



Regional Board Meeting
March 26, 2025

- I. Call to Order
- II. Roll Call
- III. Approve Minutes: January 29, 2025
- IV. Public Comment
- V. Presentations from the Dance and Musical Theatre Departments
- VI. Closed Session
 - a. Personnel Matters
- VII. Reports
 - a. Financial Report.....Dr. Cihak
 - i. Revenue
 - ii. Expenditures
 - b. School Report.....Dr. Cihak
 - i. Third Quarter Review
 - ii. End of Year Preview
 - c. Foundation Report.....Foundation Representative
- VIII. Unfinished Business
- IX. New Business
 - a. Personnel Actions
 - b. 2025-2026 International Trips
 - c. FY26 Budget Public Hearing
 - d. Approval of Foundation Board Member(s).....Foundation Representative
- X. Items by Board Members
- XI. Adjournment



REGIONAL BOARD MEETING

January 29, 2025

MINUTES

The Regional Board of The Governor's School for the Arts met in hybrid format at the SECEP offices and virtually on January 29, 2025. Attending the meeting were:

Regional Board Members in Person

Mr. John Collick	Isle of Wight
Col. Ken Paulson	Norfolk
Ms. Karen Jenkins	Southampton
Ms. Kim Melnyk	Virginia Beach

Regional Board Members Virtual

Ms. LaChanda Parker	Franklin
Ms. Denise Bunn	Suffolk

Superintendents In Person

Ms. Diane Edwards (for Dr. Jared Cotton)	Chesapeake
Dr. Theo Cramer	Isle of Wight
Dr. Sharon Byrdsong	Norfolk
Dr. Elie Bracy III	Portsmouth
Dr. John B. Gordon III	Suffolk
Dr. Donald Robertson	Virginia Beach

GSA Staff In Person

Dr. Shelly Cihak	Executive Director
Ms. Deborah Thorpe	Assistant Director

GSA Instructors and Students In Person

Ms. Milam-Ratliff	Vocal Music, Chair
Ms. Suzanne Daniel	Vocal Music, Instructor
Abigail Bodvake, Norfolk	Vocal Music, Student
Dasianae Cross, Virginia Beach	Vocal Music, Student
Avery Eure, Chesapeake	Vocal Music, Student

Call to Order The meeting was called to order by Ms. Parker at 11:02am.

Roll Call As Board members introduced themselves, attendance was taken by Dr. Cihak.

Organization of the Board: Election of Board Chair/Election of Vice Chair

1. **Board Chair:** Dr. Cihak opened the floor to nominations for Regional Board Chair. Ms.

Melnyk nominated Ms. Parker, which was seconded by Mr. Collick. Ms. Parker accepted the nomination. Dr. Cihak called for a vote. The nomination was unanimously approved.

2. **Board Vice Chair:** Ms. Parker nominated Ms. Melnyk as Regional Board Vice Chair, which was seconded by Mr. Collick. Ms. Parker accepted the nomination. The nomination was unanimously approved.

Appointment of Regional Board Representative to the Foundation Board

1. Ms. Parker offered to represent the Regional Board as a liaison to the GSA Foundation Board. This was approved by unanimous consent.

Approval of Minutes There were no corrections to the minutes of September 25, 2024. Ms. Melnyk motioned to approve the minutes, which was seconded by Col. Paulson. The minutes were approved by unanimous consent.

Public Comment None.

Presentation by Vocal Music Department Dr. Cihak introduced the students and staff that came to the Regional Board meeting to share their GSA experience. Senior Avery Eure shared an emotional speech about her connection to GSA. Abigail Bodvake and Dasianae Cross performed a duet with accompaniment by Suzanne Daniel.

Following the performance, Abigail and Dasianae shared about the upcoming performance of *Cinderella* and how excited they are to work with Alma Deutscher.

Ms. Melnyk inquired about the performances of *Cinderella* and looks forward to attending the performance. Ms. Jenkins inquired about the future plans of the students after GSA and Avery plans to study nursing, while Abigail and Dasianae plan to study music. Ms. Edwards shared the power of music in medicine that impacted her family and expressed her appreciation that Avery is looking to connect these two things going forward.

