

Southwest Georgia STEM Charter Board of Directors Meeting

August 19, 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 – By Chairman Tony Lee @ 5:31

Recognition of All Members in Attendance/Note Those Not Present – Present for the meeting were board members: Chairman – Tony Lee, Board Members – Grant Ward and Russell Nuti. Board Members on call in line were Lisa Jones and Chris Weathersby - Not present was board member Patricia Goodman. Also present were School Leader Ginger Almon, Cindy Fincher - School Liaison. And Lori Wilson, - CFO was on the call in line.

Visitors Present were Ben Crowdis – Athletic Director, Velvet Scroggins 0 Lead Instructional coach, ELA/Science Coach, Kim Crowdis – Math/Social Studies Coach, Jennifer Nuti, and Elisa Falco.

Approval of July Minutes - Approved by Grant Ward, 2nd by Russell Nuti, all in favor

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) – no comments from any staff at this time

School Leader's Report - Information Items

- 20-21 Charter Contract Amendment - Information Item- added 10th grade to the charter. We have not had any guidance on stimulations for this from the charter commission. Portal will open on Monday for us to find out what is requested for the upcoming monitoring visit. Probably only get a three-year probation period due to past reviews. We are now performing well in all areas, but we have not in the past. This will be followed by the renewal visit/meeting where we will receive information about what items are needed and meetings to be scheduled.
- CLIP – This has been sent in ahead of the deadline, the first time in school history that it was submitted without request of an extension. They have already sent back for the few corrections and those have been completed and resubmitted again.
- COVID Update Measures for the 21-22 School Year - Information Item – This will be a reoccurring piece at each meeting. We do have a few new cases but they have not been from contact at school. A few teachers that have been tested, but they were all negative. September 18th, we will look at the mask optional again based on numbers. Several Schools are implementing new policies, but we are going to stick with our plans thus far. Russell Nuti asked how the masks were going at school and the school overall is doing well with wearing the mask. There has been no hard resistance with wearing the mask.
- Athletics Information (Mr. Crowdis) - Information Item – Presented by Ben Crowdis. Budget is around \$450 from basketball camp in the summer. We are adding cross country and we plan to go

to meets and compete. 5th will compete in an intramural event hosted by our school. We can apply to join the GHSA even though we do not have grade levels through the 12th grade yet. He is working on three grants at this time. He is looking at applying these funds if they are received for Football. He has also applied for a grant for Baseball/Softball. He also applied for a Soccer grant. Fundraiser is the next and he would like to start with a few. Fundraiser number one is a Little Cesar's Pizza Kit. Laundry Detergent Fundraiser is the next one on the agenda. School Spirit Clothing is another fundraiser. He would also like to work on a booster club. Athletic Facility needs immediately needing addressing are outside of the fields and the trees are growing on the fence with he would like an 8-foot clearance from the fence area. The bleachers on the visitor's side need to be removed, it does not look like these can be repaired. The home team needs to be replaced/repared. Grant Ward asked if this was something that our families could help clean or would this require outside clearance. Ben stated that this would be from the outside. Tony Lee stated that he may have a source that would donate his time and equipment to get the land cleared. Tony Lee asked about the fundraisers getting started. Ben stated that the laundry and the pizza, there is no upfront cost. The board is fine with the moving ahead of the fundraisers. On the GSHA – we would be joining their membership and someone would come down and meet with Ben and at least one board member. There is a formal agreement with the GSHA. At first we will look at joining Baseball, Softball, Track and Field, and Cross Country and the fee is \$355.00 per year - but may be waived due to COVID. We would be a 1A School. The board is in agreement to move forward and join GHSA.

Academic - Information Items

- Upcoming Assessments - Information Item – We will be starting the beginning of the year benchmark assessments next week. STAR Reading, STAR Math, USA Test Prep Social Studies, and USA Test Prep Science. These benchmarks are scheduled for the first, middle and end of the year. End of the year will be done in March to go ahead and have these before the milestone testing. The scores just became available and we will address this in detail next meeting. I have pulled scores and compared our school scores with those around us. In our 3rd grade we out performed all schools around us in all areas. For all other grades, we were in the above or comparable. We are not where we need to be, but we are on the right path.
- Collaborative Planning (Mrs. Scoggins and Mrs. Crowdis) - Information Item – Velvet is the lead instructional coach focusing on ELA/Social Studies. Kim Crowdis is the math/Science instructional coach. They presented their vision, mission, and goals for the collaborative planning team. The coaches are a very good support for the teachers
- School Counseling (Ms. McBride) - Information Item – hugely working with the navigation of the high school. Working with career paths and supporting all students' social emotional needs are also big parts of her role.
- School Improvement Support - Information Item – We are on the needs improvement list for CSI. Dr. Pierce and Bari Gleslin were here today to see the coaches. We will be meeting with all to work with the DOE and the Charter side combining.

Finance - Action Items and Information Items

- Approval of July Financial Report - Action Item Motion made to approve by Russell Nuti, Grant Ward 2nd, all in favor.
- Cash Flow – numbers are off this month due to the purchases of the new school bus and purchasing off all of the school supplies
- Approval of the July School Food Report - Action Item – Motion made by Grant Ward, 2nd by Russell Nuti, all in favor.

- Deficit Plan Current Status – All deficit may be gone within next few months
- CPF Point Calculation at this time - Information Item - We are still at a school of 95. No changes. Enrollment variance is the lacking of the last 5% and it is not re-evaluated until October FTE count.
- Approval of School Debit Card - Action Item – balancing checkbook and auditing the debit card transactions. – Ginger has one other person checking into this to make sure that there are no issues. We will be emailing the Charter Commission to make sure that is approved. Voting to approve the school debit card, only if approved by the SCSC. Motion to approve by Russell Nuti , Grant Ward 2nd, all were in favor.
- Grounds Keeping Bid - Action Item – We have a proposal for the grounds keeping agreement for the Sept 3rd 2021. Russell Nuti stated that the clarification as needed would need to be clearly defined in the actual agreement with the company. Add that liability insurance is required. Board agrees that this is acceptable and to move forward with this statement to put out for bid. Motion to approve by Russell Nuti, Grant Ward 2nd, all were in favor.
- PPP 2 Forgiveness Update - Information Item – sent in July 25th. Application is still in process of review with the Bank. This is not being submitted to the SBA yet.
- Audit Update - Information Item – Mauldin and Jenkins. We have submitted 75% of requested information. Once physical year closes out we should be able to move this towards the completion of the audit. Mrs. Jan stated that they have also already approved over 50% of the audit.

Governance - Action Items and Information Items

- Strategic Planning - Information Item – Ms. Falco called in and she will have a draft done on Monday for review and feedback. There will be specific instructions for feedback.
- Letter of Engagement with Lawson, Reid, and Dean - Action Item – This is to continue to work with Hayden Hooks for the letter of engagement for her services for the school year. Motion to accept Hayden hooks as school attorney, Motion to approve by Russell Nuti, Grant Ward – 2nd, all in favor.
- Expansion of school grounds (update) - Information Item – no updates on this at this time. Call will be made this week to find out when the information is being sent to the civil engineer.
- Discuss the school leader's performance related to LKES - Information Item – Foster and Climate and we are all good and very pleased with the school leader's performance at this time.

Adjourn Meeting –

Adjourn meeting @ 6:47 pm. Motion to adjourn by Chris Weathersby, 2nd by Lisa Jones, all were in favor.