

Board Meeting Minutes

School		Ignite Achievement Academy	
Mission & Vision		<p>VISION</p> <p><i>The Ignite Achievement Academy (IAA) vision is to enhance, engage and elevate the community through unleashing each child's inner genius.</i></p>	<p>MISSION</p> <p><i>The mission of IAA is to provide the community with an accelerated learning institution that propels scholars academically by utilizing a holistic curriculum built upon cultural and community responsiveness, project-based learning and the leading literacy, socio-emotional, and neuroscientific research; thus, providing scholars rich opportunities for enrichment, achievement, and increasing degrees of impact in every field of endeavor.</i></p>
Board Members	<p><i>3.2 A. The Board is comprised of all essential skill sets and all members are contributing</i></p>	<p>Roll Call</p> <p>Present: Kellee Weston Michael Williams Todd Finnell Angela Dabney Alicia Ramsey Ramon Morrison (virtual via Teams)</p>	<p>Absent:</p>
		<p>Total Board Members Serving on Board: 5</p>	
School Staff Present		<p>Shy-Quon Ely, Head of School Nadia Miller, Chief of Operations NaTanza Bratcher, Director of School Compliance Mark Cassoday, Assistant Principal of Instruction</p>	
Members of the Public/Guests Present			
Date		1-19-2023	

Call to Order		6:10 p.m.
HeartMath		
Meeting Items		
Voting/Actions Taken		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● December Meeting Minutes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Vote ○ Williams made motion to approve; Ramsey 2nd ○ Unanimous Approval ● December General Ledger <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Vote ○ Williams made motion to approve; Finnell 2nd ○ Unanimous Approval
Reporting	<p><i>3.1 A. Relentless focus on student academic outcomes</i></p> <p><i>3.2 B. Evidence of progress monitoring systems in place</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Head of School <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ General Updates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ TGS had a 31% increase in enrollment with 101 scholars enrolled and an attendance rate at 87%. The attendance rate declined 4% in December due to an influx of illnesses amongst the student population. ■ The Genius School participated in the Enrollment and Hiring Fair for the recently closed Him By Her School. TGS received approximately 30 students from the engagement. TGS empathizes with the families who have been impacted by the sudden closure and is working to ensure the families feel welcomed and the new scholars become acclimated to the culture here at The Genius School. ○ Marketing & Fundraising <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ As the IAA Board of Directors is attracting new members fundraising is extremely important Integral piece to help school carry out its mission and vision ○ Site Evaluation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ TGS has yet to receive feedback from our site evaluation results from Dr. Murff . The anticipated December update was not received but there has been interim communication, including request for additional information. ○ Staffing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The staff has also been impacted by illness over the last few weeks. The school creatively resolved staff shortages and has continued to make gains. TGS is still looking to recruit new teachers for primary and 5th & 6th grade. ○ Testing Windows <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The spring testing window is quickly approaching. In efforts to increase scholar proficiency, TGS has partnered with J-Scott Learning to facilitate after school tutoring. The program will provide targeted instruction on Monday and

