



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

***Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors  
Savannah Classical Academy, Inc.  
March 22, 2018***

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of Savannah Classical Academy, Inc. was held at 5:30 p.m., Thursday, March 22, 2018, at Savannah Classical Academy, 705 East Anderson Street, on notice duly given.

The board directors present were:

Falen Cox  
Scott McGhie  
Ryan Dew  
Roger Moss  
Coren Ross  
Paul Sidney  
Benjamin Couch Payne, School Director

Absent with notice:  
Terri O’Neil

It was determined there was a quorum as required by the bylaws for transaction of business.

Ms. Cox, chair, called the meeting to order at 5:39 p.m.

Ms. Cox motioned to amend the Minutes from the March 16, 2018 Special Meeting, revising Mr. McGhie's motion coming out of closed session to be: “Mr. McGhie moved to approve the decision reached by the Disciplinary Advisory Committee regarding the matter discussed in closed session.” Mr. Dew moved to accept the consent agenda and the Minutes as amended, Mr. McGhie seconded; all board members present agreed.

A parent, Ms. Sommer, was a guest attendant at the meeting. Mr. Payne introduced her to the Board.

Mr. Payne distributed and presented the Director's report. Highlights included:

- ⑩ Current enrollment stands at 418.
- ⑩ Review of Q3 disciplinary data. Ms. Cox asked for dismissal data going back through 2015, broken down by semester, to compare with current numbers. She noted that it would be beneficial to gather District data for comparison. Mr. Payne confirmed that Mr. Lollis may be able to provide District numbers.
- ⑩ Contractor concerns with SACG and Source4Teachers.
- ⑩ Mr. Payne is looking to coordinate a parent and volunteer day over the summer to help with paint and repairs around the building.

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

- ⑩ A strong K-5 Art teacher has been identified for next year to fill the vacancy.
- ⑩ TKES observations are being finalized. All data is due into the system by April 15<sup>th</sup>.
- ⑩ GMAS online practice tests will take place on April 5<sup>th</sup> with the GMAS Assessments running from April 11<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Payne is looking into healthy, hot, breakfast arrangements for all students during these days. Mrs. Ross requested for the number of student breakfasts needed and hours for service to be sent to her.
- ⑩ Mr. Payne will be meeting with Savannah Tech soon to discuss Duel Enrollment plans for the Fall and Spring next year.

Mr. Payne reviewed the need for a Voluntary Accidental Insurance Policy for students. Further assessment on the proposal was needed. Ms. Cox stated that the Board will take up this decision at the next meeting.

Mr. Payne presented several bid proposals for HVAC maintenance. Ms. Cox requested all information be sent to the Board so a decision regarding the service contract can be made at the next meeting.

Ms. Cox provided an update on current matters involving the school's charter. She explained the current Charter Amendment permitted enrollment to increase up to 15% annually. An Enrollment Increase proposal was requested and submitted on March 5, 2018. The GaDOE responded by letter, stating that the only new student enrollment permitted would be of siblings of current students and children of faculty. In order to increase enrollment, SCA would be required to resubmit a Corrective Action Plan along with Academic data to demonstrate progress. Ms. Cox confirmed she responded to the GaDOE letter immediately regarding the Board's understanding and outlining financial impacts. The Board further discussed the decision and its potential impacts.

Mr. Sidney distributed the Academic Accountability report from the February 26, 2018 meeting. Mr. Sidney outlined the Action Items of primary focus from now through April 11<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Lollis presented the projected GMAS performance from the current MAP Assessment to the Board. A discussion of the data ensued. Mr. Lollis expressed confidence that this year's scores would increase versus the prior year's results. Mrs. Ross inquired how the Board could help. Mr. Lollis offered that any support the Board could show for the Teachers would go a long way. Ms. Cox tasked each Board member to come up with one or two ideas for the staff to be presented at the next meeting. Mr. Lollis stated that the Title I School Improvement plan has been approved and purchase orders have been submitted to utilize all of our funding.

Mrs. Ross presented a report on behalf of the Development Committee, stating that work continues on the Bank of America grant. Mrs. Ross highlighted the Heart of SCA Campaign, which generated \$813.44. She proposed putting these funds towards Faculty Relations or providing for the GMAS Breakfast. Ms. Cox asked for a motion as to how to use these funds. Mrs. Ross moved for the funds collected during the Heart of SCA Campaign to be directed towards Faculty Appreciation week. Mr. Moss seconded; all Board members present agreed.

Mr. Payne updated the Board as to progress with the Corrective Action Plan, stating that updates are complete, deadlines met, and progress has been made. Ms. Cox confirmed that TKES and LKES is up to date. Ms. Cox asked for an update on the Gifted Cohorts. Mr. Payne stated that progress is about 75% complete; however, 100% of currently eligible teachers are Gifted Certified. Ms. Cox inquired as to risks to achieving the goal. Mr. Payne acknowledged that if certain paperwork or documentation (sign in/out sheets for example) were requested, there could be a delay in getting these items together. Mr. Payne noted CCRPI estimates will be available early May.

