# SOUTHTECH CHARTER ACADEMY, INC. SOUTHTECH PREPARATORY ACADEMY, INC. SOUTHTECH SUCCESS CENTER, INC.

# STA/STPA/STSC Governing Board Regular Meeting Agenda December 10, 2020

1. Call to Order at 2:06 pm.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Roll Call - Lisa DeVine, Board Clerk

Present: Russell Feldman, Dan Heller, Robert Kesten, Suzanne Nicolini, and James Notter

Virtual: Roger Dunson

Absent: Ayesha Edmond and Diane Heinz

**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/STSC Governing Board Regular Meeting November 12, 2020.

Motion: James Notter Second: Russell Feldman

All in favor. Motion carries.

### 6. Treasurer's/Financial Report for STA/STPA/STSC - Dan Heller, Board Treasurer

The Finance Committee did not meet earlier in the day, but that does not mean that the finances have not been properly reviewed. Mr. Heller stated that there were no concerns about the reports or the snapshot other than to add SouthTech Schools Holdings to the snapshot. That change was made and the modified snapshot was redistributed to the Board members. Financially STS is doing much better than a year ago with STPA being \$23,000 more in the black versus last year and STA being \$176,000 more in the black versus last year. The IRS 990 Forms are in the packet to be approved by the Board today. They have been reviewed and once approved will be signed to authorize e-signing. Mr. Notter requested a discussion take place at the January Finance Committee meeting to review the reserve funds. Mr. Heller explained that the committee had requested staff members to come up with projections at the last committee meeting and as part of that report they should detail what is being held in reserves.

#### 7. Reports

## a. Interim Executive Director - Steven Kozak

- SouthTech Academy
  - o Last Week SDPBC
    - Assessed our needs for I.T. switches
  - Monday Scott Whalen from SDPBC Maintenance
    - Science Classrooms (bldg. 2)
      - 7 classrooms with mold/mildew
      - Has been rectified
      - The smell turned out to be from the drains and not the mold
      - Readying rooms for use again
        - o Paint
        - o New ceiling tiles
    - HVAC
      - System fairly balanced now
      - Concern is what will happen when everyone returns to campus
      - Will perform a full test of the system before the end of the year
  - Tuesday Song & Associates, Wharton Smith, and SDPBC reps
    - Architectural punch list (issues with the building/structure only)
    - Warranty items (locks, cabinets, etc.)
    - Should be completed with everything by the end of January
  - o Today Technology contractors
    - Contractors are running fiber for switches which has been the main source of connectivity issues

- 19 missing Wi-Fi units
  - These are only from demo areas
  - Will be purchased by Wharton Smith and installed by the end of the year
  - Full connectivity going into January
- o Paint Booth
  - Still waiting on gas line
  - Once hooked up will be operational
- Kimmel Family Foundation
  - Currently have raised \$45,000
  - Will match for every \$25,000 raised up to \$200,000
  - PR Campaign sponsored by KFF postponed due to an illness
    - Will provide an update at next meeting
- o Automotive Program
  - Teddy Morse will be visiting Building 6 next Monday
- o Adult Education
  - Last month SDPBC Board Member Karen Brill visited STA
  - Expressed desire to work with SouthTech
  - 2 days ago found out that SDPBC is building a K-12 CTE facility at Village Academy in Delray Beach with the same career academies that STA offers including cosmetology
    - Partnering with Atlantic High School to provide career training for their students
    - Partnering with PBSC for on campus dual-enrollment
- SouthTech Preparatory
  - o Facilities/Operations Manager
    - Made a strong recommendation that we hire someone to handle the property maintenance/operations especially now that STS is a property owner
    - Need a seasoned property manager
      - Especially important for when emergencies arise
    - Approached the person that handled the property under the previous owner and he is willing to work on a per diem basis
    - Contracted person for now
    - Ultimately someone is needed to do this as a permanent position moving forward
      - Mr. Kesten asked that pricing/budget info be presented at the next meeting as Ms. Lovett will be in attendance to make that decision along with the Board

### b. SouthTech Academy Principal - Eileen Turenne

- Fall and Winter Food drives for STA families in need
- Grant funding Fuel up to Play
  - Kick-off Event
  - Free swag for those whose pledged their commitment to the Fuel up to Play 60 initiative
  - O Slime Salas
- Testing at STA
  - o FSA ELA Exam
    - 295 Juniors and Seniors have come to take the they missed last spring
    - 89% attendance rate
    - Scores should be released before Winter Break.
  - Algebra EOC
    - 213 students are scheduled to come in to take the exam they missed last spring
    - 83 students thus far have completed their exam

