mayben_GCA_MS (Admin), Jinya Nunnally_HS SE (Admin), Dana Barrett_MS (Admin), Allison Griswold _ ES #2 (Admin), Beth_Johansen (Admin), Veronica Ecopani (Admin)

Parents: Beth McComy, Lisa Moseley, Jennifer Palmer

Other: John Kramer (K12), Julie Overholt (K12), Deb Palmer (K12), Mary Gateres (K12), Joy Branham (Emory law student/SCSC), Belinda Haagsma (K12)

SUMMARY OF ACTIONS:

| | MOTION | SECOND | VOTE |
|---|------------------|----------------|---------------------|
| Motion to move to executive session | Ben Brumfield | Charlie Harper | Unanimous approved. |
| Motion to approve the February Board meeting minutes as amended | Charlie Harper | Ben Brumfield | Unanimous approved. |
| Motion to approve retention policy | Charlie Harper | Andrew Lewis | Unanimous approved. |
| Motion to approve enrollment policy | Charlie Harper | Andrew Lewis | Unanimous approved. |
| Motion to approve Board's fiduciary responsibility policy | Charlie Harper | Ben Brumfield | Unanimous approved. |
| Motion to suspend MKV enrollment & retention policy until council has time to vet and approve | Charlie Harper | Ben Brumfield | Unanimous approved. |
| Motion to move date of April Board meeting to April 24, 2019 | Charlie Harper | Ben Brumfield | Unanimous approved. |
| Motion to adjourn Board meeting. | Kenneth Tennyson | Ben Brumfield | Unanimous approved. |

I. Call to order

- II. **Motion** to move to executive session for the purpose of consulting with legal counsel pertaining to pending or potential litigation, settlement, claims, administrative proceedings or other judicial actions brought by or against the school., Motion by Ben Brumfield, seconded by Charlie Harper, unanimously approved.

III. Review and approval of February 20, 2019 meeting minutes

- A. Motion to approve by Charlie Harper, seconded by Andrew Lewis, unanimously approved.

IV. Finance Committee Review- Andre Hopewell

- A. Financial overview
- i. Financial compliance SPED submissions completed last month- status passing
 - ii. Maintenance of effort completed- passing
 - iii. Financial reporting- will continue to provide to Board on quarterly basis
- B. Forecasting deficit for now due to Hold Harmless on the Supplement
- C. Fiscal year 2020 budget submitted this week
- i. Board must still approve plans for next year
- D. Value Teachers' Retirement Plan- active since last payment cycle
- i. Approx. 30 staff signed up so far
- E. Banking update
- i. Able to negotiate some banking terms
 - ii. Saved school approx. \$5K
 - iii. New payroll bank account

- F. Expenses P. 9
 - i. Est. 102 million/yr.- approx. \$1 million above FY19 budget
 - ii. Balance sheet- due to issues with federal funding cash balance lower- KPI's for commission- renegotiated terms with some vendors- increase cash balance \$3 million- went from \$11 million to \$14 million- remaining in compliance
- G. Professional development/testing P. 14
 - i. No changes to staffing at this time
- H. Next finance meeting will discuss budget

V. Academic Oversight Committee Report- Mike Kooi

- A. Academic oversight policies
 - i. Promotion, retention- last year implemented state required policy 3rd, 5th & 8th grade below certain level had to be retained- based on experience GCA has decided to retain students 2 grade levels behind math, ELA in grades 3-8- have issued retention warning letters
 - ii. GCA retention policy more restrictive than state
 - iii. Rosie- Most research is from a brick & mortar setting, not virtual school- 70% of MS students received retention warning letter- no need to pass child to HS algebra if they can't do 3rd grade math
 - iv. Motion to approve retention policy, Motion by Charlie Harper, seconded by Andrew Lewis, unanimously approved
- B. Enrollment policy
 - i. Siblings, MKV
 - ii. Currently allowed to enroll at any time during school year- very disruptive for teachers and students
 - iii. Decided to provide window in January where sibling and MKV students can enroll
 - iv. Motion to approve enrollment policy, Motion by Charlie Harper, seconded by Andrew Lewis, unanimously approved

