

Southwest Georgia STEM Charter Board of Directors Meeting

September 16, 2021 at 5:30 P.M. - Media Center at SGSC

Board Meeting Minutes

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

Call to Order @5:32 pm

Recognition of All Members in Attendance: Chairman Tony Lee, Board Members: Grant Ward, Russell Nuti, Lisa Jones, Chris Weathersby, Patricia Goodman. (all present, none absent) School Leader - Ginger Almon, CFO - Lori Wilson, Ben Crowdis - Athletic Director. Visitor - Ms.Elisa Falco

Approval of August Minutes - Motion to approve by Chris Weathersby, 2nd Russell Nuti, 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) - emailed School Leader, Ms. Almon and stated that there were no issues to be presented so she would not be present at the meeting.

School Leader's Report - Information Items

20-21 Charter Contract Amendment - Information Item - will remain on the agenda for each meeting. Has been signed and executed. Has still heard of no stimulations from the SCSC about the 10th grade.

- **20-21 CAP Response from the SCSC** - Information Item - remedied all findings and eligible for extra points due to this. We were very excited to hear this news. We do not know of the new CPF score at this time.

- **20-21 SCSC Upcoming Monitoring Visit** - Information Item - We had to upload the information that was requested and due to the CAP findings remedied allowing us to not have to send all the information, we were excited about this! All items had to be uploaded by **Sep 13, 2021** and this was submitted before the deadline date. As of right now the monitoring visit is still scheduled for 10/19/2021 and as of right now in person, but they are keeping open the right to change this to virtual.

- **Athletics Information (Mr. Crowdis)** - Information Item - The first aggie Cross Country track team will compete on Saturday 09/18/2021. This will be in Marion County. We will apply for the J.J. Watts for football in January. Many schools are doing an 8 man team and we might look into this option if we need to once we are able to get things going. He is working on the budget for football and the start up cost of this right now. This of course will be for next school year. Our membership to the GHSA (Georgia High School Association) has been accepted. We are now members. MLB Grant, we are working on insurance things and CFO Wilson stated that we were good to go with this so she and Ben will be getting together tomorrow to move forward with this application. No word from the US Soccer Foundation application. We are still in our Little Caesars Pizza Kits fundraiser. It seems to be going really well. This will end on 09/22/2021. Coach Crowdis presented the Awesome Aggie fundraiser. This would be for

businesses/families to purchase banners with names on them for a variety of price packages. This would go on the fence that closes off the sports fields. This would be a great way to advertise. The board loved the idea and can't wait to get started.

One of the needs that we need to address at this time are the bleachers that are located on the football field and the softball/baseball fields. They really need to be replaced or at least removed as they seem to be a danger to fans/students. Board members will be going to look into this and come up with a plan of what to do about this. Board member Patricia Goodman is going to reach out to GA Power as she worked with them on a previous project in the same scope. Coach Crowdis also handed out a paper with the other items that are needed and the fundraising will be helpful in purchasing of these items.

For Basketball we will be hosting at least 6 home games, are working on schedules and concessions, and how to make everything COVID Safe. The cheerleaders have already begun practice.

Coach Crowdis thanked the board for their time and left the meeting after presenting.

Academic - Information Items -

Data Presentation from Beginning of the Year Assessments - Information Item - STAR reading beginning of the year - K through grade 10 ELA review. The scores are pretty much what we expected. We have had an increase in new students.. Many of these new students were mostly virtual students last year so we are playing lots of catch up with these students. We have a new reading program for grades K-5 to shore up loose ends. We also have a WIN time for differentiated small groups in elementary. We are taking this data very seriously and are placing 2-3 certified, trained teachers in these middle/high remedial classes to address the areas where the data shows the most improvement is needed. Board Member Russell Nuti asked if parents would be getting this information and he was told YES. On Sept 23, our instructional coaches and federal programs director will be hosting an in person and virtual meeting to review the data with the parents that attend. They will be able to ask questions and see what needs they can be working on with their children

Honor Society - Information Item - Ms. McBride is working on the guidelines to this program and we hope to be offering it to the middle school along with the upper elementary very soon.

Finance - Action Items and Information Items

Approval of August Financial Report - Action Item motion of approval by Chris Weathersby, 2nd by Patricia Goodman, all in favor - yeah

O Cash Flow - The monthly cash flow compares the revenue and expenditures for July and August. It shows that we estimated the total cash flow to be \$130,865.78. However, our actual cash flow is \$299,535.56.

