



“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.  
February 23, 2017*

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of Savannah Classical Academy, Inc. was held at 5:30 p.m., Thursday, February 23, 2017, at Savannah Classical Academy, 705 East Anderson Street, on notice duly given.

The board directors present were:

Ormonde Lewis  
Falen Cox  
John Picker  
Barbara Cortese  
Dr. Jacobium Holliman  
Dr. Gwen Miller-Smith  
Terri O’Neil, via telephone  
Martha Nesbit  
Dr. Donna Isaac  
Andy Blair

Absent, without notice:

Benjamin Couch Payne, School Director

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

Ormonde Lewis, chair, called the meeting to order at 5:38 p.m.

Dr. Donna Isaacs moved to change the date printed on the agenda from February 9<sup>th</sup> to February 23<sup>rd</sup>, Falen Cox seconded; all board members agreed. Martha Nesbit moved to accept the consent agenda with correction, Dr. Gwen Miller-Smith seconded; all board members present agreed

John Picker reported on behalf of the Finance Committee, and distributed the profit and loss statement as well as the balance sheet as of February 22, 2017. Discussion included Title 1 money and how it is spent and reported. Title 1 money is included in the budget, but is only reported as income once the money is spent; and you only get Title 1 money budgeted if you spend it. John Picker reported currently SCA is only spending about half of the Title 1 money budgeted. Further clarification from Mr. Payne is needed on what the Title 1 budget is currently being spent and on what expenses can be used under Title 1. It was decided to not show Title 1 money as income, but will report in the months that the money is spent.

Concerns over the contract renewal for the Strings program was discussed. Dr. Siric's current contract expires on February 28<sup>th</sup>. Andy asked for follow up from Mr. Payne as to if contract is renewing and if a new contract will be presented to continue the Strings program and relationship with Dr. Siric. Questions were asked regarding funding for additional security and athletics at SCA. Further clarification from Mr. Payne is necessary to determine if money not budgeted is being spent on these items.

At 5:51 p.m. John Picker moved to go into closed session pursuant to O.C.G.A. 50-14-3 (b) (2) for the purpose of discussing a personnel matter. Dr. Isaac seconded; all board members present agreed. At 6:19PM John Picker moved to return to open session, Dr. Gwen Miller-Smith seconded; all board members present agreed.

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

It was proposed not to review the Strategic Plan at this session because access to a projector was not available at meeting location. Martha Nesbit affirmed that the board is still actively reviewing plan strategies as Character Renewal is discussed. Ormonde Lewis suggested forming a Human Resources Committee, and will provide more information at the next meeting.

Falen Cox, reported on behalf of Charter Renewal Committee regarding the Charter School Monitoring Call. Ormonde Lewis asked about next steps. Falen Cox offered possible next step as review the annual report. Questions may also be posed for the Board to answer in order to decide on renewal. The State board of education may provide suggestions to issues that need attending to or to areas that need improvements as a possible follow up to the monitoring call. It was determined clarification from Mr. Payne is needed on ESL program at SCA.

Dr. Jacobium Holliman reported on behalf of Charter Renewal Committee regarding SRI and MAP testing. Questions were posed as to origin of data provided; unclear if it is current year or from last year. Additional questions were raised as to if the data represents mean, median or average scores. Although growth is unclear from provided data, Dr. Jacobium Holliman noted that the outcome from the scores looks promising. The only grade level to see a drop is from the fourth grade. He mentioned expected growth would be small, but the small growth seen is positive. A gain of growth was seen in the scores given the Administration and Faculty changes from year to year. Dr. Jacobium Holliman requested for further clarification and explanation on what the provided data represents and is portraying. Falen Cox confirmed she would also continue to pull comparative data and put together a comparison to share.

