

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

December 12, 2019

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Board of Directors Treasurer, Chris McClure at 8:33 am.

ATTENDANCE

Terry Hitch, Chair (via phone); Roger Sears, Secretary; Shennice Cleckley, Board Member; Chris McClure, Treasurer; Jim Rund, Board Member; Elizabeth Vice, Board Member; John Loveday, Principal; Ebone Adams, Assistant Principal; Michelle Bishop, Director of Compliance; Susan Herring, Director of Human Resources; Annette Havens, Testing and Social Media Coordinator; Kim Dunbar, Lead School Counselor; Casey Donohue, Director of Student Accountability; Andrew Cilone, Prestige School Solutions (via phone); Elliot Smalley, Superintendent of SCPCSD; Bobby Rikard; Amber Goff, School Counselor; JaQuette Gilbert, School Counselor; Marcus Tomlinson, Elliott Davis LLC; Steve Ray, Compuhigh; Ellen Ray, Compuhigh.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Minutes of September 12, 2019 were presented for approval by Chris McClure. A motion was made to approve the minutes by Jim Rund and 2nd by Elizabeth Vice. Approved by unanimous vote.

District Update

The District Update was presented by Elliot Smalley. Mr. Smalley thanked everyone for their hard work at SC Whitmore School. Mr. Smalley explained the SC Public Charter School District had a low rating for four consecutive years and has increased the district graduation rates from 48% to 72%. The student population is also more diverse as the make-up of the district has changed. Mr. Smalley answered questions from the SCWS Board of Directors and others in attendance at the meeting related to charter authorizer responsibilities, district report card, SCWS mission and student population and the composition of the district board of directors. Mr. Smalley stated SCWS is unique from other virtual schools in the state and wants to support the increase of the student population. He stated that he loves SCWS and wants the school to stay with the SCPCSD.

***Shennice Cleckley and Roger Sears entered the meeting during Mr. Smalley's presentation. .

***Elliot and Bobby left the meeting after answering questions.

ANNUAL AUDIT PRESENTATION

Marcus Tomlinson with Elliott Davis LLC presented the annual audit presentation. He passed out an overview of the audit and the firm issued an unmodified opinion, the highest opinion that can be issued by the audit firm. There were no material weaknesses or compliance matters noted. A brief overview of the audit was given to the board and an explanation of how the information for the audit is provided to Elliott Davis, LLC.

****Terry entered the meeting via phone.

****Marcus left the meeting.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

John Loveday presented the Principal's Report and asked the Board Members to fill out the annual conflict of interest form. The application for the renewal of SCWS charter is due in November of 2020 to the SCPCSD. The district staff reviews the renewal charter and gives a recommendation to the district board. John explained that going into the new year, SCWS is reviewing the organizational structure of the school. He also announced that Casey Donohue is now an administrator with the title of Director of Student Accountability at SCWS. In addition, an Academic Recovery Coach will be starting Monday in the student accountability department. Another avenue of discussion has been the huge shift in standardized test and standards in South Carolina in the last few years and how will SCWS improve to meet these changes. Therefore, SCWS is currently researching a new LMS and curriculum provider for renewal plan that will also align with mission and goals of the school.

Chris asked the board to acknowledge with an aye if in favor of pursuing a new LMS and curriculum provider for the renewal plan. All board members in attendance stated aye. Unanimous agreement.

****Steve Ray and Ellen Ray left the meeting.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

John stated that fewer students enrolled by the beginning of school with more enrolling in September, therefore the ADM was lower than expected due to timing of enrollment.

Andrew Cilone, with Prestige School Solutions (formerly KM Consulting), presented the statement for revenues and expenses. Andrew noted there was nothing of concern in the budget. He pointed out that the October ADM provided funds from December until April. John stated that SCWS will continue to enroll students, and explained that there was five months of operational funds in reserve.

****Andrew left the meeting.

OTHER BUSINESS

Terry Hitch submitted her resignation from the Board of Directors since she will no longer be living in the state of South Carolina. Terry Hitch recommended Shennice Cleckley as the new board chair. Motion by Chris McClure for all in favor of Shennice Cleckley as board chair. Unanimous vote by the board. Shennice accepted the position as board chair. Roger Sears asked the board to start thinking about people to fill the open board seats.

ADJOURNMENT

Roger Sears made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Shennice Cleckley, 2nd the motion.

Upcoming important dates:

SCWS board meeting - Thursday, March 12, 2020 at 9:00 AM (SCWS office – 501 Commerce Drive, Columbia, SC 29223)

SCWS graduation - Saturday, June 6, 2020 at 11:00 AM (Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center – 1101 Lincoln Street, Columbia, SC 29201)

SCWS board meeting - Thursday, June 11, 2020 at 9:00 AM (SCWS office – 501 Commerce Drive, Columbia, SC 29223)