The Regional Board of The Governor’s School for the Arts met virtually on May 26, 2021. Attending the meeting were:

**Members of the Board**
- Mrs. Victoria Proffitt, Chesapeake
- Mr. Robert Holt, Franklin
- Mr. Carlos Clanton, Norfolk
- Rev. Cardell Patillo, Portsmouth
- Dr. Judith Brooks-Buck, Suffolk
- Mrs. Kimberly Melnyk, Virginia Beach

**Superintendents**
- Dr. Jared Cotton, Chesapeake
- Dr. Sharon Byrdsong, Norfolk
- Dr. Elie Bracy, Portsmouth
- Dr. John Gordon, Suffolk
- Dr. Nicole DeVries, representing Dr. Aaron Spence, Virginia Beach

**GSA Staff**
- Dr. Andrea Warren, Executive Director
- Deborah Thorpe, Assistant Director
- Stephanie Outlaw, Office Manager
- Dr. Shelly Cihak, New Executive Director

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Carlos Clanton at 11:15 am.

**Roll Call**

Roll was taken by self-introduction.

**Approval of Minutes**

Motion was made by Rev. Patillo, seconded by Mrs. Melnyk, to approve the minutes of the March 24, 2021 regular meeting as presented. The motion passed.

**Public Comments**

None
Introduction of New Executive Director

Dr. Gordon took the opportunity to introduce Dr. Shelly Cihak to everyone at the meeting. She is the new Executive Director.

Closed Session

Pursuant to section 2.203711A (1) and (2) of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act, the Board, upon a motion and second, will convene in a closed meeting to consider Personnel Matters for the 2012-2013 school year.

WHEREAS, The Governor’s School for the Arts Regional Board has convened a closed meeting on this date pursuant to an affirmative recorded vote and in accordance with the provisions of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act; and

WHEREAS, paragraph 2.2-3712 of the Code of Virginia requires a certification by this Regional Board that such closed meeting was conducted in conformity with Virginia law;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The Governor’s School for the Arts Regional Board hereby certifies that, to the best of each member’s knowledge, only such business matters as were identified in the motion convening the closed meeting were heard, discussed or considered by the Regional Board.

Reports

Financial

a. Operational Budget Revenue Report: Dr. Warren stated GSA would be receiving more money for the state entitlement as of May 17, 2021. There is still about $274,258.72 still due.

b. Operational Budget Expenditures: Dr. Warren stated there were no outstanding expenditures at this time.

School Report: Dr. Warren showed the updated numbers by school division based on the number of students who have stated that they will be attending.

a. Return to in-person classes and performances: Dr. Warren stated that GSA started 4th quarter with classes in person. Thank you to transportation for all of their hard work. There have been master classes with alumni this year. Luckily, Vocal Music, Theatre & Film, and Musical Theatre all have gotten to do live performances in the last few weeks of school.

b. State Evaluation Outcome: Dr. Warren first thanked everyone for their participation in the state evaluation. Dr. Warren pointed out that in the last evaluation GSA had 12 does not meet standards and this time there were only four. Dr. Warren stated that she has already shared the report with Dr. Cihak. Of the did not meet standards, one was that GSA continue to refine current course guides. It was stated that GSA may need to hire a consultant to bridge that gap. Professional development was another standard not met. Dr. Warren mentioned that only a few full time employees took full advantage of the micro-credentialing that DOE made available. Having a strategic plan was another standard GSA did not meet. It was determined that there could be money made available to pay someone to help develop a strategic plan. The last area was increasing diversity, which was already being addressed. Dr. Warren stated that we need to figure out a way to focus on elementary and middle school students. The timeline to complete the recommendations is usually approximately 3-4 years.

c. Performance Venue Challenges 2021-2023: Dr. Warren brought up scheduling conflicts for performances with TCC’s Roper Theatre. GSA had started to reach out to Roper in January to get scheduling dates on the calendar. However, TCC is closing their Visual Arts Department at the Portsmouth campus. They plan to move these classes to the back of Roper along with some of the dressing rooms. This means that the Dance department will not be able to use the Roper. There are talks with the City of Norfolk regarding these issues. Dr. Warren stated the extra cost
in moving performances to other cities in transportation as well as rental costs. This is a 2 year process as TCC finds a permanent home for the Visual Arts Department.

