

SOUTHTECH CHARTER ACADEMY, INC.
SOUTHTECH PREPARATORY ACADEMY, INC.
SOUTHTECH SUCCESS CENTER, INC.
STA/STPA/STSC Governing Board Virtual Regular Meeting Minutes
October 8, 2020

- 1. Call to Order at 7:01 pm.**
- 2. Pledge of Allegiance**
- 3. Roll Call – Ayesha Edmond, Board Secretary**
Present: Roger Dunson, Ayesha Edmond, Russell Feldman, Dan Heller, Diane Heinz, Robert Kesten, Suzanne Nicolini, and James Notter
Quorum Confirmed
- 4. Open Meeting Act Statement:** Board Clerk confirmed that proper public notice has been made.
- 5. Approval of the Minutes for the STA/STPA Governing Board Virtual Emergency Board Meeting September 22, 2020.**
Motion: Russell Feldman Second: Suzanne Nicolini
All in favor. **Motion carries.**
- 6. Introduction and Purpose of the Meeting – Robert Kesten, Board Chair**
The STA/STPA/STSC Governing Board is gathered virtually to conduct the regular October meeting.
- 7. Treasurer’s/Financial Report for STA/STPA/STSC: Current monthly Bank Reconciliation and Disbursement Report**
The Finance Committee met earlier this evening and recommend that the Board approve financial items C-1 through C-4 and PC-1 through PC-3.
Richard Moreno provided the Board with an update on the bond process for the purchase of the STP site property.
 - Offering docs were submitted last Friday
 - Already receiving questions from all the major funds
 - very good sign of interest
 - The market is still favorable
 - There will be a call tomorrow with the trading desk
 - better indication of the rates
 - Closing date for property has changed and therefore the bond closing date has also been extended to 10.15.20
 - Emergency meeting 10.13.20
 - will only take place if needed due to last minute issues that may arise
 - as of this moment there is no indication of any issues
- 8. Reports**
 - a. Interim Executive Director – Steven Kozak**
 - Ms. Lovett visiting STA and STPA tomorrow
 - Facility Challenges at STA
 - Biggest = Air conditioning
 - Testing and balancing
 - CSP Grant

- Did not receive the grant money applied for to help pay for Chromebooks due to lack of funds
- Cancelled previous order, but will need to obtain additional device soon
- Kimmel Foundation Challenge Grant
 - Initial \$25,000 Grant for the purchase of student Chromebooks
 - 1/3 to STPA
 - 2/3 to STA
 - Each Board members is being asked to “Give or Get” a minimum of \$1,000 each by the end of the year, releasing an additional \$25,000 of matched funds.
 - Steven Kozak will send a pledge form next week
 - Kimmel Foundation will continue to match funds in \$25,000 increments up to a total of \$100,000
- Ed Morse
 - Teddy Morse will be visiting STA
 - Interested in further helping STA
- b. SouthTech Academy Principal – Eileen Turenne**
 - 9.21.20 – First Day of In-person Instruction
 - Hybrid, simultaneous learning
 - Following social distancing guidelines
 - Masks at all times (except while eating)
 - Cafetorium
 - 9.22.20 – Virtual Fall Parent Training
 - College & Career Fair
 - 9.25.20 – SouthTech Life Shirt Day
 - 10.4.20 – Gymnasium Opened
 - New flooring with logo at center court
 - STS Letter of Intent to Return Survey
 - Sent to student email on 10.14.20
 - Goes into effect 11.4.20 (2nd quarter)
 - Re-do the bus routes based on student responses
 - 10.20.20 – Virtual Showcase of Schools
 - Submitting videos
 - Joshua Wigelsworth will be at the South Florida Fairgrounds live Zooming to answer any questions that arise
 - 10.27.20 – Virtual Recruitment Open House
 - 6-6:30 – Live Zoom
 - 6:30 – link to academy videos with contact information at the conclusion of the video
- c. SouthTech Preparatory Academy Principal – Nicole Handy**
 - Now having the morning meetings on a daily basis, rather than weekly
 - Hispanic Heritage Month
 - Socially distanced activities
 - Mask decorating contest (Target gift card)
 - Student & Employee of the Month

- Teacher Fireside chat
 - Virtual Meeting for teachers to express any difficulties they are facing
 - Complete with a Yule Log
- Marketing
 - Video for 5th grade presentations
 - Marketing materials currently being revamped

9. Public Comments on Agenda Items – None.

10. Introduction of Consent Agenda for SOUTHTECH ACADEMY

Old Business

None.