VI. 2019-2020 Initiatives Including Curriculum and Enrollment- Angela Lassetter

- A. Tab 9 Apples to Apples comparison – alignment and efficacy studies were reviewed along with pricing
- B. Looked at platforms and other tools as well that have the flexibility to accommodate multiple curricula
- C. Tab 10 lays out the various tools, curriculum and platforms proposed
- D. Staci Kimmons, Curriculum Director, has reviewed all proposed curricula
 - i. Platforms prepare students for further education and future workplace
 - ii. Continuing to review demos on products
- E. Tab 11 Synopsis of vendors
- F. Some curriculum is already in use- soft roll-out this year
- G. K12 curriculum is not aligned- re-ordering it creates holes - benchmarks for promotion are not being met- 70% GCA population 1 or more years deficient math skills- 60% ELA- GCA is making other changes to address this as well, but curriculum is a big part of the problem. GCA is not trying to model brick & mortar setup
- H. Working on Clever – for single sign on
- I. Replace current LMS, (D2L) with Canvas
 - i. More user-friendly, mobile ready
 - ii. Maria Waters- currently using OMS not D2L- have not been able to make D2L work – have asked K12 for years to get the curriculum aligned and have gotten nowhere – test scores continue to suffer - suggest Canvas - all GCA schools need to be on same platform- K12 has not given what GCA or students need in terms of the platform or the curriculum

- iii. Rosie Lowndes- D2L has constant problems- K12 curriculum is boring and not interactive- example of programs that are much more interactive, Gallopade has resulted in a Social Studies IA3 increase 20%-30%- why not do this with Math, ELA and Science as well? need more engaging platforms- need time to test new platforms, make sure seamless- better price
- J. Kenneth proposed to Board to vote on fiscal requirements policy and curriculum initiatives
 - i. Mike clarified that the policy sets forth a process, but final decision will not be made tonight
 - ii. This policy defines Board's authority to review curriculum and all other educational products
 - iii. Charlie Harper - GCA will not continue to be a school if it does not pass- multiple fiduciary responsibilities
 - iv. Charlie - Board's responsibility to children and taxpayers...want the choice of GCA to provide an opportunity for our students to get a better education for them than what they came from...not a knee jerk decision, but one that has been coming for years
 - v. Motion to approve Board's fiscal requirements, Motion by Charlie Harper, seconded by Ben Brumfield, unanimously approved
- K. Alexa needs to vet and approve retention and MKV enrollment policy
 - i. Motion to suspend adoption of retention and MKV enrollment policy until council has time to vet and approve, Motion by Charlie Harper, seconded by Ben Brumfield, unanimously approved

VII. Head of School Report – Angela Lassetter

- A. As of March 18th re-registration/enrollment has begun through Infinite Campus
 - i. Departure from K12 parent portal- K12 has not responded to requests for meetings to discuss enrollment- has not met needs, constant issues – currently have over 1,100 students re-registered
 - ii. Found that multiple documents were not secured from parents and passed through K12 portal- GCA staff has had to go back and find or replace- with Infinite Campus records are complete
 - iii. Jennifer Mitchell - new process going very well- able to set up alerts within IC, notifications for SPED & 504, child find, important documents won't get missed- no need to go through multiple channels
 - iv. With K12, student files in 3 different places- extremely difficult to track data
 - v. Lotterease will conduct lotteries- will take risk off GCA- best practice for schools not to run own lottery
- B. April 22nd – May 3rd new enrollment
 - i. GCA will give Lotterease number of open seats available- lottery will be conducted May 9th- Lotterease will notify parents & direct to IC parent portal
 - ii. Lotterease family owned company- work throughout GA & FL
 - iii. Will allow GCA to be compliant with Office of Civil Rights- non-bias enrollment with objective 3rd party
 - iv. Staci and Rachel can provide logistics
- C. Proposals for student computers- Tab 14
 - i. Parents complain of receiving computers with peanut butter & jelly on keys, crumbs in delivery boxes, etc.- even teacher computers are constantly failing
 - ii. Technical specs- low, low processing speed, cameras and mics constantly break- help desk does not help if called
 - iii. Currently, cost is not up to industry standards & does not match quality of computer received
 - iv. Must comply with CPAC- filters- limit access so only used for school - not sure if computers provided by K12 comply
 - v. Google for Education complies with CPAC- has 1 for teenagers and 1 for young children- safety, retractable camera cover- no hacking- would like to add other internet security- not available with K12

