

**Greenville Technical Charter High School
Board of Directors Regular Meeting Minutes**

May 13, 2025 | 5:30 PM

The Board of Directors met in person in Room 116, Building 119 of Greenville Technical Charter High School.

WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER:

Mr. Chris Loewer, Board Chairman, called the regular meeting of the Greenville Technical Charter High School Board of Directors to order at 5:30 p.m. Board Members present were Ms. Kelly Baird, Ms. Mary Brantley, Mr. Chad Davis, Mr. Bob Ground, Mr. Chris Jonker, Ms. Jennifer Medlock, Ms. Uta Samuel, Ms. Chandra Snyder; Dr. Rhonda Gregory, Principal; Dot Feters, Board Clerk; and Drew Ray, incoming Assistant Principal were also present. Mr. John Molloy joined via Zoom. Ms. Brittany Scott arrived late. Mr. Loewer stated that a quorum was present to vote.

READING OF GTCHS MISSION STATEMENT:

The school will provide equitable opportunities for all students to acquire an education that prepares them to be productive citizens, critical thinkers, and part of a global workforce utilizing employability skills.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The Chairman requested the approval of the minutes for the April 15, 2025, regularly called meeting. Meeting minutes were distributed on April 27, 2025. Ms. Snyder moved to accept the April 15, 2025, minutes, which Ms. Brantley seconded. Motion to approve the minutes carried unanimously.

PUBLIC INPUT SESSION:

- None

HIGHLIGHT:

- Dr. Gregory introduced Drew Ray, Assistant Principal of Instruction for the 2025-2026 school year and GTCHS current Teacher of the Year.

GTCHS REPORTS:

Principal's Report - Dr. Gregory presented the Principal's Report.

New Hires:

CTE–Tammy Ward

Math–Jeremy Heinold

Math–Angelique Piotrowsky

English–Chris Moore

Social Studies–Danny Kilgore-Wilson

Operations

- EpiCenter Tasks
- All Final evaluation Cycles completed and entered in state SLO System.
- Facilities' Planning!
- SLC Lobby Project-Mural

- End of Course Testing Completed
- Safety Summit & Safety Procedures Overhaul-Plans
- Governance Review of Policy
- Procurement Handbook Completed
- AP of Instruction Transition Meetings-multiple per week with Jeff/Drew for smooth transition
- Updating all Guides & Handbooks
- Final Senior Luncheon Details
- College Course Registration and Enrollment
- Master Schedule for 25-26 Planning & Teacher Requests
- Final Interviews for final position
- Collaborative Meeting w/ GTC Leadership and Charter Principals
- BUILDING 120 Logistics for Construction/Moving Plan

Instruction

- Formal Observations/Final SLO Meetings with all teachers
- Strategic Planning - Building 120 Renovation/Moving Teachers/Departments/Long-term and Short-term plans
- Math Interviews scheduled and held last week - recruiting more applicants for second position
- GTC Registration and Enrollment occurring
- Final EOC preparation push
- Friday work sessions
- Summer school planning

Development

- South Carolina Children's Fund (SCCF) gave us a "prenotification" of their intent to invest \$20,000 in GTCHS.
 - A formal announcement will come, and they note that this is "the beginning of a growing partnership."
- Giving update: GTCHS is now less than \$10,000 away from reaching the annual campaign goal

Facilities

Building 120—the Cafeteria is happening

- The final choices for the cafeteria furniture are being made this week.
- Building Plan/Moving Plan is underway with teachers being relocated based on the cafeteria construction AND to give additional classroom space.
- Year 2-3 of the plan will include moving additional individuals to create "suites and departments"

Finance

- Cash Balances as of April 2025
 - School Operating: \$ 690,920
 - HomeTrust Capt. Campaign \$ 41,726
 - Reserve: (CD earning 5.15% for 9 mon) \$1,000,000
 - SC Local Govt Investment Pool \$ 639,438
 - Endowment: \$ 550,157
 - Loan Payment (P&I): \$ 38,000
 - Loan Balance Outstanding \$6,689,464
 - 20-year loan, matures 7/10/2040
 - Balloon payment of \$2,840,539

- Irrevocable Standby Letter of Credit \$2,000,000

- School Funding – Recent Debate

- State Aid to Classrooms-The state determines the total average cost of each teacher -salary and benefits - (based on the minimum SC salary scale). The average teacher in SC has 12 years of experience with a master’s degree. They multiply that cost by their estimated number of teachers based on an ideal ratio (so, for example, there may be only 55,000 teachers employed, but they count 65,000 teachers because they make an ideal ratio and also include positions such as counselors and media specialists). The total amount is then divided among districts based on their student populations. Each district essentially gets a “Slice of the pie.”

School Funding-Recent Debate over the State Aid to Classrooms and how Public Charter Schools receive “more” funding than traditional public schools.

So, why ARE they reporting that we receive more?

In 2021, the General Assembly finally moved charter schools into the Aid to Classrooms formula, with a funding weight that partially acknowledged our lack of access to local dollars.

Special interests are pushing to reduce that weight, cutting state funding for charter students so traditional districts can receive more state funds, along with millions in local tax revenue.