Administrative Items

None.

Personnel Items

B-1 I recommend that the Board approve the Personnel Actions for the previous month.

Financial Items

C-1 I recommend that the Board approve and ratify the monthly Charter school bank account reconciliation for the month ending August 31, 2020 as required by the Sponsor.

C-2 I recommend that the Board approve and ratify the Charter school monthly Disbursement Report for the month ending August 31, 2020 as required by the Sponsor.

C-3 I recommend that the Board approve and ratify the monthly financial statements for the month ending August 31, 2020 as required by the Sponsor.

C-4 I recommend the Board approve a four-month extension of the cleaning contract with MAC Express Cleaning Services.

Emergency Items

None.

11. Poll Board for Items to be Pulled for Comment or Questions

- a. Suzanne Nicolini pulled Item C-4

12. Approval of SouthTech Academy Consent Agenda Except for Items Pulled

Motion: James Notter Second: Ayesha Edmond

All in favor. **Motion carries.**

13. Approval of Each Pulled Item (Item-by Item)

- a. **Item C-4**

Motion: James Notter Second: Diane Heinz

Ms. Nicolini wanted to know why there was an increase in the amount being paid to MAC Cleaning for the 4-month contract extension. Mr. Kesten explained that this was due to the increased square footage of the campus. Kathy McInerney explained that in addition to the fact that the campus is 30% larger, it also has a lot more high-traffic, shared spaces such as the cafeteria, gymnasium, more restrooms, etc. Therefore, it is necessary for MAC Cleaning to hire additional employees to assist in the cleaning of STA's campus. Sanitation is a separate fee and is performed weekly on Friday's.

All in favor. **Motion carries**

14. Public Comments on non-Agenda Items – None.

15. Introduction of Consent Agenda for SOUTHTECH PREPARATORY ACADEMY

Old Business

None.

Administrative Items

None.

Personnel Items

PB-1 I recommend that the Board approve the Personnel Actions for the previous month.

Financial Items

PC-1 I recommend that the Board approve and ratify the monthly Charter school bank account reconciliation for the month ending August 31, 2020 as required by the Sponsor.

PC-2 I recommend that the Board approve and ratify the Charter school monthly Disbursement Report for the month ending August 31, 2020 as required by the Sponsor.

PC-3 I recommend that the Board approve and ratify the monthly financial statements for the month ending August 31, 2020 as required by the Sponsor.

Emergency Items

None.

16. Poll Board for Items to be Pulled for Comment or Questions – None.

17. Approval of SouthTech Preparatory Academy Consent Agenda Except for Items Pulled:

Motion: James Notter Second: Diane Heinz

All in favor. **Motion carries.**

18. Approval of Each Pulled Item (Item-by Item) – N/A

19. Introduction of Consent Agenda for SOUTHTECH SUCCESS CENTER

Old Business

None.

None.

Personnel Items

None.

Financial Items

SCC-1 I recommend that the Board approve and ratify the monthly Charter school bank account reconciliation for the month ending August 31, 2020 as required by the Sponsor.

SCC-2 I recommend that the Board approve and ratify the Charter school monthly Disbursement Report for the month ending August 31, 2020 as required by the Sponsor.

SCC-3 I recommend that the Board approve and ratify the monthly financial statements for the month ending August 31, 2020 as required by the Sponsor.

Emergency Items

None.

