

MINUTES
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
SOUTH CAROLINA WHITMORE SCHOOL
501 Commerce Drive NE
Columbia, SC 29223
June 21st, 2018

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Board of Directors Chair, Terry Hitch, at 9:00 am.

ATTENDANCE

Terry Hitch, Chair; DuJuan Council, Secretary; Chris McClure, Treasurer; Roger Sears, Board Member (via phone); Ann Brown, Board Member (via phone); Susan DuRant, Board Member (via phone); Ashley Wheeling-Goodson; John Loveday, Principal; Ebone' Adams, Assistant Principal; Amanda Reilly, Spanish/Director of Curriculum and Instruction; Susan Herring, Director of Human Resources; Andrew Cilone, Kelley-Moser Consulting; Elliott Smalley, SCPCSD Superintendent; Chaz Friendly and Leslie Maley, Elliott-Davis.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Minutes of March 15, 2018 were presented for approval by DuJuan Council. Motion was made to approve the minutes by Chris McClure and 2nd by Ashley Wheeling-Gooding. Approved by unanimous vote.

ACADEMIC UPDATE

A two minute video of Graduation was shown, which has been uploaded to the school website. Ebone Adams presented an academic update and stated approximately 500 guests attended this years graduation ceremony. Students are continuing to work through the summer with fifteen additional summer graduates. Currently nine early graduates but there will be more. The school awarded nine Blue Diamond scholarships this year. The total amount of scholarships awarded to the senior class is a million dollars so far and more coming compared to 875,000 in 2017. The average scholarship amount is \$15,000. The Class of 2018 has the most students, with full ride scholarships, in the school's history. Final totals will be announced at the September board meeting. Also, the number of college bound students is a record for SCWS. The graduation rate has improved every year and this year should increase four to five percent, from 35.6 to 40%. This would be the highest graduation rate ever and an increase of 25% in last three years. The school's EVAAS scores are yet another school record. Terry has watched the school get stronger and stronger each year and working toward becoming great. Chris loves the comparison to other schools since SCWS is the smallest in our district, and K12 and Connections are so big. SCWS is neck and neck with these school in the categories of college bound students and scholarship amounts. The next question is how to compare these numbers to brick and mortar schools. The Class of 2019 graduation ceremony will be held on June 8th, 2019.

AUDIT UPDATE

Chaz Friendly and Leslie Maley from Elliott Davis reviewed the audit timeline with the board. Leslie will be handling most of the audit this year. Audit review is to make sure financial records are materially correct. If the information not included would skew with what the District or Department of Education has on file, since they set the threshold for what materially correct means. The audit is not designed to detect fraud but may be detected. The audit is an Internal control for the schools checks and balances and no statement given. There are two stages of an audit, planning and year end. Currently, working on the planning stage now. Audit results should be given at the September 13th Board Meeting at 9:00 am. SCWS is used as a benchmark. Chaz and Leslie left the meeting.

Elliot Smalley arrived to the meeting.

DISTRICT UPDATE

Elliott Smalley, Superintendent for the SC Public Charter School District, gave district updates. Commended SCWS for the incentives focusing on student attendance and the progress that has been accomplished. SCWS is the only virtual school with expected growth from 1 to 3 on EVAAS. Work with attendance and student growth is a testament to John's leadership, the staff and teachers.

Elliot then spoke about his reasons for becoming Superintendent for the Public Charter School District, the changes at the district since becoming superintendent and district goals for the future. . S came into district 2 years ago and promise of choice and fundamental right at every parent and looked at board and data from district. Terry stated the information was very informative, DuJuan wanted to know district professional development opportunities. The district hosted a powerschool basics sessions, training on epicenter and special education with the information sent out in the weekly Operator's Notes newsletter. Quarterly meetings with schools, John has given information at one of these meetings along with a survey about what training is needed and wanted. Elliott is trying to bring in people from national stage and hoping the Charter sector doesn't fall prey to fads and instructional constructs. Testing new models in teaching and learning objectives. Fundamental three things needed for quality schools: School principal/leader, Curriculum and content, and Teachers. Professional development to be offer a team menu from the fundamentals needed.

The past several years have defined how SCWS is different, which is why the school specific indicator was approved by District one year ago. The legislature wants to see this growth and are concerned about giving money to charter schools, if the school is not performing. EVAAS and the school indicator give more information on school performance. No schools received ratings this school year because of the revision to the ratings. SCWS shows the school is meeting the needs of students. Charter Sponsors are responsible for opening new schools, evaluating and monitoring and act when school are performing below expectations. Elliott is concerned about quality public school and outcomes related to goals of the charter school.

