



“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.
January 11, 2018

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of Savannah Classical Academy, Inc. was held at 5:30 p.m., Thursday, January 11, 2018, at Savannah Classical Academy, 705 East Anderson Street, on notice duly given.

The board directors present were:

Falen Cox
Scott McGhie
Paul Sidney
Roger Moss
Dr. Gwen Miller-Smith
Terri O’Neil
Benjamin Couch Payne, School Director

Absent with notice:

Ryan Dew
Coren Ross
Don Waters

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 5:36 pm.

Ms. Cox motioned to amend the Agenda, noting Unfinished Business and New Business items should be included in Open Session forum, following Closed Session. Mr. Moss moved to accept the amended Agenda and Minutes, Mr. McGhie seconded; all board members present agreed.

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

- The GADoE's approval of the amendment granting SCA a 1 year extension to our current charter.
- The 1 year extension allows enrollment to expand by an increment of no more than 15% annually. Further clarification on what this number means for 2018-2019 enrollment is needed, as this number would vary pending the 15% increase taken from capacity, current, beginning of the year, or end of the year enrollment numbers. Mr. Payne proposed enrolling 440 to fill K-8 and up to 113 in 9th -11th for a total of 553 (based on current or end of the year enrollment numbers) with the likelihood of losing about 50-60 students transferring over the summer.
- Charter renewal process to begin at a much better place. The notarized letter of intent to renew is needed. Ms. Cox acknowledged the deadline being the end of the month and that this should be submitted to the Board by next week.
- CCPRI scores will be key.
- Currently have 149 applications with a soft opening to the Lottery as the Expo was delayed due to weather.
- Open House for Potential Students is the 25th of January.

Ms. Cox asked Mr. Payne what we are doing to improve the Star Climate Rating. Mr. Payne noted that the survey has not been administered as of yet and that the timing would be crucial. The deadline for the surveys are February 16th. Mr. Lollis agreed that an incentive offering may be possible. Mrs. O'Neil asked if the Board could review the survey questions. Ms. Cox stated that she and Mr. Payne will work on incentive possibilities.

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

Mrs. O'Neil asked about scheduling school tours. Mr. Payne confirmed that Mrs. Diaz has scheduled weekly tour dates available and to contact her for those times.

Ms. Cox noted that Ms. Falco is an available DoE resource who wants to help us succeed and will be in town on February 12th. She would like to meet with the Board and is interested in learning more about our Committee meetings. Ms. Cox said that she will ask if she would like to attend a Governance Committee meeting while she is in town.

Mr. Lollis distributed the Academic Report for review. Highlights include: new schedule double dosing in Math and ELA for Middle School and the addition of new Electives; the Title 1 Comprehensive Needs Assessment Report needs one more round of editing, but was passed out for review; Savannah Tech will be coming in to test students; i-Ready resources for Math and ELA are being used and additional resources are on their way; Teachers prepared two full weeks of emergency sub plans to have on hand; several drafts of Graduation Requirements have been proposed – these need to meet State requirements, but we can expand outside of the core academic requirements to include Humanities, Arts, and Language; Gifted Cohort is in place with a goal for 75% of Faculty receiving Gifted Certifications; Professional Development Communities have also been implemented.

Mr. Moss reemphasized the importance of marrying Classical Education and the GA Standards and getting this communication out to parents.

In review of the bylaws, there was a need to affirm nominations and take a ballot by secret vote in Open Session to confirm the Vice-Chair vacancy. Ms. Cox nominated Mr. McGhie to fill the Vice-Chair vacancy. Mr. Moss seconded; all board members present agreed. Ms. Cox motioned to close nominations. Mr. Moss moved to close nominations for the Vice-Chair, Mrs. O'Neil seconded; all board members present agreed. All board members present participated in a secret ballot and votes were submitted to Ms. Cox, Chair, for a count. Ms. Cox approved the votes of five in favor and zero opposed. She stated, per the bylaws, Mr. McGhie is able to take on the Vice-Chair role and responsibilities immediately.