Approval of the August School Food Report - Action Item - motion approved by Chris Weathersby, 2nd by Patricia Goodman, all in favor - yeah

O Deficit Plan Current Status - The school nutrition fund is officially out of deficit this month. At the end of July, the school nutrition deficit was -\$4,339.61. At the end of August, the school nutrition balance is \$3,819.05. Revenues were a little higher than budgeted due to the amount of students eating breakfast and lunch. Expenditures were a little higher than expected because of a cooler purchase that was necessary to keep the milk on hand at the correct temperature.

CPF Point Calculation at this time - Information Item - at 95% still hopefully it will change with the new FTE counts in October.

Revisit the School Debit Card - Information Item -Mrs. Ginger Almon further researched and discussed the topic of the school obtaining a debit card with a finance representative from the State Charter Commission. She shared the information that the School would be sited for an adverse practice during review if it is decided to obtain and use a debit card. The members discussed the negative impact and decided to finalize the decision at the upcoming board

meeting. Ms. Wilson is going to look into other options for cards at this time.

Grounds Keeping Bid Vote to Approve - Action Item - *At this time Chairman Tony Lee exited the room as he has a family member that submitted a bid on the grounds keeping.* The bids were presented at the finance meeting and it was narrowed down to look at bids 2, 3, 4, 5 closer. The 1st and 6th have been thrown out for being so high on the bid. The Board reviewed the proposals, compared the prices and what all they stated they would do. Ms. Wilson stated that she had also contacted several of the references and each one has stated that they would have them return and that they always liked working with them anytime help was needed. After much review the decision was made to choose #2. Motion to approve bid #2 contingent to the ability to submit the needed insurance coverage and the ability to fulfill the duties as stated and if these are not met to move on to the 2nd choice of bid # 5, then #4, and on to bid #3 was made by Russell Nuti. This motion with the simulations was 2nd by Lisa Jones. All in Favor - yes.

Ms. Wilson then disclosed the names of the bidders: #2 - Advantage Lawn Care, #5 - Matthew Houston, LLC, #4 - Lee's Lawn Care, and #5 - LRL Ventures. **School Leader Almon left to ask Chairman Lee to return to the meeting.**

PPP 2 Forgiveness Update - Information Item - We have made it through review #1 and we should be going through review #2 at the bank tomorrow. It will then be handed over to the SBA to be reviewed.

Audit Update - Information Item - at this time we have submitted 100% of what has been requested and per the update on the website, 87% of this has been reviewed.

Governance - Action Items and Information Items

Strategic Planning - Information Item - Ms. Falco stated that she has sent an email to all of the board members for review. If there are questions, suggestions, or changes that need to be made to please respond to her and see that these things are taken care of as requested. Each board member is to review and respond.

New Hire Approvals - Action Item - Presented Annette Spoon for EIP Math for full time - motion to approve Ms. Spoon for EIP-Math made by Chris Weathersby, 2nd of motion made by Grant Ward, all in favor - yes. Veronica Hope - Special Education Paraprofessional and Bus Monitor for the Cuthbert/Coleman/Ft. Gaines Route. Motion to approve hiring of Ms. Hope for Special Education Paraprofessional and Bus Monitor for the Cuthbert/Coleman/Ft. Gaines Route by Chris Weathersby, 2nd by Patricia Goodman, and all in favor - yes

Expansion of school grounds (update) - Information Item - Chairman Lee stated that the land was not for sale at this time. He stated that the family was aware that the school would like to purchase. No other updates at this time.

- **Contract for Datacom** - Action Item - Money for upfront hardware needs could come from the CAREs budget. The monthly fee is significantly lower than our current IT provider. Mrs. Almon completed a reference check and was only given positive feedback on the company's service. Motion to enter into an agreement with Datacom was made by Patricia Goodman, 2nd by Lisa Jones. All in Favor - yes.

Contract for Job Pro Services - Action Item - The Board Members reviewed the contract with Job Pro Services. It is dated from 10/1/2021 to 9/30/2022. The agreement is to pay Job Pro Services, LLC for 36 weeks of service at the same rate last agreed upon. This amount includes 4 daily custodians at this rate. Any other services will be agreed upon in a separate contract. Motion to approve Job Pro made by Chris Weathersby, 2nd by Russell Nuti, all in favor - yes.

- **Discuss the school leader's performance related to LKES** - Information Item - Standard #7 is being

reviewed. Chairman Lee stated that School Leader Almon serves as an exceptional role model for ethical behavior, carrying out duties with integrity. Works well with other schools to provide great networks, participates in her peer reviews. Is working actively with her coaches. Very pleased with the overall performance of School Leader Almon.

Adjourn Meeting - Motion to adjourn meeting made by Chris Weathersby, 2nd by Russell Nuti @ 6:43 p.m.