



“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 9, 2017*

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of Savannah Classical Academy, Inc. was held at 5:30 p.m., Thursday, February 9, 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  
Martha Nesbit  
Dr. Donna Isaac  
Benjamin Couch Payne, School Director

Absent, with notice:

Andy Blair

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

Ormonde Lewis, chair, called the meeting to order at 5:34 p.m.

John Picker moved to accept the consent agenda, Barbara Cortese seconded; all board members present agreed.

At 5:36 p.m. Dr. Jacobium Holliman moved to go into closed session pursuant to O.C.G.A. 50-14-4 (b) (1), and O.C.G.A. § 51-14-3 (b) (2) for the purpose of privileged consultation with legal counsel, and to discuss a personnel matter. Director Payne was invited into closed session. At 7:01 p.m. John Picker moved to return to open session, Martha Nesbit seconded; all board members present agreed.

Martha Nesbit, reported on behalf of the academic accountability committee, and the charter renewal committee; she provided a written report for both committees. In addition, she reported that Director Payne was present at the charter renewal committee’s meeting on February 1, 2017. Martha also recommended that the board consider innovations, enhancements, outcomes, and vision for the high school as very little detail about the high school was provided within the original charter. The board agreed, but requested that the charter renewal committee first consider the same during its next committee meeting, and provide more specific guidance and/or recommendations to the board. Falen Cox suggested that this topic be added a future board meeting agenda.

Terri O’Neil, in Andy Blair’s absence, reported that the community relations committee is moving forward with mobilizing parents, and students to attend local school board meetings scheduled for March and April. Twenty-five people have stated an intent to attend, and Barbara Cortese has drafted a letter requesting that SCA be added to the local board’s meeting agendas.

Barbara Cortese, chair of the development committee, and Terri O’Neil updated board directors on the status of the fundraising campaigns. The committee has been working closely with Andy Blair and Marv LeRoy, of The Center for Philanthropic

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

Excellence, to perfect the case statement, and the overall campaigns. Training sessions for board members have been scheduled for February 15, 2017; a joint training session for board members, and the Savannah Classical Academy Foundation board has been scheduled for March 23, 2017.

Falen Cox, chair of the governance committee, spoke with board directors about the potential delegation of secretarial duties, what such a delegation would require, and proposed an amendment to SCA's by-laws to allow delegation of certain secretarial duties. All board directors were provided with the language of the by-laws as last adopted, as well as the proposed changes, prior to the meeting. John Picker moved to adopt the amendment to the by-laws as proposed, Barbara Cortese seconded, and all board members present agreed. Martha Nesbit moved to delegate certain duties of the secretary, as outlined within the amendment to the bylaws, to Ms. Christina Orlandi—as an independent contractor—at a rate of \$150 per month. John Picker seconded, and all board members present agreed.

Director Payne provided a written report. Ormonde Lewis asked Director Payne to provide board directors with information related to SCA academic achievement that is not considered in CCRPI scoring. Director Payne reported that middle school students scored better on the GMAS than elementary school students, and that the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grades had the lowest scores. Falen Cox requested that the board be provided with SRI and MAP scores, and board directors discussed the process by which SRI and MAP scores for local district schools could be obtained. Martha Nesbit added that the Academic Accountability committee has been, and still is, reviewing SCA's School Improvement Plan. Director Payne reported that 5<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders are scheduled to take the GMAS in approximately six weeks, and that their curriculum will be adjusted to ensure that district standards are taught prior to the examination. Director Payne updated board directors on SCA student activities including basketball, dance team, and participation in the Georgia Day parade. Hillsdale College has invited SCA students to the unveiling of their Fredrick Douglas statue; more information will be provided.

Under new business, Terri O'Neil reminded board directors of the Wells Fargo philanthropic strategies presentation on February 22, 2017, and encouraged interested board directors to RSVP. It was suggested that test scores, finance, and the strategic plan be discussed at the next board meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:08 p.m. A regular meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 23, 2017 at 5:30 p.m. at Savannah Classical Academy, 704 East Anderson Street.

Respectfully submitted,

(signed copy on file)

Falen O. Cox, Secretary