



“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.
July 27, 2017*

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

The board directors present were:

Falen Cox
Dr. Jacobium Holliman
Scott McGhie
Ryan Dew
Terri O’Neil
Dr. Gwen Miller-Smith
Dr. Donna Isaac
Coren Ross
Roger Moss
Benjamin Couch Payne, School Director

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

Ms. Cox, chair, called the meeting to order at 5:45 p.m.

Ms. Cox moved to amend the agenda, adding an introduction of the Omega Lamp Lighters Mentor Program by Dr. Holliman to Unfinished Business. Dr. Holliman seconded; all board members present agreed. Dr. Holliman moved to approve the amended agenda. Mr. Moss seconded; all board members present agreed.

Ms. Cox introduced Paul Sidney who was in attendance as an observer. Mr. Sidney introduced himself, described his qualifications, and spoke of his potential interest in joining the Board. Ms. Cox then introduced Don Waters. Mr. Waters explained his passion, history, and connection with SCA. Mr. Waters asked the Board whether they had any questions for him or concerns he could address. Dr. Holliman acknowledged his initial concerns with Mr. Waters' intentions, but assured the Board that any concerns he did have had been addressed.

Ms. Cox stated that the Board had received a recommendation for Mr. Don Waters, to join the Board of Directors. At 6:02 p.m. Dr. Isaac moved to go into closed session pursuant to O.C.G.A. 50-14-3 (b) (2) to discuss Mr. Waters's nomination. Mr. Dew seconded; all board members present agreed. At 6:10 p.m. Mr. Moss moved to return to open session, Mr. Dew seconded; all board members present agreed.

Ms. Cox thanked Mr. Waters for attending and told him the Board would notify him in writing as to the Board's decision. Mr. Waters thanked the Board and left for the evening. Mr. Moss moved to approve Mr. Waters as a member of the Savannah Classical Academy Board of Directors, Mrs. Ross seconded; all board members present agreed.

The training dates for LKES and TKES certification were discussed. Ms. Cox told the Board that she was signed up for a training, but traditionally there is a need for two Board members to be certified; however, it would be preferential to have a third member with LKES and TKES certification. Mr. Payne stated there are additional RESA dates offered outside of Chatham County if that helps with scheduling. She then suggested that it may be in the Board's best interest to have more than three people. Ms. Cox

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

confirmed that it will be herself, Dr. Isaac, and Dr. Holliman, given they attend the necessary training and pass the test for certification. Ms. Cox said that she will provide an update around August 24th as to the progress of their certification.

Prior to the School Director's Report, Ms. Cox discussed the letter from the Georgia Department of Education (“DOE”) received last week regarding SCA's probationary status. A discussion ensued regarding the Board’s response to the letter. Mr. Payne suggested Robert Fortson of McGuireWoods assist in drafting the response as well as a waiver of the enrollment ban set forth in the letter. Mrs. Ross moved to accept Mr. Payne’s recommendation to engage Mr. Fortson. Mr. Dew seconded; all board members present agreed. A discussion ensued regarding the logistics of formulating the response.

Mr. Payne next provided an update on the status of hiring a new Dean of Curriculum and Instruction as well as the High School Counselor position and Business Manager positions.

Mr. Payne next presented a presentation and packet regarding the Southern Association of Colleges & Schools accreditation process. Mr. Payne noted the importance of receiving this accreditation in order for high school students to qualify for Hope Scholarships. Mrs. Ross moved to proceed with SACS accreditation. Mr. Moss seconded; all board members present agreed.

Ms. Cox proposed a need to form a plan for SCA high school students in the event our charter does not renew. Mrs. Ross stated that she would prefer not to make such plans until the situation called for them. Mr. Payne confirmed that student credits attained while at SCA will be counted and carry over to other schools.

