



“To provide every child a classical and academically rigorous education while instilling a commitment to civic virtue and moral character”

***Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors
Savannah Classical Academy, Inc.
April 27, 2017***

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of Savannah Classical Academy, Inc. was held at 5:30 p.m., Thursday, April 27, 2017, at Savannah Classical Academy, 705 East Anderson Street, on notice duly given.

The board directors present were:

Ormonde Lewis
Falen Cox
Dr. Jacobium Holliman
Dr. Gwen Miller-Smith
Martha Nesbit
Dr. Donna Isaac
Benjamin Couch Payne, School Director

Absent, with notice:

Terri O'Neil
Andy Blair

It was determined there was a quorum for the transaction of business.

Ormonde Lewis, chair, called the meeting to order at 5:36 p.m.

Martha Nesbit moved to accept the consent agenda and minutes from the April 13th Regular Meeting as amended, Dr. Jacobium Holliman seconded; all board members present agreed. Amendment was made to edit “test scores” to “testing conditions” within the Academic Accountability Committee report from the April 13th minutes.

Ormonde Lewis confirmed the resignations of Barbara Cortese and John Picker from the SCA Board of Directors had been accepted and their open positions were discussed. Ormonde Lewis had previous conversations with Mr. McGhie about joining the board. Mr. Lewis offered that Mr. McGhie confirmed he would accept a nomination to join the Board. Dr. Jacobium Holliman suggested that we act on his approval of the position. Dr. Holliman moved to accept Mr. McGhie’s nomination to the Board of Directors, Dr. Gwen-Miller Smith seconded; all board members present agreed. Ormonde Lewis added that with Mr. McGhie’s acceptance of the nomination he will serve on the board as the Treasurer. Falen Cox referenced the by-laws and confirmed that a formal vote is needed to approve Mr. McGhie’s service as Treasurer. Ms. Cox moved to nominate Mr. McGhie to serve in the capacity as Treasurer for the Board of Directors of SCA, Dr. Jacobium Holliman seconded; all board members present agreed.

Falen Cox spoke on behalf of Terri O'Neil confirming that she still has candidates interested in joining the Board; however, due to scheduling conflicts they have not been able to come and meet the Board. Dr. Jacobium Holliman proposed a candidate as well to fill the vacancies. Dr. Holliman submitted the candidate's resume, confirmed his interest, and will check that there would be no conflicts of interest for the candidate if nominated to join. Ormonde Lewis asked to try to get these candidates in for a meeting so the Board could meet them. Mr. Payne offered Ms. Pam Jones as a candidate to join. Ormonde Lewis said that he will ask her if she would be ready to accept a nomination and join the Board early.

The 2017-2018 budget was on the agenda to be discussed; however, Ormonde Lewis stated that the budget has not yet been provided to the Board for approval and is needed from Mr. Payne. Martha Nesbit requested that the budget be presented to the Board by the end of May. Ormonde Lewis asked Mr. Payne to submit the budget for review prior to the next board meeting so it may be approved by the Board by the end of May.

*****All reports discussed in the minutes are kept on file and are available for review.*****

Estela Anderson requested time to discuss the current 2016-2017 budget's status. Estela Anderson provided copies of the 2016-2017 Budget as well as the Accounts Balance as of April 27, 2017 to those present for review. A copy of both documents are on file. The 2016-2017 document reflected an initial approval of the budget on 6/9/16 with three separate allotment changes since the initial approval. The main points of discussion were items affecting the budget, contributing to a deficit. These included anticipated District Funding that was not received, reduction in Title 1, and the need for increased funding for Special Education beyond what was anticipated. Mr. Payne emphasized the need for increased fund raising efforts to help meet financial needs. Falen Cox agreed, but proposed a two-pronged approach is needed: increased fund raising efforts and tighter controls on spending.

Going into 2017-2018, Ormonde Lewis stated that the Board may be more cautious of approving a budget if it is not realistic for it to be managed and meet. The 2017-2018 budget was again requested to be presented to the Board by the next meeting for review so it may be voted on by the following meeting. Martha Nesbit requested Mr. Payne to include a list of all staff members, their positions and roles.

At 6:33 p.m. Falen Cox moved to go into closed session pursuant to O.C.G.A. 50-14-3 (b) (2) to discuss a personnel matter. Dr. Jacobium Holliman seconded; all board members present agreed. At 7:32 p.m. Falen Cox moved to return to open session, Dr. Gwen Miller-Smith seconded; all board members present agreed.

The matter discussed during the closed session was voted on upon returning to open session. Falen Cox moved to extend the contract for employment of the Director of SCA to Benjamin Couch Payne for the 2017-2018 school year. Martha Nesbit moved to approve, Dr. Jacobium Holliman seconded; all board members present agreed.

Martha Nesbit asked if the Board could do anything for the teachers and staff during teacher appreciation week coming up. Martha Nesbit offered to get in contact with the PTSA to see what they will be doing. The Board agreed to figure out something they can do for the teachers via e-mail.

Ormonde Lewis read an e-mail from the latest meeting with the State DOE. Fund raising from Mr. Marv Leroy of the Center for Philanthropic excellence was also discussed and to whether the Board wants him to continue to help with solicitation.

Ormonde Lewis offered he was hopeful that by the next board meeting they will be able to assign a new Development Head from potential new board member candidates.

A motion to adjourn was made at 7:44 p.m. by Dr. Jacobium Holliman, Martha Nesbit seconded; all board members present agreed. A regular meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 18, 2017 at 5:30 p.m. at Savannah Classical Academy, 704 East Anderson Street.

Respectfully submitted,

(signed copy on file)

Christina Orlandi under supervision of Falen O. Cox, Vice-Chair