Closed Session Col. Paulson made a motion to enter closed session pursuant to Va. Code § 2.2-3711(A), for the purpose of discussing the personnel report and a personnel matter, which was seconded by Mr. Collick. The Board entered into closed session at 11:28am. At 11:39am the closed session ended after a motion from Mr. Collick, seconded by Col. Paulson. Dr. Byrdsong shared that the Committee of Superintendents is in full support approving the personnel report. A motion was made by Ms. Melnyk to approve the personnel report, which was seconded by Ms. Parker. The personnel report was approved unanimously.

Reports

Financial Report

1. **Revenue:** Referring to the January 21, 2025 revenue report. Dr. Cihak noted that \$1,017,239.52 has been received toward the state entitlement and tuition received from all but two localities. The remaining two localities are working to process payment. Dr. Cihak explained that the difference in projected vs. actual enrollment will result in an increased state entitlement.
2. **Operational Budget Expenditures:** Dr. Cihak shared that the January 21, 2025 expenditure report is in line with where it should be this time of year and amounts approved for the FY25 budget. The difference between the original appropriations and the revised amount is due to a carryover of funds encumbered in FY24, which have since been disbursed.

The financial report was approved by unanimous consent.

School Report

- 1. First Semester Review:** Dr. Cihak reported on a successful first semester with performances and exhibitions in every department, over 25 master classes with experts in their field, and participation in numerous community events with students using their art in service to the community. Students also continued to teach dance for students with Teens with a Purpose, culminating in a performance at the TWP gala choreographed by GSA students and performed by GSA and TWP participants. Students in the National Art Honor Society conducted a successful holiday market featuring their artwork and conducted two food drives for the local food bank. Students in the National Dance Honor Society continued working their plot in the community garden and providing fresh produce to the community fridge. GSA took the top prize at every art festival in Fall and every student auditioning for Senior Regional Orchestra and District Band was accepted to the ensembles. Interdisciplinary collaboration continues to occur with our orchestra and vocal music department joining together to produce two beautiful performances of Baroque holiday music at Monticello Arcade; we had numerous concerts, successful productions of *SIX* and *The Rover*, while students also participated in the first staged reading of the play *My Brother Death*. Preparation for life after GSA is in full swing with visual arts students traveling to Richmond to participate in National Portfolio Review Day, and faculty spent countless evening and weekend hours helping coach students and record their pre-screens for submission to post-secondary academic institutions, training programs, and professional companies. GSA will travel to the National High School Dance Festival at the end of February, where three pieces have been accepted into the Festival for performance including two faculty pieces and one work of student choreography. Dr. Cihak shared that students will be performing in *Rhythm Live* in conjunction with the Virginia Arts Festival, in addition to Musical Theatre students performing with Adrienne Warren and the Virginia Symphony Orchestra. Dr. Cihak also shared updates regarding alumni and their accomplishments.
- 2. Audition Data:** Dr. Cihak shared that GSA had a successful recruitment season with over 600 people attending our Open House, 7 virtual information sessions for students and families, over 20 middle school visits/performances, and several school groups visited GSA on field trips to participate in workshops with GSA Faculty. The results were the largest number of applications in GSA history and the most diverse applicant pool (377 thus far and 56% non-white applicants and 23% male). A copy of the applicant data was provided.

Foundation Report

Ms. Thorpe shared that there was a very successful fundraising campaign and that the Foundation was able to obtain several grants for *Cinderella*. Dr. Cihak expressed appreciation for the Foundation helping to make sure that a lack of finances does not prevent a student from having opportunities in the arts.