- US History EOC
  - 126 students are scheduled to come in January 12<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup>
- Biology EOC
  - 139 students are scheduled to come on January 14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup>

• Emergency Order No. 2020-EO-07

What stays the same?	Spring 2021 Improvements:
Full Parental Choice  • Some families still need flexibility for the spring semester due to medical vulnerabilities.	Requires educational interventions for students who are falling behind
Continues financial flexibility and stability for school districts and charter schools.	Rewards school districts and charter schools that have exceeded their projected enrollment.  STA Projection ☐ 1165  STA Enrollment ☐ 1242 (date certain)  STA Enrollment ☐ 1232 (today)
Continues guarantee of full panoply of services for atrisk students. Continues requirement to progress monitoring students.	Follow recommendations from the Florida Association of District School Superintendents (FADSS) and school districts' finance officers.

- Impacts on STS
  - As we brought students back to campus on September 21<sup>st</sup>, we did so in compliance with the SouthTech Schools Innovative Reopening Plan.
  - That plan had been approved by the FLDOE, but there are some details that we are currently changing so that we will be in alignment with the recent Executive Order:
    - SouthTech Academy must allow parents to choose to return to brick and mortar learning as needed.
      - We cannot restrict families to a specified time frame.
      - If a student is sent home sick, we cannot switch them to Distance Learning until the next survey period.
  - o If a student is not being successful in our virtual learning model, they must transition to the on-campus learning model.
  - o Exception:
    - If the parent is notified (in writing) of any associated education risks by remaining in distance learning.
    - We must obtain written acknowledgement from the parent or guardian verifying the receipt of this information and their intent to remain in the innovative learning modality.
      - To this end, a Parental Choice to Remain in Distance Learning Acknowledgement Form is currently under construction.
      - This form will originate from the School Counselor of the struggling student.
- Grant Funding The Lenz Foundation
  - o \$5,000 grant coming in April 2021
  - Construct a meditation garden at STA

### c. SouthTech Preparatory Academy Principal - Nicole Handy

- On Campus Events
  - Students continue synchronous learning with around 40% learning on campus
    - 0% COVID positive cases
    - Hired a new teacher Mr. Mylz Wicker
    - In the process of hiring the new Curriculum Coordinator
- More Happenings
  - o BBPD
    - Donation of \$500 gift card for gifts for the MVP students
  - New Bulldog Baby
    - Ms. Ramirez had a baby boy
  - o APM Testing
    - English and Reading teams
- Data Driven School
  - STPA continues to focus on the diagnostic and other test data to drive instruction.
    - ELA Team is focusing on Reading and Writing Standards supported by Electives
    - Math Team meets regularly to analyze student data and adapt lesson plans
    - Science Also supported by the Academies Medical and STEAM
- School Choice Week Dance Preparations
  - Ms. Settle's 6<sup>th</sup> grade class students took time out of their morning meetings as a class to learn the dance for National Choice Week 2020 Celebration
- Welcome Carla Lovett
  - Looking forward to welcoming our new Executive Director and would like to acknowledge our Interim Executive Director, Mr., Steven Kozak, for all of his support during the transition.

#### d. Committees

- Resource Development Steven Kozak
  - o Already covered in the Executive Director report
- 8. Public Comments on Agenda Items None.
- 9. Introduction of Consent Agenda for SOUTHTECH ACADEMY

### **Old Business**

None.

#### Administrative Items

- A-1 I recommend that the Board approve the Letter of Attestation required for the completion of the 2020-21 Annual Review with SDPBC Charter School Department.
- A-2 I recommend that the Board approve the Letter of Attestation required for the completion of the 2020-21 Annual Review with the SDPBC ESE Department.
- A-3 I recommend that the Board approve the 2021 Spring Education Plan and Assurance Approval.
- A-4 I recommend that the Board approve the donations for the period from November 1, 2020 to November 20, 2020.

### Personnel Items

None.

#### Financial Items

- C-1 I recommend that the Board approve and ratify the monthly Charter school bank account reconciliation for month ending October 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 October 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 October 31, 2020 as required by the Sponsor.
- C-4 I recommend that the Board approve and ratify the monthly SouthTech Schools Holdings, LLC bank account reconciliation for month ending October 31, 2020 as required by the Sponsor.

