

**Minutes for November 28, 2023**  
**Board of Trustee of Grand Concourse Academy**

**Board members in attendance in person:** Arlene Hall, Richard Conley, Felix Moquete, and Walder Turner  
Valerie Cesca (Zoom)

**GCA staff in attendance:** Martin McDowell  
Ira Victor (Zoom)

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The Board Chair, Arleen Hall, opened the meeting at 6:15PM and thanked everyone for coming.

**Minutes of October 29, 2023:** Reviewed; It was pointed out the date had a typo and narrative concerning Mr. Victor's job description needed clarity. With those changes the minutes were approved by Board.

### **Financials**

Mr. McDowell presented the October financials. Revenue as of October 31<sup>th</sup> was 97.1% of budgeted. However, net revenue exceeded budget by 44% for the same period. This was attributed to lower personnel and administrative costs. We discussed budget for textbooks being exceeded. Mr. McDowell indicated that practice is to buy in excess so that the school does not run short.

### **Discussion**

**GCA Support Corporation:** It was discussed that the Board of the Support Foundation voted to dissolve the entity. The Board felt it was a redundant entity, not needed in the GCA ownership structure, not serving a purpose other than possible fund raising.

**Student Performance Results:** Math and ELA testing results were reported and discussed. Math results were up significantly, while ELA showed mixed results. Ira discussed focus going forward would be to work with instructors on enhancing ELA focus.

**Appointment of New Director of Instruction:** The school will be appointing a new Director of Instruction. This position works closely with teachers to develop instructional material and teaching aids to facilitate strategies.

**Covid Retention Grant** Mr. McDowell discussed the school has retained an accountant to receive \$600,000 from this Grant source.

**School Entry Pass** The school administration is implementing a Bar Code ID system for all to get secure access to the school. The Board, who has expressed interest in seeing this happen, was supportive of this being completed.

**Facility Issues:** Expansion Update: The project is progressing near on time, two weeks behind schedule, and within budget. Expected completion is late spring.

**Executive Director's Report:**

1. Discussion of the Scanlan Law Suit, where GCA is attempting to retrieve its security deposit from the old landlord. Counsel has advised an offer has been made by Scanlan and it will be negotiated.
2. BOE Budget cuts were discussed.
3. Need to hire an event planner for the GCA's 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary event. A date for late spring will be selected.
4. Next Meeting: December 16<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

Felix Moquette moved to adjourn the meeting and seconded by Walder Turner. The meeting adjourned at 7:30PM.