- vi. Working on quote for Chromebooks- better- can be turned over to different students- imaging, low storage but work with cloud based curriculum- almost completely virus proof- can be used throughout education- will have to put together model that will run platform- cost approximately \$300 each not including support- less than K12's \$525 computer fee, no double billing \$450 charged every year student keeps computer
 - vii. Not just about money, but about children getting what they need and GCA not getting what we're paying for
 - viii. If approved will put together blind bidding to comply with federal programs – RFP- will give Board all info
- D. Considering IT department for GCA
- i. Cloud-based system needed- currently owned by K12- currently held in separate server GCA does not have access to
New domains- K12 refuses to turn over gacyber.org domain
 - ii. Everything currently connected to domain- computers, phones, Office360, SharePoint, etc.- at any time K12 can shut down system- have access to emails also
 - iii. Board advised contractual, legal issues must be discussed in executive session
- E. Due to time, Board advised to reference HOS report only
- i. Concerns addressed- 4th grade not passing- reasons given- after investigation found pass rates actually better
- F. Graduation rate tracking
- i. Projected- unknown codes- 124
 - ii. Can make 3% growth increase expected by state- 2/3 is 4-year cohort, 1/3 is 5-year cohort- would have to bring unknown codes to 18-may get close, but may not make it due improper coding in the past when students withdrew- 4-year growth target made last year
 - iii. 75%-80% grad rate not bad for virtual school
 - iv. If student enrolls as senior with deficient credits, GCA gets penalized due to last school attended and student goes into grad rate
- G. CTAE- work based learning program for next year
- i. 6 credit recovery courses on top of normal courses
 - ii. 39.18% scores currently under Georgia's calculations- must change coding to bring at least to 56.71%
- H. Angela very pleased with HS
- i. Gains in every EOC course
 - ii. Tutors- remediation
 - iii. GCA focused on fixing problems- if problems not fixed students may not receive Hope scholarship

VIII. Next Board of Directors Meeting

- A. Spring Break
- B. Ben addresses public attendees
 - i. HOS and staff- incredible pressure- trying to rebuild school- charter renewed for only 1 year- GCA will have to show authorizer this year's information next year- spring break earned- GCA on right track
- C. Graduation invites in back binder- June 1st, Gwinnett Arena- Board members instructed to RSVP- email Mike or Angela if regalia needed
 - i. 400-500 students- request all staff to participate
 - ii. New gowns, crests and alma mater
- D. Reference student advisory council questionnaires- student surveys
- E. Motion to move date of April Board meeting to April 24, 2019, Motion by Charlie Harper, seconded by Ben Brumfield, unanimously approved

- F. Question from Board- Hold Harmless update or bill going through general assembly
 - i. No language proposed but letter has been drafted on behalf of charter schools trying to work with GCSA, legal letter from attorney Rocco Testani to be sent to OPB- will not be for 20/20 budget- will not get \$9 million back from budget- open to suggestions and ideas, but everyone GCA has discussed with has advised that will not happen- QB funding still held harmless- only supplement at risk
- G. Possible upcoming issues with dual enrollment- HB444- SB2, CTAE Pathways and work- based learning students
 - i. Reduces number of hours received with dual enrollment from 180 to 30- will also have to use Hope scholarship- 9th & 10th graders will not be able to participate- please call legislator to stop bill

IX. ADJOURN

- A. Motion to adjourn by Kenneth Tennyson, seconded by Ben Brumfield, unanimously approved.