

## Southwest Georgia STEM Charter Board of Directors Meeting

February 16, 2023 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 and advertised on the School Website as well.

**Call to Order @ 5:32 p.m.** by Tony Lee, Chairman of the Board

**Recognition of All Members in Attendance/Note Those Not Present:** Tony Lee - Board Chairman, Chris Weathersby - Vice-Chair, Patricia Goodman, Erwin Thomas, Ginger Almon - School Leader, Lori Wilson - and Kadie Phillips - Federal Programs Director. Grant Ward and Russell Nuti were not present at the meeting. Visitor in attendance is Stephen Scarborough.

**Approval of January Minutes** - Motion made to approve by Chris Weathersby , 2nd by Patricia Goodman , all in Favor - Yes

**Approval of January Agenda** - Motion made to approve by Chris Weathersby , 2nd by Patricia Goodman , all in Favor - Yes. Chairman of the board Mr. Lee stated that the agenda needed to be amended to add the passing of three items related to the CAP submission to the SCSC: Special Education Parent Guide, Special Education handbook, and the Student Code of Conduct - Action Item. Agenda also needed to be amended to address the athletics having events on Wednesday Nights - Information Item.

### Recite the current SGSC Mission Statement

*SGSC will provide distinguished and integrated instruction in an environment that cultivates respect, is inclusive of all, and lays the foundation for excellence and life-long learning.*

**Public Comment** - Stephen Scarborough wanted to address the board to express his interest in becoming a member of a committee or the board. He submitted a resume to the chairman of the board. He stated that he had been affiliated with the school that was in the same location years ago as he actually attended the school. He has volunteered his time this past year to assist in coaching middle school football at SGSC. He states that he will be helping again in the upcoming school year. He stated that he had the time and wanted to help do anything to ensure the growth of the school. Stephen has a child in kindergarten and his wife is currently employed at the school as a 1st grade teacher. Chairman Lee stated that he would be talking to him more and that they would like for him to come to one of the committee meetings to see how those run

and would proceed accordingly. The Chairman thanked him for coming and stated that he would like him to stay for the meeting to see how things ran. Mr. Scarborough stayed for the remainder of the meeting.

**School Liaison (Ms. Fincher)** - Ms. Fincher has stated that there are no issues at this time.

### **School Leader's Report - Information Items**

**Recent Successes and Celebrations** - Information Item - School Leader Almon and Special Education Director Scoggins attended a round table meeting at the SCSC in Atlanta on Wednesday of this past week. There are a lot of new schools that participated in the round table. Though SGSC still has work to do - it was refreshing to see how far we have come from our first years in true operations. We were also able to get some new furniture for free as they are remodeling. There was a leadership meeting today where the students and the teachers were both given questions about ways to improve the school and surprisingly many of the answers were the same. The GA movie academy videos have been submitted and we are hoping to surpass the places we won last year. All teachers have met with the parents of students in their classes to be off on the teacher work day scheduled for tomorrow. Pre-k registration happened this week and we have 21 spots taken.

**Amended Item - Athletics Information (Ben Crowdis)** - Information Item - sales for the detergent went very well. They will be purchasing the items that are needed for track with these funds. Coach Crwodis provided a report including the items that will still be needed.

Chairman Lee stated that many parents and students have expressed a concern about having sporting events on Wednesday nights. In our area, Wednesday nights are considered church nights and many of our children and parents are active in these activities. We know that there are regional games that may not be able to change, but we would like to write a letter to the GHSA stating that we would like for it to be noted that we would like to have these nights for the children to be able to attend church. This will be tabled until the next board meeting when we have more information to proceed.

**Upcoming Events** - Information Item - . No school tomorrow or Monday. PLC's every other week. Every Thursday the student advisory council meets. They have decided to start working with the littles calling it **little and bigs**. Last week the Bigs went and played with the littles on the playground and next week they will be making friendship bracelets.

**Enrollment Summary** - Information Item - enrollment is 483. Still at 29% of non-white students and 242 male and 241 female. Right now letters for intent and open enrollment. If we have to have a lottery, we will be having it next weekend on Saturday 02/25/2003. School Leader Almon states that she will keep the board informed. Also

reminding the board that after Open Enrollment ends, we will not be accepting any new applications for the 22-2023 school year.