Unfinished Business

None

New Business

- 1. Activity Fund Audit Report:** Dr. Cihak presented the findings for the audit of the GSA Activity Funds from the 2023-2024 school year, which was conducted by Colby & Company PLC. The results were a clean audit.
- 2. VACorp Audit Report:** Dr. Cihak explained that GSA had the annual Workers' Compensation Payroll Audit by the VACorp company. The results of the audit were an increase to the GSA policy of \$316 due to compensation increases to part-time wages, directly related to the increase in student enrollment.
- 3. FY25 Budget Adjustment Proposal:** Dr. Cihak presented a proposal to allocate the additional funds that will be received for the state entitlement. The FY25 budget for The Governor's School for the Arts was built on an anticipated enrollment of 382 students, which was the anticipated

allocation in September of 2023, when anticipated figures were submitted to the state. As of September 30, 2024, the GSA enrollment was 417 students, which is what was submitted to the Virginia Department of Education. The additional students resulted in GSA receiving additional state entitlement funds. The result is an increase of \$165,466. Ms. Melnyk made a motion to approve the proposal, which was seconded by Mr. Collick. The proposal was approved unanimously.

4. **2025-2026 Academic Calendar:** Dr. Cihak presented the proposed 2025-2026 Academic Calendar. As four participating divisions will begin prior to Labor Day and four divisions will begin after Labor Day, the calendar includes a post-Labor Day start to preserve the tradition of GSA's Opening Day event that brings the entire school together. The grading periods are aligned to Norfolk Public Schools, which has the earliest closure to each quarter, ensuring that all deadlines are met for GSA to share grades with the home schools. The major school breaks align across the divisions, which will minimize disruption to the GSA schedule. As always, students are excused from GSA on any day that their home school division does not have school. Graduation will occur during the week of June 2, 2026, with the specific date to be determined by the availability of the Sandler Center. Ms. Melnyk made a motion to approve the calendar, which was seconded by Mr. Collick. The proposed calendar was approved unanimously.

Items from Board Members

Ms. Melnyk inquired if the Foundation was negatively impacted with grants being held up due to DEI concerns. Ms. Thorpe explained that it was not an issue and that most grants are local. Ms. Melnyk also requested that GSA keep an eye on students who may be afraid to go to school in the current climate.

Col. Paulson expressed his gratitude for the warm welcome to the GSA Board and that he is eager to serve.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:54am by Ms. Parker.

THE GOVERNOR'S SCHOOL FOR THE ARTS

**FY25 Operational Budget
Summary of Revenue**

March 18, 2025

Revenues	FY25	YTD
Anticipated State Entitlement*	\$2,199,945.00	\$1,356,319.36
State Technology	\$26,000.00	\$0.00
Fund Transfer	\$0.00	\$0.00
Tuition**	\$1,820,800.00	\$1,494,209.61
Education Stabilization Fund	\$0.00	\$0.00
TOTAL	\$4,046,745.00	\$2,850,528.97

*Based upon enrollment of 382.

