

Southwest Georgia STEM Charter Board of Directors Meeting

October 21, 2021 at 5:30 P.M. - Media Center at SGSC

Meeting Minutes

**Meeting also offered through Teleconference Option due to COVID-19:
Dial-in Number 978-990-5080: Access Code: 6521665
advertised on the School Website as well.**

Call to Order - 5:31 by Chairman Tony Lee

**Recognition of All Members in Attendance - Chairman - Tony Lee, Chris Weathersby, Lisa Jones, Grant Ward, Patricia Goodman, Russell Nuti School Leader - Ginger Almon, CFO - Lori Wilson, Federal Programs Director - Kadie Phillips, School Liaison - Cindy Fincher, Guest - Elisa Falco
All members were present , none were absent.**

Approval of the September Minutes - Motion to approve the minutes was made by Chris Weathersby, 2nd by Patricia Goodman, All in favor - Yes.

Recite the current SGSC Mission Statement:

The mission of Southwest Georgia STEM Charter School is to foster in its students the passion and curiosity to become life-long learners. Students will develop the ability and motivation to think independently, communicate effectively, and excel academically. Through an innovative curriculum, saturated in the sciences, technology, engineering, our students will become managers of their education.

Public Comment - none

School Liaison (Ms. Fincher) - Brought request from 4th grade teacher Heather DiLeonardo - Would like to request from the board that 3rd - 5th grade teachers be allowed to have the teachers no longer change classrooms and allow the students to change classes. This was approved unanimously by all board members.

School Leader's Report - Information Items

20-21 Charter Contract Amendment - Information Item - This is an informational item at all meetings. Nothing additional has been received from the SCSC on amendments.

20-21 SCSC Monitoring Visit - Information Item - Monitoring visit occurred on 10/19/2021. Three members from the SCSC came to the school. They toured the school and met at the board office. The written documents which were due prior to the meeting were discussed and questions by the SCSC were asked and answered. We were told that they would be presenting their recommendations to the board at the January meeting. Reviewed the process of how to complete the charter renewal process which will be open on November 1, 2021. They stated that this process would be written along with interviews with the school leader and board members about finance, operations, and academics. We were all pleased with the monitoring visit.

Athletics Information (Mr. Crowdis) - Information Item - unable to attend the meeting, he submitted an informational sheet to review the status of the athletics department. Fundraising was able to purchase basketball uniforms. The informational sheet also stated the continued needs of the department. School Leader Almon stated that "Old South Barns" was going to donate labor to the school in the replacement of wooden bleachers on the home side of the baseball field.

Academic - Information Items

Data Presentation from Beginning of the Year Assessments (Math) - Information Item - School Leader Almon presented the assessment data for grades K-10th. It showed that most classes were on target for what we expected and that we are hoping to see growth in all areas with the programs that we have in place. She also talked about the SCSC scores that were recently released where we are in GREEN for the first time since the start of the school. This data shows our school as out performing most schools in our area. She also wanted to acknowledge the scores for SCIENCE as being well above all of the other schools and give a shout out to Ms. Cindy Fincher, the science instructor for these classes.

20-21 Comprehensive Performance Frameworks Score for Academics - Information Item - We are still at 95%. The reason for the 5% off is due to the enrollment variance. During the monitoring visit, we were told that it is being presented that this be removed which will allow the 5% to be given to all schools. Once this is approved we will be able to have this 15% added to our scores.

Finance - Action Items and Information Items

Approval of September Financial Report - Action Item - motion made to approve the September Financial Report by Patricia Goodman, and 2nd by Russell Nuti, all were in favor.

- Cash Flow - The monthly cash flow compares the revenue and expenditures for July, August, and September. It shows that we estimated the total cash flow was \$17,643.25 higher than the actual amount.

approval of the September School Food Report - Action Item - motion made to approve the September food report by Chris Weathersby, and 2nd Lisa Jones. All were in favor.

- Deficit Plan Current Status - The school nutrition fund was reviewed. The federal reimbursements are at 48.15%, which is higher than the amount originally budgeted. Total revenue is at 45.44%. The expenditures were also higher because of larger food purchases. The fund equity total is \$26,127.97.

