



Board of Directors
South Carolina Whitmore School
501 Commerce Drive NE
Columbia, SC 29223

March 11, 2021 – 9:00 AM

Call to order

Shennice Cleckley called the meeting to order at 9:01 am.

Attendance:

Shennice Cleckley, Board Chair; Roger Sears, Secretary; Charlotte Hamilton, Board Member; Antonio Simon, Board Member; Nancy Mandlove, Board Member; Elizabeth Vice, Board Member; John Loveday, Executive Director; Andrew Cilone, Prestige School Solutions; Michelle Bishop, Director of Compliance; Amie Schlichtig, Administrative Assistant; Ebone Adams, Director of Student Services; Maria Head, Prestige School Solutions; Susan Herring, Director of Human Resources; Troy Crump, First year student coach and attendance coordinator; Robin Carter, Science Department Chair; Kim Dunbar, Director of School Counseling

Public comments

Robin Carter wanted to comment on the upcoming decision to rename the Blue Diamond Scholarship to the Jessica Munyon Memorial Scholarship. She thinks this is a great way to continue Jessica's legacy. The name Blue Diamond has no meaning but the Jessica Munyon Memorial Scholarship will have meaning to the school and our students. This is a beautiful way to honor Jessica's legacy.

*Robin left the meeting at 9:05.

Approval of minutes – 12.10.20 and 2.19.21 Board Meetings

Charlotte Hamilton made a motion to approve The December 10, 2020 and the February 19, 2021 board meeting minutes. Antonio Simon 2nd the motion. The board passed by unanimous vote.

Academic update

Ebone Adams presented an academic update. Our graduation rate is on the rise with approximately 153 students on track to graduate by June of 2021. SCWS has 23 winter graduates already and three of those are early graduates. This year the graduation ceremony will be at the Cornerstone Presbyterian Church (outdoor field) with a 10:00 arrival time for board members. The Blue Diamond Scholarship has the potential to have 35 recipients this year. To earn the scholarship a student needs a 4.0 SCWS GPA, good attendance standing and must write an essay about "School Your Way". The class of 2020 had 12 recipients out of 30 seniors that were recommended to apply. Ebone fielded questions on how students fared during Covid. She explained the great mental health resources as well as counselors, academic coaches, and teachers that helped our students. Some students fell behind but were able to catch up in their classes. The school has more students overall due to Covid.

February Financial update



Andrew Cilone from Prestige School Solutions explained the February financials. The Revenue is in good standing. Expenses are running on target for this time of the year. Staff professional training will be adjusted for the 135 day count. Expenditures for the HVAC repairs were included in the Esser 2 plan submitted to the district. The funding update after the 135 day count will be deposited in April or May.

Recommendations for the FY-22 Budget

The first recommendation is to reserve three percent of the budget to help absorb the fluctuation of funding for early graduates. The second recommendation is to hold employee gifts or bonus until June closer to the end of the budget year. This will help alleviate overspending in the future. Elizabeth Vice would like to take time to contemplate this decision and make sure that the board is still showing the employees the support they have in the past. Shennice moved this decision to the September meeting for time to have a full discussion on it. Shennice remembered that we had a teacher receive a recertification, Jason Rowe was recertified for the National Board and the stipends are provided by the state.

Presentation of FY-22 budget (first draft)

Andrew presented the first draft of the FY-22 budget. The budget is built on an ADM of 430.07, which corresponds to the 2020-2021 45 day ADM. The unknown at this time is the revenue that will be received from ESSER II. Also noted is the reduction in the software line due to the new curriculum providers. An adjustment may need to be taken into consideration for the drop in ADM with early graduates. Shennice asked Andrew to explain the ADM and how that affects the budget. Marketing has increased for next year as we are trying to retain a group of students that plan to return to brick and mortar schools for face-to-face instruction. This is a huge element in planning, how to fill the seats needed to meet the budget.

No vote is needed at this time.

*Andrew and Maria left the meeting at 9:42

Transition update - curriculum and SIS provider

Michelle Bishop, SCWS Director of Compliance, explained the Edgenuity pilot started in February with approximately 51 students with 45 students currently active. Positive feedback from the students has been received. Michelle explained how SIS is different from curriculum.

Executive Director's report

John Loveday, SCWS Executive Director, the school's PPP loan should be forgivable through Wells Fargo. The paperwork is ready just waiting on the Wells Fargo portal to open for completion of the process. John mentioned our Teacher of the year, Lakesha Mitchell, and our Employee of the year, Ashten Latta.

Shennice asked for a vote to change the Blue Diamond scholarship to the Jessica Munyon Memorial Scholarship. Elizabeth made the motion, Roger 2nd the motion, unanimous vote to change the name from the Blue Diamond Scholarship to the Jessica Munyon Memorial Scholarship. Family of Jessica will be invited to Graduation to see the first year recipients. John shared the choices for the logo, took input and offered for the employees to vote on the logo.

The 2021-2022 School Calendar draft was presented, the August and April teacher in-services will be held in person. The November and January in-services will be virtual. Roger made a motion to approve the calendar as presented for 2021-2022 school year, Shennice 2nd the motion. The motion passed unanimously by the board.



Savings provided by new curriculum and SIS systems will be used for a science teacher, academic coach, two graduation coaches and a registrar. We will also add several part time teachers, double the marketing budget, possible raises for full time employees and cover the increase for taxes and insurance. The Board is looking for another board member at this time.

Other business

Shennice Cleckley asked board members to complete the Executive Director evaluation.

Adjournment

Antonio Simon made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Elizabeth Vice 2nd the motion. Vote passed unanimously by the board.