

Board Meeting Minutes			
School		The Genius School	
<b>Mission &amp; Vision</b>		<p><b>VISION</b></p> <p><i>The Genius School (TGS) vision is to enhance, engage, and elevate the community through unleashing the inner genius.</i></p>	<p><b>MISSION</b></p> <p><i>The mission of TGS is to provide the community with a responsive learning institution that propels scholars academically, socio-emotionally, and culturally by utilizing a holistic curriculum that provides rich opportunities for enrichment, achievement, and increasing degrees of impact in every field of endeavor.</i></p>
<b>Board Members</b>	<p><i>3.2 A. The Board is comprised of all essential skill sets and all members are contributing</i></p>	<p><b>Roll Call</b> <b>Present:</b> Alicia Ramsey Todd Finnell Angela Dabney Ramon Morrison Delano Robinson (virtual) Autumn Smith (virtual)</p>	<p><b>Absent:</b> Terri Anderson Kellee Weston</p>
		<b>Total Board Members Serving on Board: 8</b>	
<b>School Staff Present</b>		<p>Nadia Miller, Chief of Operations April Hubbard, Business Operations Manager Shy-Quon Ely, Head of School Mark Cassoday, Assistant Principal Yalanda Graham, Director of Special Education</p>	
<b>Members of the Public/Guests</b>			

<b>Present</b>		
<b>Date</b>		10-26-2023
<b>Call to Order</b>		6:23 p.m.
<b>HeartMath</b>		
<b>Meeting Items</b>		
<b>Voting/Actions Items</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>August Meeting Minutes</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Vote tabled due to not meeting quorum</b></li> </ul> </li>   <li>● <b>August General Ledger</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Vote tabled due to not meeting quorum</b></li> </ul> </li>   <li>● Autumn and Angela will meet briefly prior to the start of the next board meeting to discuss marketing materials for Pulliam Trust.</li> <li>● Dabney will have a fundraising plan by the next meeting for approval.</li> <li>● Dabney will start a list of target invitees for the fundraising showcase.</li> <li>● The TGS team will create a name for the fundraising event.</li> </ul>
<b>Reporting</b>	<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"> <li>● <b>Head of School</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Dashboard Overview</b></li>   <li>○ <b>General Updates</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Mr. Ely thanks his team for their efforts while he was out of the building.</li> <li>■ Enrollment is currently at 136 students.</li> <li>■ Attendance rate for the month of September was at 86 percent. While other school districts have reported comparable trends, it is crucial for TGS to maintain high standards. The team is addressing the issue with a dedicated focus to meet TGS standards.</li> <li>■ The team has been heavily focused on the new authorizer application with Education One of Trine University. The Mayor's Office and the Office of Innovative Education have been notified that TGS is not seeking renewal. The application process is thorough and Education One has been responsive and hands-on during the process. The first round of the application was successful. Feedback has been received and TGS has until tomorrow September 28 to respond to the feedback. TGS sought clarity from Education One regarding some of the historical data requested. TGS emphasizes that data and information requests should reflect TGS rather than Ignite, considering the limited number of scholars who transitioned from Ignite</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>

		<p>Achievement Academy and are still enrolled at TGS. Feedback regarding governance and board engagement was also given. Ramsey will review and add requested information.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ OEI sent a draft of the CQ3 report and has allowed TGS to resolve discrepancies and respond to feedback by November 1.</li> <li>■ Gaps have been identified in academics and school culture. The team is devising a strategy to tackle these growth opportunities and reverse the situation prior to the first testing window.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Budget/Finance</b></p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Financial Report</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Checking Account Balance: \$108,027.05 increase of \$20,458.20 since September.</li> <li>○ Savings Account Balance: \$528,702.76 decrease of \$90,363.97</li> <li>○ Escrow Account Balance: \$30,105.00 decrease of \$5.00 from September.</li> <li>○ Total bank balance is \$666,834.81 decrease of \$69,910.77</li> <li>○ Reimbursements &amp; Deposits received and included in the total bank balance is \$159,562.41</li> <li>○ November tuition payment is expected to be 138,403.11 which includes true up for ADM count from 110 to 136 scholars enrolled.</li> <li>○ Normal tuition payments going forward should be \$103,200.30</li> <li>○ Still waiting on the last ERC payment.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>Chief of Operations</b></p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● There is a current need for TGS to increase revenue. The team is working on a plan to create sustainability and increase revenue through donations, fundraising, and grant funding.</li> <li>● Business Operations is shifting focus from the new authorizer application to the audit with Donovan CPAs that begins on November 5. TGS has already completed the pre-audit phase and is prepared to move forward.</li> <li>● The operations team does not foresee any discrepancies, but does anticipate questions about The Genius School. The team will provide regular updates to the board on any developments that may arise during the audit.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Committees</b></p>	<p><i>3.1 B. Evidence of committees with clear goals</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Executive</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The Executive Committee will convene briefly following the board meeting to address matters that need implementation. A plan will be provided to the entire board at the next meeting outlining how the board will support the school leader and redefine The Genius School, without remnants of Ignite Achievement Academy. The main priority of the committee is supporting the school in the completion of the new authorizer application.</li> <li>○ The committee Will be sending an email to each board member regarding financial obligations for the 2023-2024 school year.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● <b>Fundraising</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The finance committee is exploring additional ways to reach the</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

fundraising goal. The committee would like for the school to share more pictures, videos, and intimate stories (i.e. the story about the EL student who arrived not speaking English but within one year is almost fluent. This will help create visibility and let donors see what they are contributing to.