Motion by DuJuan Council for a 10 min coffee break and 2nd by Chris McClure. Annette Havens and Elliott Smalley left the meeting.

OTHER BUSINESS

Motion to Continue meeting by Susan Durant and 2nd by DuJuan Council.

Motion to re-appoint Roger to the board by Chris McClure and 2nd by DuJuan Council. An election was held a month ago for Terry, Chris and DuJuan who were voted onto the Board, for additional two year terms. At another charter school meeting, a discussion on dual office holding occurred. This affects SCWS because DuJuan is a police officer and therefore falls into the dual office holding statutes. John reached out to the school attorneys and the report confirmed DuJuan falls under a dual holding office. So, first protect school and second to protect DuJuan, DuJuan would have to forfeit his position as a police officer. Therefore, DuJuan is resigning from the board. DuJuan expressed his appreciation to Dr. Hitch, the other board members and the school's staff. DuJuan is saddened to separate from the school and was happy to be part of school. Terry thanked DuJuan for his service and presented a plaque to DuJuan for his service on the Board. Roger Sears joined the meeting.

Andrew Cilone joined the meeting. DuJuan left the meeting.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

Andrew started by discussing the May financials. After the hard hit from the 45th and 135th counts, the school is going into next year in a good position. Total cash is up from last year and in a slightly better position with cash on hand which is notated on the bottom lines of the Balance Sheet. More conservative position on the budget for next year. FY19 budget has been updated including the staffing schedule, health insurance rate increase of 3.6% and removal of K12 lottery money. The school is in a position to have a positive net income next year. The FY19 budget is based on a 405 ADM and the March ADM was 398.6. Terry stated the school is going into a new year in a better spot than last year and wanted to know how other schools use board discretionary funds. Andrew gave an examples of how other schools used board discretionary funds to pay a bonus at Christmas time or small additions to the school playground. Board needs to look at how to use the board discretionary money for benefit of the school. John stated the school is required to have one month by law, but want to stay around five to six months. Some schools save for a new school building. Excess revenue goes into Board discretionary for the board to decide use of said funds.

A motion was made to approve the FY-19 budget by Chris McClure, Ashley and Roger Sears 2nd the motion. The motion was unanimously approved. Andrew left the meeting.

FINANCE COMMITTEE UPDATE

Chris McClure gave a finance committee update extra cash is giving us revenue and will add to board discretionary fund. Loss of revenue due to student count, John kept Board informed and step was not missed. Back on track and going well. John stated the state is not increasing the base student cost and the first time since the recession 10 years ago. Lottery money is not being renewed. A change from standard three percent raise to teachers and staff to only receiving a one percent raise.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Board of director binders for everyone to use and have relative information, agenda, minutes, by-laws, organizational chart, contact info, employee handbook, student handbook.

Terry wants new by-laws approved at next board meeting. DuJuan had taken on by-law project.

Dr. Peggy Torri with TransformSC, met with John and Michelle. TransformSC will take schools and make them better. First virtual school in start and 2nd in district. Hope to hear status in late summer or early fall. Buses legislatures to our school and Transform SC would be a third party to help our school to go from good to great.

Enrollment update, 300 eligible to return, 239 have committed to return, 80% retention rate. School record. Longer students are here the more successful they are. 164 new students in enrollment que, unfortunately not all of these will matriculate usually only half to two-thirds. Every full-time employee is returning and adding a couple of new teachers.

Open house will be on Saturday, August 11th from 10am to 1pm. Feedback was received from parents and students to change to a Saturday to accommodate students from all over the state. Website update is coming because the current site is 4 years old. Website is needs to be updated every 3-5 years and total redue every 10 years. Homepage will be completely redone and ready in July for release. Ashley asked about experimenting during July and August with a Facebook campaign. These months give us the best bang for our buck from the data received from this previous years results.

OATH OF OFFICE

Roger Sears was given the Oath of Office, by Board Chair Terry Hitch, for being re-appointed to the Board of Directors.

Ann is resigning from the Board because not able to participate as she would have liked to.. Could not call in to today's meeting. Requesting a plaque for Ann who has served since 2013. Susan DuRant expressed desire to resigned because of aging and ill mother and living between SC and FL. With heavy heart, Susan is requesting to be not reappointed to the Board. Was not a proponent of virtual school but is in awe of the work being done at SCWS. Think of all students public schools were not able to help and SCWS does help. Eyes and heart is with SCWS. Plaque for susan for her sincere appreciation for her service.

ADJOURNMENT

Next Board meeting on Thursday, September 13th, 2018 at 9:00 am. No other new business.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Roger Sears and Ashley Wheeling-Gooding 2nd the motion.

Unanimous vote to adjourn the meeting.