20. Poll Board for Items to be Pulled for Comment or Questions

a. Dan Heller pulled Items SCC-1 through SCC-3

21. Approval of SouthTech Success Center Consent Agenda Except for Items Pulled – N/A

22. Approval of Each Pulled Item (Item-by Item)

a. Items SCC-1 through SCC-3

Motion: James Notter Second: Suzanne Nicolini

Mr. Heller pulled these items as they were not on the Finance Committee's agenda this evening and he wanted to know why they were on the STSC Consent Agenda. Ms. McInerney explained that the books remain open for STSC's accounts and will remain that way for a bit longer as the auditor will be charging the account and there will also be a Form 990. There was an oversight which caused the items to not be included in the Finance Committee meeting.

All in favor. **Motion carries**

23. Public Comments on non-Agenda Items – None.

24. GOVERNING BOARD IN THE CAPACITY OF SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL (SAC)

South Tech Academy:

School Improvement Steering Committee (SISC) Report – Suzanne Nicolini, Chairperson

- Virtual meeting prior to the Board meeting
- Not as many parents as last month, but productive/informative
- 10.9.20 - -Report card distribution
- Fundraisers
 - Discussed fundraising campaigns
 - Box-Tops for Education
- Painting
 - Survey went out to teachers to see if they would want to come in on Monday to paint their classrooms
 - Not enough interest to warrant opening up the campus
 - Will offer this again during midterms (early release days)
 - Community service opportunity for in-person students

Introduction of the SouthTech Academy SAC Consent Agenda – None.

25. Poll SAC for Items to be Pulled from the SouthTech Academy SAC Consent Agenda for Comment or Questions – N/A

26. Approval of SouthTech Academy SAC Consent Agenda Except for Items Pulled – N/A

27. Approval of Each Pulled Item (Item-by Item) – N/A

28. South Tech Preparatory Academy:

School Improvement Steering Committee (SISC) Report – Nicole Handy

- Met this evening
- Only one parent was in attendance

Introduction of the SouthTech Preparatory Academy SAC Consent Agenda – N/A

29. Poll SAC for Items to be Pulled from the STPA SAC Consent Agenda for Comment or Questions – N/A

30. Approval of STPA SAC Consent Agenda Except for Items Pulled – N/A

31. Approval of Each Pulled Item (Item-by Item) – N/A

32. Board Comments



In addition to the Board thanking all faculty and staff members for their continued efforts during such a difficult time, several board members asked various questions of school administrators. Ms. Nicolini asked for an update on the facility issues including connectivity

and mold in classrooms. Mr. Kozak told her that the connectivity issues have been resolved and that Debbie Buchholz has now taken over the facility and has been in touch with Environmental services regarding the mold in the building. She also asked about the enrollment. Eileen Turenne told her that the enrollment at STA currently stands at 1,242 students. In regards to the Chromebooks currently on loan to students, Mrs. Turenne explained that students will be keeping them even if they choose to return to in-person instruction as there is always a possibility that we would need to go back to distance learning if the situation should deteriorate. Mr. Feldman asked if STA was doing anything for voter education with the election right around the corner. Mrs. Turenne explained that two SouthTech instructors, Mrs. Brown and Mr. Zatyko, held a webinar to help students learn more about registering to vote on 10.1.20. There were two sessions allowing both in-person and distance learning students to attend. He also asked what percent of students had returned to in-person learning, to which Mrs. Turenne stated approximately 20% of the high school students returned to the campus. The next opportunity to change the mode of learning will be through a survey being emailed to student's email addresses on 10.14.20. Those changes will go in effect beginning 11.4.20. Ms. Heinz stated her desire to engage in better community partnerships after a discussion she had with Mr. Kozak. Mr. Kesten thanked all involved in the purchase of STPA site property and reminded the Board that the deal was almost complete. The Board members stated their anticipation to meet Ms. Lovett the following day.

33. Motion to Adjourn

Motion: Dan Heller

Time: 8:14 pm

Minutes Prepared by:  Approved by:  Dated 11/12/2020
Lisa DeVine Robert Kesten