

Gettysburg Montessori Charter School
Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes
Thursday, May 22, 2025

Board Members Present

Elena King, President
Rose Thornberry, Vice Chair
Greg Colosimo, Secretary
Amy Brown, Treasurer
Jeffery Sours, Member at large
Traci Elligson, Member at Large
Tom Hockenberry, Member at Large

Others Present

Tammy Hogan, Assistant Principal
Nicole Wilt, Executive Assistant
Jesse Bean, GMCS Financial Representative

Public

Darby Fishel
Rachel Read
Jeremy Read
Ashley Hawkins
Heather Laughman
Danielle Roberts
Ron Arbogast

Call to Order

President Elena King called the meeting to order at 6:40 PM.

Public Comment on Agenda Items

None

Old Business

N/A for this meeting date

Administrators Report presented by Nicole Wilt, Executive Assistant

Enrollment

- 260 students currently
 - Charter approval- GSD is fixing grammatical errors but does not affect prior approval given. This must be (and was) signed by board president Elena King and secretary Gregory Colosimo before it is fixed.
 - FID approval – will be voted on during June 26, 2025 board meeting and signed by board president Elena King accordingly
 - Threat assessment done; positive things are being done at the school. On site recommendations were implemented on the spot. 31 point segments for threat assessment evaluation. Was deemed very fulfilling.

Site Development Project Update

- N/A for this meeting date

Employment

No employment transitions for this meeting date

School Updates presented by Nicole Wilt, Executive Assistant to CEO

- Marketing blast for school is planned to include the following:
- Increase social media presence
- Ambassadors at carnivals
- Post card blast to community; initial blast includes 3,129 post cards sent, 10K google ads, 5,017 Facebook and Instagram ads, 4,286 behavioral ads, 2,779 connected tv ads
- June 13- Fun Fest; promote school at this event
- GMCS carnival to be held on grounds in July
- “Golden Ticket” incentive for students who bring friend to carnival
- Marketing group consists of a variety of staff
- Reminder – June Board meeting is on zoom, login info will be posted in timely manner

- **Fundraiser Totals/ Updates:**

- Fundraising total profit for year is \$14,526
- Yearbook sales -\$750 profit
- Staff appreciation- very successful and appreciative of donations
- Reunion successful- 50 kids came; potentially adjust reunion to June during 2025 school year
- Field day- successful, parking was to max
- Graduation day approaching
- Last day of school approaching
- June skate party scheduled
- GMCS summer camp slated for last 2 weeks in July

Consent Agenda

- Approval of Consent Agenda
 - Previous financials
 - Meeting Minutes
- Elena King Motioned to Approve
- Gregory Colosimo second the motion
- Rose Thornberry, Tom Hockenberry, Traci Elligson, Amy Brown, Jeffery Sours in favor of motion

Chair Report

Gforce Security Solutions was selected as intended safety/security provider. Board will vote on the contract provided by company during the June 26, 2025 meeting.

Finance Committee - Amy Brown, Rose Thornberry

- Financial Status is looking good
- 400K short term liability
- Total assets \$1.85 million
- Fund balance- \$1.64 million
- Budget pending
- *Additional info can be reviewed within 05/22/2025 Finance Report*

Governance Committee**

- None

New Business for the Good of the Order

- None

Public Comment

- **Jeremy Read-** inquired about alleged situation involving David Mitchell, states he has very little information and hears stuff from social media. Asked questions regarding what specific is being done to prevent alleged situation from happening again. Continued to ask if there are policy changes or equipment upgrades. States that he is aware that this is a delicate situation. Asks if school can put out policy changes or guidance to parents.

President Elena King provided a statement that reflects our sincere commitment to the health, safety and welfare of our students, and ensured all hiring/onboarding/employment standards is in compliance with PA state laws. Advised stakeholders to contact PSP for additional questions.

Rachel Read – Inquired if Gforce staff would be mandated reporters.

Gregory Colosimo replied that yes, any Gforce member in/at GMCS will be a mandated reporter

Heather Laughman – Asked if volunteer/ staff clearances can be updated yearly/ enhance renewals. Asked about charter renewal and points of concern.

Nicole Wilt noted the recommendation. Explained that she facilitated enhanced clearance renewal measures which exceed state requirements. Nicole explained charter renewal process and assured GMCS is in compliance with standards.

Danielle Roberts- Provided intermittent feedback regarding Gforce and shared her personal positive reflection of company.

Gregory Colosimo and Elena King thanked her for her feedback

Ron Arbogas – Shared that he is aware of data that shows “mixed” results regarding the effectiveness of adding a School Safety Officer. Stated that he believes it changes the mentality. States it goes against Montessori principles. States he is not convinced of effectiveness but does not disagree that a SSO may be needed. Stated he didn’t want paramilitary.

Gregory Colosimo and Elena King assured that the SSO would not resemble “paramilitary” and would be as casual as possible. Gregory Colosimo and Elena King discussed the role the SSO would provide and the neutrality that is expected. Informed parent that the SSO could be a role model figure and is not intended to be authoritative.

Adjourned – Meeting recessed @ 7:52 by Elena King