

**The College Preparatory & Leadership Academy  
Board of Directors Meeting  
Virtual via Zoom Platform  
August 9, 2025 @ 9:00AM**

**Members Present:** Marcus Brandon (chair), Dr. Tamara Turner, Dr. Michelle Meggs, Eugene Slocum, Dr. Linda McRae, Dr. Michelle Meggs, Dr. Benita Varnado , Dr. Michelle Johnson (non-voting)

**Members Absent:** None

**Others Present:** Tacuma Johnson

**Public Comments:**

None.

**Minutes**

Dr. Varnado moved, E. Slocum seconded to approve the minutes from April and the special meeting in May. Approved.

**Superintendent Report**

**Board.** Dr. Johnson shared her appreciation of the Board and it work over the past 12 years.

**Renewal.** This year is the first year of the 3-year window leading up to our charter renewal. Dr. Johnson's goal is to qualify for a 10-year-renewal by statute.

**ADM/Enrollment.** Enrollment continues to grow. Our ADM last year was 897. This year we expect it to grow again. The school has received additional training and is diligently making sure that all of our scholars are accounted for in the ADM.

**Budget.** Dr. Johnson is going through the budget diligently to make sure that the school is prudent. Dr. Johnson is grateful to the Board for its continued oversight.

**Debt.** The school has done well in not requiring continuous debt to meet its obligations.

**Finance.** State allotment has been issued. Dr. Johnson's ADM goals are 920 (baseline), 935 (mid), and 950 (stretch). This growth will add additional state funds allotment once ADM is calculated.

**ERC.** The IRS verifies that the funds are still in process. The school intends to settle the Kumasi loan in full once the fund arrive.

**Vendor Contracts.** Dr. Johnson has renegotiated several vendor contracts, including the school nutrition caterer and the janitorial services contract. The renegotiated contracts represent a substantial savings. In both of these cases school personnel are also taking on some of the duties to reduce the reliance on vendors.

Dr. Johnson has also renegotiated the transportation vendor contract and the number of buses running. The school has signed a 3-year agreement to lock-in the savings. The school is exploring ways to start its own fleet over the course of those years.

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**4-Day-Week.** By going to a Monday-Thursday calendar, the school will save additional money in school nutrition and operations.

**Major Purchases.** The school does not anticipate any major purchases this year.

**Great Schools Fellowship.** Dr. Johnson plans to apply for the Great Schools Fellowship for \$150,000 for technology upgrades.

**Academics.** The renewal process requires that the school's academic achievement is comparable to Guilford County Schools and that we meet or exceed growth. The upcoming school year is the first year that will be included in the charter renewal review.

**Compliance.** The financial audit is in process and expected to be completed on time. The school has had no compliance issues with federal programs, EC, or school nutrition.

**New Hires.** Dr. Johnson shared the list of new hires for the beginning of the school year to be ratified by the Board.

**Administrative Salary Caps.** Dr. Johnson shared that the school administrators (not school leaders) salaries are capped at the School Administrator I and II levels based on the state salary schedule and the ADM range the school. We currently have 3 administrators—Chief of Operations, Chief of Compliance, and Chief of Staff.

**School Prayer.** "We hereby certify in writing to the State educational agency that no policy of the local educational agency prevents, or otherwise denies participation in, constitutionally protected prayer in public elementary and secondary schools."

**Dual Enrollment.** About 80% of our high school students are taking courses at GTCC. This is a record for the school.

**Approval.** Dr. Turner moved, Dr. McRae seconded to 1) Approve the Superintendent Report; 2) Ratify the new hires; and 3) Accept the School Prayer statement. Approved.

**Superintendent/CFO Contracts**

Chairman Brandon informs the Board that the appropriate committee needs to convene and finalize upcoming contracts.

**Adjournment**

E. Slocum moved, Dr. Turner second to adjourn at 10:26 AM. Approved.