According to the South Carolina Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office:

Traditional public-school districts will receive \$19,376 per student this year

Public charter schools will receive just \$12,891 per student.

Clear and consistent message that we are not asking for more. This is not an “us vs. them” mentality because we are talking about ALL public schools – traditional and charter.

- Proposed FY26 Budget (Key Takeaways):

- The budget works this year with the additional expenses due to our proposal that we do not match Greenville County School District salaries. We propose a step increase for all teachers based on the 2024-25 GCS salary schedule.
- The budget also works due to the proposed continuation of SCWINS covering most dual enrollment tuition for students.
- SCWINS isn’t recurring-future planning and changes are needed to balance FY27 and beyond.

- Building 120 Proposed Project Budget (Key Takeaways):

- Construction is scheduled to begin on Tuesday, May 27, 2025.
- Approximately 12 days per floor to sprinkle the building.
- Logistical Planning for movement of items for ceiling removal in every room.
- Teachers relocated- Yon Radford working on timeline and logistics’ planning now.

Chairman’s Report: Chris Loewer reported. Mr. Loewer and Dr. Gregory have spent a lot of time discussing all the changes and challenges to making the cafeteria and building 120 constructions happen. Mr. Loewer has spent a lot of time talking to politicians about charter funding. Mr. Loewer spoke with

SCPCSD Superintendent, Chris Neely, regarding charter law and to clarify how that applies to school boards and priority enrollment. The charter law states that there is a separation between the school's initial founding charter committee which has priority enrollment and the board of directors which cannot have priority enrollment. There can be no change to our charter allowing board members' children priority in the lottery process.

Executive Committee Report - Chris Loewer reported. The Executive Committee met to give Dr. Gregory permission to sign the revised lease from Greenville Technical College.

Finance Committee Report - Chad Davis reported. The Committee met on Tuesday, May 6, 2025. Finances look good from a P&L perspective. The Committee reviewed the expenditures proposal for the cafeteria; all those finances continue to look good. The 2025-2026 budget was the main discussion item.

Secretary's Report - Uta Samuel reported. No report.

Administration/Governance Committee - Bob Ground reported. The Committee met and reviewed the Student Handbook and the Faculty Handbook. There were no real changes to the handbooks, just minor revisions such as names and positions that have changed. The Committee recommended an addition to Policy BBB regarding the election of board members when there is the same number of candidates as seats available. They are adding the following language **"Whenever the number of candidates who have filed by the filing deadline, equals or is less than, the number of Board positions to be filled, the Board Chair may declare those candidates as being elected to the open positions"**.

Academic Excellence Committee - Mary Brantley reported. No meeting, no report.

Appeals/Grievance Committee Report - Uta Samuel reported. No appeals and no report.

Facilities Committee (Maintenance and Supervision) Report - Chris Jonker reported. There was no formal Committee meeting; however, there was plenty of activity in preparing for building 120 constructions.

Development & Endowment Board - Ms. Baird reported. No official report.

ITEMS REFERRED TO PRINCIPAL FOR REVIEW AND/OR RECOMMENDATION:

- Rewriting of the GTCHS Procurement Guidelines

ITEMS PENDING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS OR BOARD REFERRALS:

- None

ITEMS REFERRED TO BOARD COMMITTEES FOR REVIEW OR RECOMMENDATION:

- None

EXECUTIVE SESSION

- No Executive Session.

ACTION ITEMS:

- Mr. Ground motioned to add day six (9/27/2024) to Hurricane Helene days missed and excused. The school held three make-up days and three days were excused. Ms. Baird seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- Ms. Samuel motioned to approve the 2025-26 Board Meeting Calendar. Ms. Snyder seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- The Board unanimously approved the first reading of the budget for FY2026 as recommended by the Finance Committee.
- The Board unanimously approved Phase 2 Renovation Budget and Funding Request as recommended by the Finance Committee.
- Mr. Ground motioned to approve the Executive Committee's decision to have Dr. Gregory sign the amended lease with Greenville Technical College. Mr. Jonker seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- The Board unanimously approved the first reading of the Student Handbook as recommended by the Governance Committee.
- The Board unanimously approved the first reading of the Employee Handbook as recommended by the Governance Committee.
- The Board unanimously approved changes to Policy BBB to reflect the new language regarding elections when there are no more applicants than open board electable positions as recommended by the Governance Committee.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- May 13, 2025 - Band and Orchestra and Art Exhibit @ 7:00 p.m. - SLC
- May 14, 2025 - Senior Luncheon @ 12:30 p.m. - Poinsett Club
- May 14, 2025 - Awards Night @ 6:00 p.m. - Gym
- May 19, 2025 - Graduation - 4:30 p.m. - Brookwood Church (Board arrives by 3:45 p.m.)
- June 17, 2025 - Board Meeting 6:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Ms. Samuel and seconded by Ms. Brantley. Motion to adjourn carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 6:19 p.m.

Mr. Chris Loewer, Chairman
GTCHS Board of Directors

ATTEST:_____
Ms. Uta Samuel, Secretary
GTCHS Board of Directors