Mr. Payne spoke to the Barney Charter School Initiative stating that he is keeping them informed. He confirmed that they are supportive and both the Barney Charter Initiative and Hillsdale have a vested interest in

our success. Mrs. Ross inquired about involving the Development Committee. Mr. Payne confirmed that they could reach out. Ms. Cox requested the Development Committee work with Mr. Payne to prepare a dialogue of the current situation to review at the next Committee meeting.

Mr. Moss spoke on behalf of the Community Relations Committee stating that they have met twice since the last Regular Board Meeting. Mr. Moss proposed sending out a letter to the editor template that parents could use. He confirmed that the template will be sent out after Spring Break. He noted the importance of parent feedback and input.

Mr. McGhie reported on behalf of the Finance Committee Meeting noting that two public and posted Budget meetings were held. Mr. McGhie noted progress from those meetings; however, due to new developments, the budget will need to be reviewed and revised. He identified the timing of this as a major concern, as well as the impact on funding from enrollment reductions. Mr. McGhie stated that he will send out updates as necessary. Ms. Cox offered to reach out to others to gain additional strategies and an alternate perspective. She asked Mr. Payne, Mr. Lollis, and Mrs. Ross to assist in the communications.

Mr. Dew spoke on behalf of the Governance Committee, reporting they met and discussed how the Board could be more efficient with posting necessary items. He reviewed training requirements for Board members. Mr. Dew stated that the Board did not have the mandatory financial training needed due to timing. Mr. Dew noted a training on June 7<sup>th</sup> and asked Board members to register.

Ms. Cox referenced the Policy and Procedures chair vacancy and asked the Board to forward any interested parties to her.

Ms. Cox moved to adjust the agenda, moving the Closed Session items to the end of the meeting to allow time for Public Comment. Mr. Dew seconded; all Board members present agreed.

There was nothing to report under Unfinished Business.

Ms. Cox noted the resignation of Mr. Don Waters under New Business stating that she will bring the letter he wrote to the next Board meeting. She reported that his intentions are to stay involved and attend meetings as time allows.

Ms. Cox announced that student transportation funding will not be provided for the 2019-2020 school year. Ms. Cox noted that it would cost about \$834 per child, based on enrollment levels. She stated that a letter has been submitted and she is waiting for a response. Once received, further discussions will need to take place to prepare for what will be needed to move forward.

Ms. Sommer reintroduced herself and spoke under Public Comment. She expressed her love for Savannah Classical; however, is concerned about the focus on testing. Ms. Sommer stated she liked the way her child was learning when she first began attending SCA. She is concerned with the material and methods with which the students are now instructed. She asked the Board about the direction the school is going. She added she was concerned the school would continue down a similar path if current testing goals are met. Ms. Cox responded that the school's existence is dependent on the achievement of certain test scores. She believes once the State's requirements are met there will be more freedom to reintroduce that richness of learning in certain forms from the school's earlier years. Mr. Lollis added that this year is likely the toughest, but he assured that he and Mr. Payne have daily meetings and discussions regarding what does and what will continue to set SCA apart and what defines a classical education. Ms. Cox agreed and confirmed that the Board understands and appreciates Ms. Sommer's concerns. Ms. Sommer stated that she has tried to attend Savannah Chatham Board of Education Meetings on occasion, requesting to get on the docket through email, and has never received a

response. She wanted to voice her love of SCA to the BoE and concerns about the testing focus. Ms. Cox and the Board thanked Ms. Sommer for her commitment, comments, and attendance.

Mr. Dew moved to go into closed session pursuant to O.C.G.A. 50-14-3 (b) (2) at 7:38 p.m. to discuss Disciplinary Action Committee and Personnel matters. Mr. Moss seconded; all board members present agreed.

Mrs. Ross moved to leave closed session and resume open session at 7:58 p.m.; Mr. Moss seconded. Approved unanimously.

Ms. Cox moved to amend the minutes of the Special Board Meeting held March 16, 2018 by striking the word “uphold” and replacing it with the word “reverse”. Those directors in attendance at the March 16, 2018 Special Board Meeting voted on the motion: Ms. Cox, Mr. Dew, and Mr. Moss voted in the affirmative; Mr. McGhie voted in the negative. The motion was approved by majority vote.

Mr. Moss moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:08 p.m.; Mr. McGhie seconded. Approved unanimously.

Mr. Moss moved to reconvene the meeting at 8:11 p.m.; Mrs. Ross seconded. Approved unanimously.

Mr. Moss moved to enter closed session pursuant to O.C.G.A. 50-14-3 (b) (2) at 8:13 p.m. to discuss a personnel matter; Mr. McGhie seconded. Approved unanimously.

Mrs. Ross moved to leave closed session and resume open session at 8:49 p.m.; Mr. Moss seconded. Approved unanimously.

Mr. Moss moved to approve the personnel recommendation made in closed session; Mr. McGhie seconded. Approved unanimously.

A motion to adjourn was made at 8:52 p.m. by Mr. Dew, Mr. Moss seconded; all board members present agreed. A regular meeting is scheduled for April 12, 2018 at 5:30 p.m. at Savannah Classical Academy, 704 East Anderson Street.

Respectfully submitted,

(signed copy on file)

Christina Orlandi under supervision of Ryan Dew, Secretary