**Funding 400 students for FY25.

**The Governor's School for the Arts
Operational Budget Expenses for FY25
Financial Report As of March 18, 2025**

OBJECT CODE	DESCRIPTION	FY25 BUDGET ORIGINAL APPROPRIATION	REVISED EST REV	ACTUAL YTD	ENCUMBERED TO DATE	AVAILABLE BALANCE	% EXPENDED ENCUMBERED AS OF 3/18/2025
1110	Administrative Salary	\$ 245,323.00	\$ 245,323.00	\$154,301.78	\$0.00	\$91,021.22	62.90%
1120	Teachers: Contracted	\$ 755,000.00	\$ 755,000.00	\$494,809.55	\$0.00	\$260,190.45	65.50%
1121	Teachers: Hourly Salary	\$ 880,000.00	\$ 941,462.50	\$447,300.52	\$0.00	\$494,161.98	47.50%
1150	Clerical Salary	\$ 90,196.00	\$ 90,196.00	\$50,357.82	\$0.00	\$39,838.18	55.80%
1621	Stipends	\$ 14,800.00	\$ 14,800.00	\$10,090.95	\$0.00	\$4,709.05	68.20%
2100	Social Security	\$ 152,578.00	\$ 152,578.00	\$90,291.46	\$0.00	\$62,286.54	59.20%
2210	VRS Retirement	\$ 80,145.00	\$ 82,516.56	\$49,080.99	\$0.00	\$33,435.57	59.50%
2220	VRS Retirement - Hybrid	\$ 100,361.00	\$ 97,989.44	\$54,245.90	\$0.00	\$43,743.54	55.40%
2300	Health Insurance	\$ 150,759.00	\$ 150,759.00	\$83,476.54	\$0.00	\$67,282.46	55.40%
2400	VRS Group Life	\$ 13,048.00	\$ 13,048.00	\$8,400.35	\$0.00	\$4,647.65	64.40%
2510	VLDP Disability-Hybrid	\$ 7,441.00	\$ 7,441.00	\$1,687.36	\$0.00	\$5,753.64	22.70%
2750	VRS Retiree Healthcare	\$ 11,391.00	\$ 12,191.00	\$8,613.72	\$0.00	\$3,577.28	70.70%
2800	Terminal Leave Payment	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 2,900.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,900.00	0.00%
3000	Contracts	\$ 396,013.00	\$ 491,847.30	\$181,421.49	\$123,138.98	\$187,286.83	61.90%
3117	Equip Maint Contract	\$ 700.00	\$ 800.00	\$715.01	\$0.00	\$84.99	89.39%
5110	Electricity	\$ 38,450.00	\$ 38,450.00	\$18,608.48	\$17,841.52	\$2,000.00	94.80%
5120	Natural Gas	\$ 3,334.00	\$ 3,334.00	\$1,801.81	\$836.85	\$695.34	79.10%
5130	Water	\$ 4,620.00	\$ 4,620.00	\$1,689.77	\$860.31	\$2,069.92	55.20%
5250	Postage/Courier	\$ 800.00	\$ 800.00	\$215.75	\$0.00	\$584.25	27.00%
5260	Telephone	\$ 24,100.00	\$ 24,100.00	\$16,108.87	\$7,178.70	\$812.43	96.63%
5300	Insurance	\$ 8,500.00	\$ 10,149.00	\$10,149.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	100.00%
5400	Leases/Rentals	\$ 696,720.00	\$ 695,071.00	\$558,654.82	\$36,804.49	\$99,611.69	85.70%
5501	Local Travel	\$ 28,000.00	\$ 28,000.00	\$14,617.48	\$0.00	\$13,382.52	52.20%
5550	Staff Development	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,000.00	0.00%
6000	Supplies	\$ 129,000.00	\$ 141,466.00	\$74,693.30	\$0.00	\$66,772.70	52.80%
6040	Technology	\$ 18,000.00	\$ 18,000.00	\$16,080.67	\$1,520.00	\$399.33	97.80%
8200	Equipment Additions	\$ 26,000.00	\$ 26,000.00	\$2,145.83	\$21,088.00	\$2,766.17	89.40%
		\$3,881,279.00	\$4,051,841.80	\$2,349,559.22	\$209,268.85	\$1,493,013.73	63.15%

**Personnel Report
March 26, 2025
The Governor's School for the Arts**

Resignations

Michael Mitchell
Keith Smith

Part-Time Security Guard
Technical Director

Effective March 28, 2025
Effective February 13, 2025

Retirements

None

Promotions

None

Elections

Wallis Quaintance
Salary: \$43,846.66

Student Data Specialist II

Effective March 3, 2025



Proposed International Trips 2026

Date	Department	Location	Description
April 6-13, 2026	Theatre & Film	London, England	Students will participate in workshops, take guided tours ties to the industry, and attend numerous performances. Students will also visit cultural and historic sights to include Shakespeare's Globe Theatre, National Gallery, and the Tower of London. Possible performance opportunity included.
Summer 2026	Visual Arts	Venice, Italy	Students will participate in a five-day glass intensive through the foundation of Marcantonio Brandolini D'Adda along with GSA Associate Chair Ben Wright. Students will also tour Murano, where craftspeople have been blowing glass since the 13 th century.
October 2026*	Musical Theatre	Japan	Students will perform in Miyazaki (Virginia Beach's sister city), Kitakyushu City (Norfolk's sister city), Hiroshima, Kyoto, and Osaka at large community venues, as well as designated schools. They will visit the city halls to present the mayoral messages.

* Approved by Committee of Superintendents and Regional Board 1/24/24 and updated year approved on 9/25/24.