- C-5 I recommend that the Board approve and ratify the SouthTech Schools Holdings, LLC monthly Disbursement Reports for the month ending October 31, 2020 as required by the Sponsor.
- C-6 I recommend that the Board approve and ratify the SouthTech Schools Holdings, LLC Balance Sheet and Profit & Loss Report for month ending October 31, 2020.
- C-7 I recommend that the Board approve the contract for the creation of a new SouthTech Schools website.
- C-8 I recommend that the Board approve and ratify the Internal Revenue Service Form 990 for SouthTech Academy and that Dan Heller, Board Treasurer sign the Internal Revenue Service Form 8879 for SouthTech Academy.

### **Emergency Items**

None.

- 10. Poll Board for Items to be Pulled for Comment or Questions None.
- 11. Approval of SouthTech Academy Consent Agenda Except for Items Pulled

Motion: James Notter Second: Suzanne Nicolini

All in favor. Motion carries.

- 12. Approval of Each Pulled Item N/A
- 13. Public Comments on non-Agenda Items None.
- 14. Introduction of Consent Agenda for SOUTHTECH PREPARATORY ACADEMY

#### **Old Business**

None.

#### Administrative Items

- PA-1 I recommend that the Board approve the Letter of Attestation required for the completion of the 2020-21 Annual Review with SDPBC Charter School Department.
- PA-2 I recommend that the Board approve the Letter of Attestation required for the completion of the 2020-21 Annual Review with the SDPBC ESE Department.
- PA-3 I recommend that the Board approve the 2021 Spring Education Plan and Assurance Approval.

#### 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 October 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 October 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 October 31, 2020 as required by the Sponsor.
- PC-4 I recommend that the Board approve the contract for the creation of a new SouthTech Schools website.
- PC-5 I recommend that the Board approve and ratify the Internal Revenue Service Form 990 for SouthTech Preparatory Academy and that Dan Heller, Board Treasurer sign the Internal Revenue Service Form 8879 for SouthTech Preparatory Academy.

### **Emergency Items**

None.

- 15. Poll Board for Items to be Pulled for Comment or Questions None.
- 16. Approval of SouthTech Preparatory Academy Consent Agenda Except for Items Pulled:

Motion: Russell Feldman Second: Suzanne Nicolini

All in favor. Motion carries.

- 17. Approval of Each Pulled Item N/A
- 18. Public Comments on non-Agenda Items None.
- 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 October 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 October 31, 2020 as required by the Sponsor.
- SCC-3 I recommend that the Board approve and ratify the Internal Revenue Service Form 990 for SouthTech Success Center and that Dan Heller, Board Treasurer sign the Internal Revenue Service Form 8879 for SouthTech Success Center.

#### **Emergency Items**

None.

- 20. Poll the Board for Items to be Pulled None.
- 21. Approval of SouthTech Success Center Consent Agenda Except for Items Pulled

Motion: Suzanne Nicolini

Second: James Notter

All in favor. Motion carries.

- 22. Approval of Each Pulled Item N/A
- 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

A meeting took place earlier in the day but was brief due to low attendance. Topics covered included:

- 2021 Pathfinder Nominee
  - o Hannah Acosta
- 2021 Dwyer Award Nominees
  - o Ms. Sweeney
  - o Ms. Sanders
- 25 Thanksgiving Baskets
- Donation from Nikki Levy Interiors
  - o Coordinated by Josh Wigelsworth
  - o \$3,000 donation to SouthTech Academy
- Ideas for future fundraising opportunities

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 N/A
- 28. South Tech Preparatory Academy:

## School Improvement Steering Committee (SISC) Report - Nicole Handy

Met last month, also for a brief meeting due to low attendance. The topics covered included:

- Color Brave Challenge
  - o Encourages healthy habits and activities
  - o This is the final week
- WiseTribe Food Pantry grant
- Thanksgiving and Winter food drives for STPA families in need
- Aquaponics Garden
  - o Electrician today
  - o Should be up and running soon

Introduction of the SouthTech Preparatory Academy SAC Consent Agenda - None.

- 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

The Board members thanked teachers and staff for their hard work and dedication over the past year. They also thanked Mr. Kozak for his wonderful work during his tenure as Interim Executive Director. Carla Lovett will take over as the new Executive Director of SouthTech Schools when classes resume in January. The Board expressed their excitement to have her joining the team and look forward to working with her in the future. Mr.

Feldman asked what the plans were if too many students return next semester, making it difficult to practice proper social distancing. Mrs. Turenne explained that she did not think that would be an issue at SouthTech Academy as the past is the best indicator of the future.

33. Motion to Adjourn

Motion: James Notter

Time: 3:20 pm

1 Inutes Prepared by: Approved by

Lisa DeVine

Robert Kesten

Dated 1/19/0