In giving an update on the facilities, Mr. Payne said that the recent rain storms has caused damage within the building. He noted that the third floor and kitchen were nearly finished. Dr. Holliman asked whether the School was still going to pursue requesting equipment from the local school district for the kitchen. Mr. Payne answered in the negative, as he had been told the district does not have extra equipment. He then noted that the Chemistry lab will be finished in September due to a delay in delivery of casework. Ms. Cox asked whether there were any issues with sub-contractors of which the Board needs to be made aware. Mr. Payne acknowledged that there was one contractor who had to be removed from the job. He said there was an issue with flooring. It had been installed correctly; however, the protective coating was applied improperly. The contractor will provide a credit to be used to reimburse the School for the reapplication of the coating. Mr. Payne informed the Board of a Health Food Vending option for sixth grade and up. He noted the School will be adding a few contract positions including a custodial position who can fill other positions if needed, providing a cost savings to the School. Mr. Payne stated that teachers, consultants, and staff will be in tomorrow. Mr. Payne brought up the Speech Language Pathologist, requesting action from the Board.

Mr. Payne then provided a report on open Faculty and Staff positions, stating the School is still in need of a third and fourth grade teacher. He noted that a part-time High School Art teacher has been hired. Mrs. Ross asked whether volunteers could provide a service. Mr. Payne answered in the affirmative, but indicated there may be an issue with providing course credit absent a licensed teacher. Mr. Payne explained the School’s limited budget this year will be focused on increasing test scores, rather than Art and Music. Scott McGhie asked about staff for Nursing for this year. Mr. Payne stated that the Nurse position will be filled through Source4Teachers for the year.

Ms. Cox asked whether anything had changed since the last conversation the Board had regarding SLP services. Mr. Payne stated they had found someone to fill the position and would like to move forward with an offer to cover only the number of hours currently required. Dr. Holliman proposed requesting additional hours in the event of unanticipated demand. Mr. Moss moved to proceed in retaining SLP services and contracting Source4Teachers as recommended. Mrs. Ross seconded; all board members present agreed.

With regards to offering alternate benefits for faculty and staff, Mr. Dew stated the Board may need additional time to review the proposal. Ms. Cox confirmed that we should wait until we are ready to make a decision and agreed to remove it from the agenda for the time.

With regard to the use of Source4Teachers for substitutes this year, Mr. Payne said that he intended to explain to staff and teachers the costs of substitutes in order to encourage attendance. Dr. Holliman suggested some sort of recognition for those teachers and staff with perfect attendance. Mr. Payne agreed that that would be a wonderful gesture and asked the Board to help put that together. Mrs. Ross asked for a budget. Mr. Payne said he would provide that. Mr. Payne added that Ms. O'Neil was able to procure a basketball net for the playground.

Dr. Holliman introduced the Omega Lamp Lighters program. He explained it was a mentoring program for upper grade males. The program would accommodate no more than twenty boys and would involve field trips and specific topics each week. Dr. Holliman stated he would e-mail more information out to the Board regarding the program. He also commented that he was impressed with what had been proposed, although there are questions regarding field trips. Dr. Holliman stated that parents would

need to buy into the program and would be encouraged to attend meetings as well. Mr. Payne proposed alignment with the B.F.F program in which Ms. Cox is involved. Dr. Holliman confirmed that he would like to align the two programs. Dr. Isaac asked whether SCA was the only school offering this. Dr. Holliman noted that the program was started specifically for SCA.

At 7:38 p.m. Mrs. Ross moved to go into closed session pursuant to O.C.G.A. 50-14-3 (b) (2) to discuss Mr. Payne's Employment Agreement. Dr. Miller-Smith seconded; all board members present agreed. At 7:41 p.m. Mr. Moss moved to return to open session, Mr. Dew seconded; all board members present agreed.

A motion to adjourn was made at 7:45 p.m. by Mrs. Ross, Dr. Miller-Smith seconded; all board members present agreed. A regular meeting is scheduled for Thursday, August 10, 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 Ryan Dew, Secretary