- Dabney is working on the fundraising plan outlining what needs to be executed each quarter.
- The committee is requesting thank you notes and short writing prompts from scholars about their trip to the Indiana State Museum.
- The board is willing to assist with facilitating private experiences for TGS field trips.
- Brainstormed highlighting the EL student previously mentioned and her family for the capital campaign.
- TGS has engaged a videographer to capture footage of daily activities. Waiting on budget approval from the business office.
- School Showcase Fundraiser proposed for January 27, 2024 to showcase different components of the school.
- Angela has a concern that the turnaround time to create sponsorship packages may be tight. Autumn further explained that sponsorship is not needed to host the showcase, but the school has budgeted for the event with the idea that donors will be ready to give at the start of the calendar year. The funds allotted for the event budget is \$10k. The event is ticketed and guests will have the option to make additional donations throughout the event. The Marriott East is providing the grand ballroom at no cost to the school and is also providing a free night's stay that can be raffled or given away. The committee is looking for additional vendors who are willing to provide services for free.
- Dabney will start a list of invitees. The target number is 100.
- TGS is working on a name for the fundraising event.
- The committee will continue to meet with TGS to discuss

- **Academic**

- **Academics**

- Tutoring with J-Scott begins next week on Mondays and Wednesdays from 3:45 to 5:45 with no more than 8 scholars per group. Invites were sent to all 3rd through 6th grade scholars. There are 17 scholars slated to start with a max capacity of 32. Mr. Cassoday will be reaching out to SONS (Students of Need) and other families who have not responded to the tutoring invitations. Some 2nd graders have been accepted. Kindergarteners and 1st graders will be given the option to participate if there are seats available.
- 1st Quarter Reward Field Trips
  - Sixty scholars from grades K-2 went to the Pleasant View Apple Orchard.
  - Thirty-six scholars from grades 3-6 went to the

Indiana State Museum. The scholars were given a private curated tour of the “ Influence of Lincoln” exhibit and the “Vintage Vision Cars of the 1920s” exhibit. This was a thought provoking experience for the scholars.

- Quarter 2 Rewards Trip will happen before Winter Break
- Brainware retesting is complete and all scholars should now have access to the platform. Data from the retesting will be shared during the next meeting.
- The Academic Committee met to outline a charter for the academic team. Focused on why the committee meets, what Mr. Cassoday needs from the board, and what the board needs from Mr. Cassoday. A draft will be shared next month.
- Staff Member of the Month is Mr. Patrick McMahon, the 3-6 Science/Social Studies Teacher. He was nominated by Mitchell because she loves his energy, positivity and is always trying to find different ways to connect with his scholars.
- **Student Services**
  - Special Education
    - Currently there are 17 scholars with IEPs (12.5% of the school population), which is below the national and state average. The most common disabilities are OHI (Other Health Impairment) and SLD (Specific Learning Disability). Twelve scholars are being serviced by Angela Harris, Teacher of Record for TGS. The other 5 scholars are being serviced by Kids Count for Speech and Language services. Seven scholars are being considered for special education services. It was decided not to evaluate two because they have been through the evaluation process and there have been no significant changes or a decline in progression. One scholar was determined not eligible and one has been identified as ID and will begin receiving services. There are 3 scholars who are being evaluated and have started the 50 day process.
  - **English Language Learners**
    - There are 15 total English Language Learners. Primarily most of them are Spanish-speaking and speak English fluently. One scholar has a very low level of fluency and barely speaks English. She is utilizing her computer and phone to communicate. Mrs. Graham is working with the 4th grade teacher because she has developed an effective way of working with EL scholars and getting them to learn the language. Last year she had a scholar who spoke little English when arriving at The Genius School and between her and Mrs. Graham, the scholar progressed from a Level

		2.5 to 4.1 by the end of the school year. The projection is for this particular scholar to quickly reach a Level 5 which requires 2 years of monitoring but no services. In addition to special education services, Ms. Harris is also providing pull out and push in services for EL scholars.
<b>Other Business</b>		•
<b>Chair's Comments</b>		•
<b>Public Comments</b>		
<b>Meeting Adjournment</b>		7:34 p.m.