Mr. Payne reported that updates have been made to the Corrective Action Plan. These include: the addition of the Gifted Cohort, curriculum development, and continued student assessments. Mr. Payne stated that we are currently on pace with everything at the moment. TKES is complete, with minor house keeping items. Mr. Payne confirmed that he will circulate the link to the CAP to the Board.

Mr. Payne spoke to SCA's relationship with the Barney Charter Initiative. Mr. Moss asked if anything has changed. Mr. Payne confirmed that nothing has changed and that this relationship is important to maintain. Mr. Moss moved to sign and enter into the agreement with the Barney Charter School Initiative, Mrs. O'Neil seconded; all board members present agreed.

Mr. Sidney reported on behalf of the Academic Accountability Committee. A January report was distributed that included identified 2017-2018 school year goals for the Academic Accountability Committee, action steps to meet these stated goals, and recommendations. Ms. Cox asked what the Committee needed from Mr. Payne or the Board to be successful.

Mrs. Ross was not in attendance to report on behalf of the Development Committee; however, the report was emailed to the Board for review. Mrs. O'Neil asked Mr. Moss if he was free to meet to ensure that the Community Relations Committee and the Development Committee are using similar language in communications. Ms. Cox reminded the Board about their contribution commitments.

Mr. Moss spoke on behalf of the Community Relations Committee. Mr. Moss volunteered to take on the incentive action for the Climate Survey. Mr. Payne identified the Savannah Symposium as an upcoming event for the Community Relations Committee to keep in mind.

Mr. McGhie reported on behalf of the Finance Committee and passed out the Profit and Loss Statement for July-December. He noted that we are in a similar position and he will be meeting with the Budget Office next week. Mr. McGhie asked about additional textbook needs. Mr. Payne confirmed that we have funds in Title 1 taking care of any additional needs. Mr. Lollis noted a new World Geography class taking place this semester that may need resources. Mr. Payne reminded that there is an additional \$27,000 in carryover from budgeted funds that we could use towards those supplies. Mr. McGhie stated that at this point the Budget is not accounting for potential growth stipends. If we will receive a stipend for growth, we will be at about break even. Mr. McGhie highlighted two main items contributing to budget overages. These include Nursing and Speech. These items were further discussed in detail as to cause and need. Mr. Payne noted that we currently have two less people on staff than we should and are carrying a few long term subs to compensate. The cost for these subs would be less than having the positions filled; however, we may have some highly qualified people moving into these positions, so the Substitute line item will decrease and Salaries may increase a bit if this occurs. Mr. McGhie confirmed that we look good cash-wise, but he will review again at the end of the year. Ms. Cox reminded the Board that there are two Budget Meetings scheduled separately from the Regular Board meetings for specific budget purposes.

Ms. Cox reported for the Governance Committee, noting that there will be a meeting during Ms. Falco's visit.

Ms. Cox acknowledged the Policy and Procedures vacancy and appointed Dr. Gwen Miller-Smith to the Discipline Advisory Committee. Mr. Moss proposed having one specified Hearing Officer. Ms. Cox confirmed that would be beneficial; however, the Board would need to find funds to pay for that person to maintain the role. Ms. Cox and Mr. Lollis confirmed that they will follow up.

Mr. Moss moved to go into closed session pursuant to O.C.G.A. 50-14-3 (b) (2) at 6:48 p.m. to discuss a formal parent grievance. Mrs. O'Neil seconded; all board members present agreed. At 7:01 p.m. Ms. Cox moved to return to open session, Mr. McGhie seconded; all board members present agreed. Mr. Sidney was appointed to investigate the grievance.

No one had anything to address under Unfinished Business.

Under New Business, Ms. Cox announced that the Board will now have an email account that will be circulated to parents for them to send communications/grievances directly to the Board. The Chair and Vice-Chair will have access to the account. Kudos was given to Mr. Thomas in regards to discipline and to Mr. Payne and Ms. Cox for getting us to this point with the Charter. Mr. Payne acknowledged Mr. Lollis for taking on the task at hand.

A motion to adjourn was made at 7:05 p.m. by Mr. Moss, Mr. Sidney seconded; all board members present agreed. A regular meeting is scheduled for February 8th, 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