		<p>Tuesday evenings for participating scholars.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Black History Month Celebration has been moved from February 15 to February 28 to allow more time for scholars to work on presentations. Details are forthcoming. There will be aspects of the presentation that the board is invited to attend and our partners at IDOE will also be invited.
Budget/Finance		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●
Chief of Staff		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The State Board of Accounts (SBOA) audit is coming to a close. The Genius School Business Office has satisfied the requests for information and provided clarity as needed. There are a few subsequent measures that have to take place on the end of SBOA prior to the close-out meeting being scheduled. The anticipated meeting date is January 31, 2023. ● In addition to the SBOA audit, the school is also under a Title audit. Because the State has recognized The Genius School as a new school, the school has not received any Title funding. Contrary to being a new school and not having received Title funds, the school is still required to complete the audit. The audit includes requests for profile and other limited information which has all been submitted within the time frame requested. A desktop audit for review of all documentation submitted has been scheduled for two weeks out. ● The IDOE was supposed to award all Title schools with funding as of December 1, 2022. TGS school leaders have been in contact with IDOE and found that no school that is designated as a new school has received funding to date. A date for disbursement has not been communicated. IDOE has stated that the delay was caused by internal issues and they will communicate with schools when funds will be awarded. ● The Genius School's designation as a new school followed by the lack of funding created a critical situation for TGS at the start of the 2022-2023 school year. The circumstances have been unprecedented. The school's financial sustainability thus far can be attributed to sound financial management and strategies. The IAA Board continuously commends TGS Administration under the leadership of Shy-Quon Ely for its sound financial management, business practices and operations. ● The school's funding was sourced at the start of the school year based on enrollment of 80 students due to IDOE's recommendation that as a new school, TGS should operate from a conservative angle. Enrollment has increased since the October ADM count, so there will be a reconciliation in the spring based on the February ADM count. ● Attorney Curlin has followed up with the USDOE concerning the complaint filed against TGS and there are still no updates. She anticipates that the school will receive a response within 60 to 90 days with the assumption that the USDOE is doing its due diligence. It is still unknown who filed the complaint.
Building Leader & Compliance		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Academics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ NWEA (data collected prior to winter break) ○ For Reading, 60% of scholars met their growth goal from their beginning of year (BOY) goal to their mid year goal (MOY). Thirty-eight percent of those scholars exceeded their end of year (EOY)

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ goal showing one year’s growth in just half of the academic year. ○ For Math, 66.2% of scholars met their growth goal and 35.7% met their year long goal. ○ ILEARN Projections ○ Currently projecting a 15% pass rate for Reading which is up from last year. There are 9 scholars who barely missed the proficiency projections and have been identified as SONS. If 7 of the 9 scholars pass, then the potential pass rate is 41%. ○ For Math, the projected pass rate is 10%. There are 6 scholars who were close to proficiency. If at least 5 of them hit the proficiency mark, the pass rate will increase to 28%. ○ The DOE looks for scholars who are proficient in both Math and Reading. Currently 10% of scholars are projected to pass both Math and Reading. There are 5 additional scholars with the potential to meet proficiency which would bring the overall pass rate to 28%. Mr. Cassoday is personally following up to ensure the scholars identified as SONS have been registered for tutoring. If they are not signed up, he will reach out to those families to explain the data and encourage them to sign their scholars up for tutoring. ○ Genius Groups ○ Testing has taken place for new scholars from Him By Her to see where they should be paired for Genius Groups. There has been significant academic growth overall. ○ Teacher of the Month ○ Last month Rashonda Brooks, 4th grade teacher, was nominated for Teacher of the month. Each month, the teachers will nominate another teacher for Teacher of the Month ○ For January, Ms. Brooks nominated Mr. Kelly, the Music Teacher stating that he’s supportive and jumps in where needed. She appreciates the initiative he has taken to lead The Genius School Student Council. ● Special Education & ELL <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ There are currently 11 scholars with IEPs; Three of those scholars recently transferred from Him By Her, and there was an additional scholar evaluated in December. ● Academic Goals <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Sixty percent of scholars have shown a year’s worth of growth from BOY to EOY in Reading and 66% of scholars have shown growth for Math. ○ The goal for ILEARN is for 8.9% of scholars to pass both ELA and Math. TGS is on track with the current projection at 10%. ○ There are deficiencies that have been identified in 2nd and 3rd grade which have been attributed to the impact of COVID on academic growth. The IREAD projections are concerning as these are the scholars who were in kindergarten and 1st grade at the onset of COVID and were exponentially impacted by learning loss.
<p>Committees</p>	<p><i>3.1 B. Evidence of committees with clear goals</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Executive Committee (tabled) ● Academic Committee (tabled)

Other Business		<ul style="list-style-type: none">•
Chair's Comments		<ul style="list-style-type: none">•
Public Comments		
Meeting Adjournment		7:08 p.m. Finnell made motion; Williams 2nd