

Genesis Innovation Academy

“Creating a Legacy of Greatness – One scholar at a time!”

BOARD MEETING SUMMARY

April 24, 2025

7:00 PM

- I. Opening/Call to Order at 7:12PM – TJ motioned to call the meeting to order at 7:12PM. JL seconded. Passed unanimously without abstention or opposition.
- II. Attendance and Quorum Verification
 - A. Attendees: Gavin Samms (GS), Tomika Jones (TJ), Jeff Lawrence (JL), Alison de Souza (AdS), Alex Parker (AP) - virtual, Marissa Coleman (MC), Marcus Shute (MWS) - virtual, Kieshia Niblack (KN) - virtual
 - B. Absences: John Kenneth White (JKW)
 - C. Guests: Jennifer Potter (JP), Crystal Simmons (CS)
 - D. Quorum: A quorum is present.
- III. Approve Consent Agenda and Minutes - TJ motioned to approve the consent agenda and minutes. JL seconded the motion. Passed without abstention or opposition.
 - A. Approve Consent Agenda
 - B. Approve **February and March** Minutes
 - C. Approve **January and February** Financials
- IV. Announcements & Recognitions
 - A. 4/25-26 GA MS State Championship
 - B. 5/8 Scholar of the Month
 - C. 5/9 8th Grade Prom
 - D. 5/13 - 5/16 Boys 8th Grade Trip to Savannah, GA
 - E. 5/14 PowHer – UGA
 - F. 5/15 - 5/18 Girls 8th Grade Trip to New York, NY
 - G. 5/22 Grades 3-8 Expo 3-8, 5PM
 - H. 5/23 Spring Sports Banquet 5:30PM
 - I. 5/29 Last Day of School
 - J. 5/30 EOY Staff Celebration, 1PM
 - K. Welcome our newest board member, Alison de Souza.
 - L. Congrats to Ms. Darling Saavedra – GaDOE recognized her as an Exemplary ESOL Teacher

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- V. FY26 Budget: Public Budget Meeting #1
 - A. Boys Academy
 - 1. Discussion - Evaluated insurance providers, challenges with timelines from Trinet, and possible savings from other options. The Board agreed to continue evaluating with a potential emergency meeting if needed.
 - 2. Public Comment – None.
 - 3. Action Item – The BOD will continue to comb through the numbers about the insurance.
 - B. Girls Academy – Same as above for the Boys Academy.
 - 1. Discussion
 - 2. Public Comment
 - 3. Action Item
- VI. FY25 Budget Amendment: Public Budget Meeting #1 – Postponed. Doug Erwin has to incorporate the revenue came down.
- VII. Discussion and Decision Items for the Board
 - A. Governance - (Dr. Marcus Shute, Committee Chair)
 - 1. Update: Board Candidates - Once candidate interview is in progress.
 - 2. Update: Board Elections – Elections are postponed until May Board meeting to elect new officers for SY26.
 - 3. Update: Board Training - Most board members have completed governance training except one.
 - 4. Update: General Governance - May Governance meeting is May 14.
 - B. Finance – (Jeff Lawrence, Committee Chair)
 - 1. Update: [Enrollment](#) - as of April 1
 - a. Boys Academy – 306 (March 308)
 - b. Girls Academy – 300 (March 302)
 - 2. Update: Budget Planning - mentioned in Public Budget Meeting #1; insurance increases may affect raises.
 - 3. Action Item: Insurance Renewal – The Board will continue reviewing providers and may have a potential emergency meeting on April 29.
 - 4. Action Item: Auditor Selection - JL motioned to continue with our current auditor pending a clarifying conversation. MC seconded the motion. Passed unanimously without abstention or opposition.
 - C. Development – (Keishia Niblack, Committee Chair)

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1. Update/Discussion: Chief of Staff – Chief of Staff search progressing with three strong candidates advancing to next-round interviews.

D. Academic Excellence - (Dr. Gavin Samms, Committee Chair)

1. Update: Academic Results Data – No action taken.
2. Update: Enrollment Marketing - Focus ramping up for Kindergarten through 2nd grade; social media and podcast ads prioritized.
3. Update: SY26 Teacher Retention - Intent to Return forms sent; contracts and raises issued soon after.

VIII. Public Forum - None.

IX. Executive Session - None.

X. Action Item Review

A. Old Business (Prior Action Items)

1. MWS will share grant writing resources. - *Pending Chief of Staff hiring.*
2. Finance Committee to evaluate budget impact of new parental leave policy. - *Completed.*
3. GS will work with CQ (FRC) to update the school’s facility search plan including square footage and classroom needs for board review. – *Vendor is reworking contract structure for all clients*
4. TJ/MWS will follow up with JKW about his attendance for the board training and follow up with AdS to confirm she has clarity on her options for attending the training in April. - *Completed.*

B. New Business (New Action Items)

1. Finalize insurance provider and schedule an emergency vote if needed.
2. Conduct Board nominations and elections at May 2025 meeting.
3. Update on budget deficit strategy and mitigation.
4. Reschedule FY25 Amendment Public Budget Meeting. (Will coincide with May Board meeting)
5. Follow up with auditor and clarify timelines before May 28.

XI. Next Board Meeting **May 22, 2025 // 7PM**

XII. Closing and Adjournment at 8:42PM.