

# GEORGIA CYBER ACADEMY

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES (DRAFT)

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**DATE:** April 19, 2017

**TIME:** 6:00pm-7:30pm

**LOCATION:** 999 Peachtree St. NE suite 1120, Atlanta, GA 30309  
Conference Call: 1 (888) 824-5783 Passcode: 55777021#  
<https://sas.illuminate.com/m.jnlp?password=M.B13C42A8FA554FCB761F0087965B36&sid=559>

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**Board Attendees:** Ryan Mahoney (Board Chair), Erica Fener-Sitkoff (Vice Board Chair), Angela Lassetter, Jemelleh Coes, Ben Brumfield, Charlie Harper

**Staff attendees:** Matt Arkin (Head of School), Veronica Clemons (Deputy Head of School), Alexa Ross (Board Attorney), Keisha Simmons (Board Liaison), Staci Kimmons (District Academic Administrator) Andre Hopewell (Finance Manager), Mark Middleton (K12 Lobbyist), Karen Ghidotti (Southern Region Vice President)

**Other Attendees:** David Edwards and Karen Parker (Ignite)

**Board Member Absences:** Christy Thomas, Jeff Gates

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### Summary of Actions:

	<b>Motion</b>	<b>Second</b>	<b>Vote</b>
Approval of Board Minutes	Angela Lassetter	Erica Fener-Sitkoff	5-yes 1- Abstain
Approve SY 17/18 School Calendar	Angela Lassetter	Erica Fener-Sitkoff	Unanimous approval
Adjourn at 7:33pm	Charlie Harper	Ben Brumfield	Unanimous approval

- 1. Board Meeting Call to order** 6:17pm

## 2. Head of School Report

- Matt Arkin, Head of School, gave updates on the following items:
  - Commission Presentation- all state charter schools that did not pass one or more areas of the Performance Frameworks evaluation will present on how their school will make improvements for the upcoming school year. Georgia Cyber Academy will be presenting on improvements in June, each school will be given 5 minutes to present and that will follow with a 15 minute question and answer time with Commissioners.
  - Graduation- Tony Lowden, Commissioner for the Georgia State Charter Commission, has agreed to be the commencement speaker for the 2017 graduating class.
  - Withdrawal Data- Matt Arkin, Head of School, review withdraw analysis with board. Mr. Arkin explained that is was a year to year analysis that compared withdrawal for this school year to withdrawals from last school year. The analysis looked at the impact of changes in administrative withdrawal process.
    - The board posed the following question based on Withdrawal Analysis:
      1. Based on GCA staff stating that engagement is a big issue, would it be better to freeze enrollment where it is currently to make sure students are a good fit for GCA model?
    - Suggestions made based on question posed:
      1. Not have mid-year enrollment
      2. Freeze enrollment at certain grade levels
      3. Board take more active role in advocating for 1<sup>st</sup> year accountability measures.
- Follow up Items:
  - Provide articles and research on effect of laying teachers off on academic performance.

## 3. Board Committee Reports:

### Academic Oversight Committee

- Overview of presentation done by Staci Kimmons, District Academic Administrator, was done by Jemelleh Coes, Committee Member. Staff completed a review of different tools used to measure student growth at multiple times of the year, MAPP and Star 360 and based on their

review it was determined that Star 360 would be a better fit for students at GCA. Staff stated that while MAP was a good tool they felt Star 360 would be a better fit for several reasons:

- Length of time it took to take assessments
- Tools used by teachers to interpret data are all found within the platform
- Larger amount of data to support effectiveness
- The board posed the following questions about the Star 360 tool:
  1. When will GCA begin to use Star 360?
  2. Does staff anticipate an increase in reliability in predicting outcomes on state assessments?
  3. If Georgia State Charter Commission recommended using MAP why aren't we going to use that tool?
- Committee was also able to report that GCA has a 94% retention rate based on teachers signing teaching agreements for next school year.

#### **4. Ignite Presentation**

- David Edwards and Karen Parker, from Ignite, presented on their approach to completing the academic audit. It was discussed that their team will have a 3-pronged approach:
  - Look at data on implementation
  - Fidelity of implementation
  - Fidelity of implementation of operational and fiscal pieces
- Focus of review will be on student outcome:
  - How affective are assessments
  - Are assessments aligned to state standards
  - Classroom observations (live and recorded sessions)
  - Agenda data
  - Class size data
  - Assessment outcome data

- Academic Audit will aim to produce short term outcome steps and long term recommendation to improving program
  - The board posed the following questions to Ignite:
    1. What types of data will you request access to?
    2. Will you create surveys to distribute to families or will you use survey data already available from the school?
- Follow up items:
  - Ignite will need access to the following items:
    1. Dropbox containing current school data and data on recent re-accreditation process completed this school year.
    2. Teachers to conduct interviews
    3. Parents to conduct interviews
    4. Academic Committee members to conduct interviews
    5. Access to live teaching session so that members of ignite team can attend

## AGENDA

Board and Staff Arrive 6:00pm

- Call to Order 6:15pm
- Review and Approve Minutes
- Head of School Report 6:20pm
- Rotating Committee Reports: Academic Oversight 6:30pm
- Overview of USATestPrep Alignment with standards
- Other Board Discussion 7:00pm
- Item for Action 7:15pm
- SY17/18 School Calendar
- Confirm next Meeting Date/Time
- Adjourn 7:30pm