There was also discussion about a plan for failing schools. Martha Nesbit asked the Board if they should communicate further with members of the state board's Charter School and District Flexibility department to ask for support in looking for ways to make the High School more appealing in the Renewal Plan. One such discussion point was interest in looking to connect with other schools (for example: Savannah Technical College) that could provide opportunities for college credit courses. This offering would be available starting in the ninth grade and would need a minimum of twelve participating students to be enrolled in such a program. Mr. Thomas offered that this proposal was brought up at a recent Deans meeting and confirmed there would be at least twelve students who would be good candidates to be enrolled in this type of program.

Dr. Jacobium Holliman reported on behalf of Charter Renewal Committee regarding the Faculty Meeting. A faculty meeting was held this past Tuesday with the aim to hear and receive input from the faculty and staff at SCA. Comments, suggestions, and feedback will be shared at the next Renewal Committee meeting. The responses provided were positive and Dr. Jacobium Holliman believed them to be very helpful, and assured that he will aim to put any needed replies and answers together for comments back to the faculty and staff.

Falen Cox and Terri O'Neil provided an update on behalf of the Foundation Board. The Foundation Board is scheduled to meet in March. Terri O'Neil noted a need to meet with Misters Don Waters and Reed Dulaney regarding the build outs needed on the third floor. Falen Cox stated she met with Don and Reed and a question was raised as to if it would be a possibility SCA would be reverted back to a K-8 school at any time. Terri O'Neil spoke regarding the K-8 versus K-12 conversation. Questions were posed about effects of the K-12 goal, and the need to incorporate objectives covered on standardized testing. Terri O'Neil confirmed that Don and Reed are on board for continuation towards a K-12 SCA and will stand by this goal. Terri O'Neil also confirmed that the Governor has accepted an informal invitation to visit SCA, potentially at a third floor reveal or ribbon cutting ceremony. Dates will need to be vetted for such a ceremony so an official invitation can be given to the Governor.

Fund raising was discussed and it was confirmed that members of the SCA Foundation board would be invited to the SCA board meeting on March 23<sup>rd</sup> where fundraising campaigns will be discussed. Barbara Cortese and Falen Cox meet with Pat Gunn (a seasoned grant writer) and spoke with her regarding the needs of the SCA board in relation to grant writing and the administrative tasks that a fundraising campaign would require. Ms. Gunn might also be helpful in engaging the community surrounding SCA. Falen Cox agreed that she would invite Pat Gunn to the March meeting for the Board to meet her. Terri O'Neil also offered to explore ways that other volunteers might aid in these efforts.

Falen Cox proposed a relationship with a PR firm to help generate community support and to help generate a media buzz. Barbara Cortese asked if we could get a firm involved in time to put something together for the next meeting. Falen Cox confirmed it would be possible, but first we would need to determine specific objectives that it would be asked to meet. Terri O'Neil stated that the PR firm would be to put the media proposal together for review and approval. Andy Blair, Falen Cox, Terri O'Neil, and Barbara Cortese agreed to work on creating and submitting a list of objectives to the PR firm.

Barbara Cortese and Andy Blair gave an update on behalf of the Community Relations Committee. Talking points for SCCPSS board meetings were prepared and distributed by Barbara Cortese. Busing issues were discussed. Problems, logistically and financially, lie mainly with busing the elementary students. Andy Blair confirmed he would get any needed signs prepared for the meeting, and proposed that someone should be prepped for a potential media interview. It was suggested that the approach for any potential media coverage should be "Thank you for your support, etc." It was also mentioned that a lot still needs to be done regarding

community understanding at meetings. It has been brought to our attention that many neighbors and community members are under the impression that SCA is a private school. Andy Blair confirmed he and others will work on community understanding of SCA at meetings. Next session is on March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017.

Under new business Annual Spartan Fund packets were circulated. Terri O'Neil volunteered to sit with each Board member to go over the packet. The importance of feeding back information to Barbara Cortese and Terri O'Neil on who we are asking for contributions and how much they are giving was noted. It was also noted that it would be important that all Board members join financially in giving a contribution.

Board vacancies was also discussed under new business. Ormonde Lewis asked Terri O'Neil to have potential candidates submit their resumes to the Board for further discussion.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:46 p.m. A regular meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 9, 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