## **Academic - Information Items**

**2023-2024 School Calendar approval-** Action Item - Motion made by Patricia Goodman, 2nd by Chris Weathersby, all in favor - yes.

## **Finance - Action Items and Information Items**

**Approval of Financial January Report** - Action Item - The General fund was reviewed. The school is 58.33% through the fiscal year. We compared the areas of the general fund to the fiscal year percentage to monitor spending. Revenues total at 57.79%. Expenditure total at 57.54%. The total fund equity for January is \$3,014,029.31. Board members reviewed all of the financials for the General Fund. Maintenance and operation is still elevated because of the facility grant expenditures being used out of the general fund. The fund code for the facility grant is also 100. So, this calculation includes state grant spending and will remain in this area. Fund equity has increased over \$97,134.99 for the month of January. Motion made to approve by:Erwin Thomas, 2nd by: Chris Weatherby , all in Favor - Yes.

o Cash Flow - The monthly cash flow for July through January shows that the total variance is \$208,392.96. The monthly cash flow includes drawdowns for the month of January.

**Approval of the January School Food Report** - Action Item - The school nutrition fund was reviewed. The revenues total to 151.29%. The expenditures total at 81.67%. The fund equity total is \$281,689.99. The fund equity in SFN has increased by \$22,911.69 for the month of January. Motion made by Patricia Goodman, 2nd by Chris Weathersby, all in favor - yes.

**CPF Point Calculation at this time** - Information Item -.The Comprehensive Performance Frameworks Score Prediction was reviewed. The score remains at “100,” with no drastic changes in any of the score determination areas.

**ARP ESSER III Update/Input** - Information Item- ARP ESSER III was discussed. The Board was asked if there are any purchases at this time that they would like to be paid from this grant. There are no suggestions at this time.

**Credit Card Update** - Information Item- SGSC has a new credit card. A form to check in/out the credit card has been created and will be implemented to follow the financial policy.

**Budget Amendment** - Action Item - The Board decided that amending the budget will help to bring the budget closer to the actual revenue and expenditures. Motion made to approve by: Chris Weathersby, 2nd by: Patricia Goodman, all in Favor - Yes.

**Approve a Bid for the Fence (School Safety) –** Action Item - The bids were reviewed in the finance meeting. The committee chose the top two companies to review again at the upcoming board meeting. The companies are Atlas Fence Co. and Hughes Fencing. The Board has chosen to move forward with Hughes Fencing. Motion made by Erwin Thomas, 2nd by Chris Weathersby, all in favor - yes.

### **Governance Action and Information Items -**

**Expansion of school grounds (update)** - Information Item - This is a standing item and there are no new updates at this time other than we are continuing to seek opportunities for land purchase near the school to continue to expand.

**Take-Aways from the SCSC Governance Training** - Information Item - The training was good but, wish that they would separate out the new attendees from the veterans and train them separately. The fund raising session by Michelle Neely was the best session that board member Patricia Goodman attended. All board members stated that they took away some useful information from the training.

**Amended Item - CAP submission to the SCSC** - Action Item - Approval of three separate items related to the CAP submission to the SCSC:

New Special Education Parent Guide - Motion made by Patricia Goodman, 2nd by Chris Weathersby, all in favor - yes.

Amended Special Education handbook - Motion made by Erwin Thomas, 2nd by Chris Weathersby, all in favor - yes.

Amended Student Code of Conduct. Motion made by Patricia Goodman, 2nd by Erwin Thomas, all in favor - yes.

**Discuss staffing needs for the 23-24 school year** - Information Item – Still interviewing people for possible positions - most needed positions have been filled at this time.

**Discuss the school leader's performance related to LKES** - Information Item

Standard 1: INSTRUCTIONAL LEADERSHIP The leader fosters the success of all students by facilitating the development, communication, implementation, and evaluation of a shared vision of learning that leads to school improvement.

Mrs. Almon spoke of the current way that she is promoting instructional leadership by sitting in on meetings and speaking with constituents about a regional College and Career Academy for the students. It is exciting work.

**Adjourn Meeting** - Motion made to adjourn by: Chris Weather @ 06:43 , Patricia Goodman , 2nd by: , all in Favor - Yes.