**Foundation:** Deborah Thorpe stated that the foundation exceeded their goal for scholarships for seniors.

**Unfinished Business**

a. **Graduation 2021:** Dr. Warren stated that GSA has 92 seniors this year. After many considerations, graduation will be at the Sandler Center in Virginia Beach. Each student will be allowed 4 attendees and each group of 4 will make up their own pod. Dr. Warren also stated that this senior class had $16.8 million dollars in scholarship monies. She highlighted several students including Sanniyah Bamberg (PO) who was awarded $1.6 million and will be attending Julliard, Ta’Von Walker (CH) who was awarded $1.3 million and will be attending Colgate, Rahsaun Smith (PO) who is attending Peabody Conservatory on a full scholarship, Aaliyah Graham (CH) who has a full scholarship to NYU and Ella Borte (VB) who is our 8th student to be attending the prestigious Cooper Union for Visual Arts. Due to graduation rehearsal, there will be no classes on June 8th. Graduation is June 9th at 7 pm.

**New Business**

a) **CHKD Mental Health Support 2021-2022** – GSA Foundation has money specifically earmarked for mental health support for our students. Dr. Warren has been meeting with the CHKD Mental Health department to figure out what having a therapist in the GSA building really looks like? Some ideas are to have mental health workers come in but how often, how do students sign up and other options. Parents will have to sign a consent form at the beginning of the year to allow treatment.

b) **Social Media Policy** – Dr. Warren reminded the board of the incident with the part-time staff member and a post on Facebook. Thank you to Mr. Carlos Clanton for sharing the NPS social media policy which Dr. Warren adapted to work for GSA. Employees will have to sign this policy at the beginning of every year. Kim Melynk made a motion that we accept the social media policy. Dr. Brooks-Buck seconded the motion. Motion stands approved.

c) **FY22 Operational Budget** – Dr. Warren stated that GSA could receive an additional $44,224 from Virginia Department of Education due to the extra enrollment of students. The budget is based on 355 students but we are expecting 367. We will need to take money from the fund balance of $56,049 maintain a balanced budget. Robert Holt made a motion to approve the budget. Kim Melynk seconded the motion. Motion passed. Rev. Patillo left the meeting at approximately 11:45 am.

d) **2021-2022 Academic Calendar** – Dr. Warren presented the 21-22 school academic calendar. Carlos Clanton stated that he would like to add the observance of Juneteenth to the academic calendar as a paid leave day for full time staff. Robert Holt seconded the motion. June 20th will be added as an observance of Juneteenth. Dr. Brooks-Buck made a motion to approve the 21-22 academic calendar. Kim Melynk seconded the motion. Motion approved.

e) **Approval of Foundation Board Member(s)** – None

**Announcements/Information** – Dr. Warren took this time to recognize several more students and alumni who are doing great things. Ayana Askew (NO) has been named Youth Poet Laureate Ambassador for the City of Norfolk. Van Hughes has a new work he wrote based on Space Dogs. Patrice Covington was recognized for playing Aretha Franklin’s sister in the recent bioopic. Quintessa Swindell has a new season of her Netflix show along with a movie out called Voyagers. Adrienne Warren has been working on an ABC special called Women of the Movement.
**Items by Board Member**
The board showed appreciation to Dr. Warren for her years of service to GSA. Mr. Clanton asked that the board present a plaque to Dr. Warren at graduation. Deborah Thorpe stated she would make this happen.

**Adjournment**
Mr. Clanton adjourned the meeting at 12:14 pm.

Minutes approved: ____________________________________________
Mr. Carlos Clanton  
*Chair, GSA Regional Board*