CPF Point Calculation at this time - Information Item - We are still at 95%. The reason for the 5% off is due to the enrollment variance. During the monitoring visit, we were told that it is being presented that this be removed which will allow the 5% to be given to all schools. Once this is approved we will be able to have this 15% added to our scores.

PPP 2 Forgiveness Update - Information Item - on October 5th SBA approved the forgiveness. Next month this will be moved to assets instead of liability

Audit Update - Information Item - on October 13th the clearing house signed off.

Purchase of a Mobile Unit - Information Item - using the facilities grant for this purchase. We will be getting a packet ready to present on the mobile units available

Purchase of a School Bus - Information Item - board decided that the purchase of the bus was a good deal and needed. This will be put into the CARES budget for approval, if not the general fund will pay for the bus. Chairman Tony Lee recommended that the purchase be made, board members - Grant Ward, Patricia Goodman, Russell Nuti, Chris Weathersy, and Lisa Jones all agreed to go ahead with the purchase of the bus.

At this time, Chairman of the Board, Tony Lee, recommended that the board make an amendment to the agenda for several reasons. He also wanted to go into executive session for a personnel issue.

Motion to go into executive session to amend the agenda for: Purchase of the 2015 School Bus, Removal of New Hire in Governance section, addition of approval of Policies, and motion to enter into executive session made by Chris Weathersby, 2nd by Russell Nuti. All were in favor.

Motion to approve the purchase of the 2015 school bus from Yancy with 50,000 miles for \$75,739 made by Lisa Jones, 2nd by Patricia Goodman, all were in favor.

Motion to remove the new hire from the agenda made by Chris Weathersy, 2nd by Russell Nuti, all were in favor.

Governance - Action Items and Information Items

Strategic Planning - Information Item - Elyse Falco presented that she was almost completed with the goals and strategic plan. She thanked everyone for their input. She will meet with School Leader Almon about a few other questions and she states that she will have the information ready for approval at the November board meeting.

New Hire Approval - Action Item --***removed from the agenda***

Expansion of school grounds (update) - Information Item - David Guerra came to the finance meeting and reviewed the plans he had created. There were a few issues that were going to be worked on. Now that we have these plans, the next thing on the agenda will be to move forward with securing funding for this addition.

Discuss the school leader's performance related to LKES - Information Item - We will be reviewing #4:

Organizational Management The leader fosters the success of all students by supporting, managing, and overseeing the school's organization, operation, and use of resources.

Chairman Tony Lee stated that he and the board are more than pleased with School Leader Almon and her management of the school. All of the board members agreed.

At this time, Motion was made to move into executive session @ 6:24 p.m. was made by Chris Weathersby and a 2nd made by Russell Nuti, all in Favor.

Motion was made to adjourn from executive session @ 6:44 p.m. was made by Chris Weathersby and a 2nd made by Russell Nuti, all in Favor.

Approval of Personnel/Salary Related Items in the Executive Session - Action Item - motion made to approve the salary increase of the CFO and School Leader by Patricia Goodman, and 2nd by Russell Nuti, all were in favor.

Approval of Updated Policies - Action Item - motion made to approve the Updated Policies by Patricia Goodman, and 2nd by Russell Nuti, all were in favor.

- Senate Bill 153 prohibits SWGA stem from employing or having on the board any members of the board of a local system or an employee of a local school system. Current Policy B5 should be revised so that paragraph 17 reads:
"No Board member shall serve on the governing body of or be employed by a local school system from the geographic region which the charter school serves."
- Add "e" to paragraph II of policy S16 to say:
"The School does not transport students in vehicles that seat fewer than 14 students."
- Revise policy B3 to add a paragraph V to read:
"All meetings of the Board shall be opened to the public and shall be conducted in compliance with the Georgia Open Meetings Act, O.C.G.A. 50-18-. All meetings shall be held in person unless the Chair determines that public health, safety, environmental, or other emergency conditions exist for virtual meetings with simultaneous public access."

Motion made to adjourn the meeting was made by Chris Weathersby, 2nd by Patricia Goodman, all were in favor.

Adjourn Meeting - @ 6:53 p.m.