



GHIC Monthly Meeting Minutes

February 26, 2026

Hickory YMCA Maple Room
701 1st St NW, Hickory, NC 28601

I. **Welcome & Roll Call**

The meeting started at 5:39pm. In attendance were Hani Nassar, Ed Tashjian, Steven Chuang, Eric Brandon, A. Avangeline, Tracey Trimble, Thomas Shao, Connor Dowdle, Victoria Morales, Chance Ly, and Anne-Sophie DaCosta. Mayor Eddie Marlowe joined us by phone.

II. **Approval** of January Annual Meeting Minutes

III. **GHIC financials** as of 2/25/26:

- a. Checking (Bank of America): \$16,231.64
- b. RWISA Business CD (First Horizon): \$21,128.55. CD (3.25%) start date 11/7/25 for 7 months
- c. City funds assigned to GHIC: \$11,700 (7/1/25 – 6/30/26)
- d. Expenses 7/1/25 through 1/15/26: \$8,818.46

IV. **Old Business**

- a. RWISA – Status and Executive Board discussion: We will not be presenting the award this year as we feel that we do not have a strong contender. Challenger High School is in the running for next year (2027) in recognition of their annual International Festival. Please plan to attend their event this year so we can better evaluate its impact: SATURDAY, APRIL 11 from 9am to 2pm at St Stephen's High School (3205 34th St Dr NE, Hickory NC 28601)
- b. GHIC Brochure: We are still awaiting the confirmation of a MUN event at NCSSM to finalize the brochure.
- c. Model United Nations Conference: We are looking for volunteers to help organize the event. The venue is most likely the Academic Commons at NCSSM Morganton. The school will try to get permission not to charge the GHIC for hosting the event.
- d. International Film Showcase 2026: If you signed up to screen projects, you should have access to the films on Film Freeway.
- e. GHIC Grants update: Since we are not giving out the RWISA this year, Hani proposed making more grants available. Eddie mentioned Nashville in the Carolinas as a possible grant recipient - auditions are on March 14 in Morganton and March 28 in Shelby.
- f. [STEM TREK](#): April 18 from 10am to 2pm. Our five youth council members volunteered to work at the event.
- g. Two events will take place on April 25 and we strongly encourage our members to attend at least one:
 - i. [HBPA's International Dance Day](#) from 9am to 3pm - 116 3rd Street NW, Hickory 28601
 - ii. Hickory Community Relations Council's Multicultural Festival from 4pm to 7pm - 246 Union Square NW, Hickory 28601.

V. **New Business**

- a. GHIC Website: Avangeline volunteered to look at the website and propose a more modern look.
- b. Options for Sister Cities: A strategy meeting for Western Piedmont Sister Cities will take place at COG on March 31 from 3pm to 5pm. Everyone is welcome to attend.

VI. **Adjourn**

There being no more topics of discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 6:51pm.

Anne-Sophie DaCosta, recorder

NEXT MEETING WILL BE ON MARCH 19, 2026 FROM 5:15pm TO 6:15pm. PLACE TBD. Please note the time change.

Greater Hickory International Council

Mission Statement

"The mission of the Greater Hickory International Council is to act as a forum for the local and global international community and to act as a liaison between that community and the local governments in order to promote goodwill, mutual understanding, cooperation, education, and respect among citizens."