

**SOUTHTECH CHARTER ACADEMY, INC.
SOUTHTECH PREPARATORY ACADEMY, INC.
SOUTHTECH SUCCESS CENTER, INC. FOUNDING BOARD**
January 18, 2018 Minutes of the Governing Board/SAC/Founding Board Meeting

1. *Call to order* by Mr. Bloom at 7:09pm
2. *Pledge of Allegiance*
3. *Roll Call* by Donna Baize:

Present: Donna Baize, Aram Bloom, Russell Feldman, Diane Heinz, Dan Heller, Roger Dunson, Nancy Ernst, Suzanne Nicolini,

Absent: James Notter, Carl McKoy

Quorum

4. *Open Public Meetings Act Statement* – The meeting has been properly noticed.
5. *Public Presentation:* Tim Brown thanked the Board for allowing him the opportunity to present news about his VOYA win. The grant writing team, Mr. Brown and Mr. Terry got together in April of 2017 to put together a plan for the VOYA Unsung Hero Scholarship, which had a maximum payout of \$25,000 and the minimum payment was \$2,000. The title of it was “Stemming the Gap between Education and Career Readiness”. Mr. Brown said they were notified last June that they had won, but did not say how much, and they did not make the final decision until November. Mr. Brown said they created the project for the full \$25,000. For the first \$2,000, they were trying to get high-definition cameras to film their “How To” videos. For an additional \$5,000, they were looking for a Diagnostic Trainer; \$10,000 for a Z-Space Lab Station; and for \$25,000 Smart Board/White Boards, Laser printers, 3D printers, etc. They were anticipating that they were going to get more money, but what they received was \$2,000 last December 18, and they are excited about that.
Mr. Brown had additional exciting news to share with the Board. They have some automotive competitions that will be taking place tomorrow and Saturday. Tomorrow is the Greater New York Auto Dealers’ Competition, taking place at the Sheraton Technical West Center, and is designed for teams of two to compete at various stations. Last year, we took first place and won an all-expense paid trip for the instructor and a team to go and compete in New York. On a national scale, they came in 13th Place. This year, STA will be competing with two teams for the competition tomorrow. We believe that we will win again and go to New York to become #1. There is also the UTI Top Tech Challenge, which takes place on Saturday. Mr. Brown will be accompanying the team to UTI in Orlando. Last year, we came in fourth place and it was our first attempt, so we are looking to place in that competition as well. Mr. Brown also mentioned that they have three new hires of our students, who are still in high school. That is what we aim for, to educate them and employ them. Two were just hired at the City of West Palm Beach as of today, one student is working at Schumacher GMC in West Palm Beach, and he started on December 5, 2017. They are earning at they learn.
Ms. Heinz asked Mr. Brown for a flyer that she could distribute to the community where she lives, with prices for oil changes, etc. Mr. Brown said he would definitely get together with the Academy Coordinator, and they will sit down, talk about those ideas, and follow up with Ms. Heinz on it. Ms. Heinz said that the students do a great job.
Mr. Kidd said that Jason Klein did some research with Ken Smith on the new tax laws and their effect on non-profits and they were supposed to present at the Board meeting. Jason did come to the Finance Committee meeting. Mr. Kidd told Jason that since there was really no impact to non-profits known at this time, he did not think it was necessary for Jason to come to the Board meeting. Mr. Kidd said he would keep the Board informed if there are any new updates.
6. *Approval of the Minutes for the STA/STPA Emergency Governing Board - STSC Founding Board Meeting on December 14, 2017*
Motion by: Mrs. Nicolini **Second by:** Ms. Heinz
All in favor. Motion carries.
7. *Treasurer’s/Financial Report:* Mr. Heller reported that the STA/STPA Finance Committee met prior to the Board meeting and they recommend approval for STA Items C-1 through C-3 and STPA Items PC-1 through PC-3.

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8A. Superintendent's Report: Mr. Kidd wished the Board a Happy New Year, as they had not met before this year.

Mr. Kidd said that he is not at full recovery yet, but has come a long way because he took advantage of the winter break and was able to sleep 10-12 hours per night.

Odyssey Lease: Mr. Kidd said they go back into negotiations with the District Friday week, January 26. The District offered \$7,000,000 and whatever it would do, they would take care of, and anything above, STA would take care of. Mr. Kidd told them that if that is where they were hung up he would not recommend to this Board that we sign or enter into the agreement. Mr. Kidd said he received two independent estimates that both came in between \$17,000,000-\$18,000,000, but did not include any of the site work with the addition of paving or buildings, drainage and retention areas must be increased. As a high school, it will require at least twice the parking that is there now, especially if you use the 1600 student numbers. The District members had a brief caucus, and when they returned, they said they would need to talk to the Superintendent about it before they went any further. Mr. Kidd said that his position has not changed. We must have replacement facilities that are appropriate to run the programs successfully, which is what Mr. Kidd cares about most. Mr. Kidd continued to explain the space that the various academies would need in more detail, and said that we need more space, not less space than what we have now.

STSC Charter: Mr. Kidd said that the SouthTech Success Center Charter has not been approved yet, because the District is holding off on approving it until the lease is worked out. SouthTech Preparatory is in for renewal and we have not heard anything on that yet. The Odyssey lease and the SouthTech Academy charter is the linchpin of everything. Never before in the history of SouthTech Academy, a conversion charter, have we had a separate lease and a separate charter. They were combined and it was not very complicated. This one is complicated and quite lengthy. Mr. Kidd believes that it will go through because there is too much public pressure in the community and COBRA is very supportive of the idea, as is the Builder's Association of Palm Beach County. We met with the District last on December 15 and the negotiation session coming up is January 26. If it is going to take six weeks every time to get the negotiating team together, we definitely will not be in there by August of 2019. If it delayed much longer, we would not be in there by January of 2020. Mr. Kidd would not want to move the students mid-year, so it could be August 2020, because of the permitting required. It is a middle school being converted to a high school, which may cause roadblocks. In some of the situations where Mr. Kidd is fighting for space, they may be forced to enlarge the areas.

Mr. Kidd said that the negotiation session is scheduled for January 26, from 9:00am to 12:00 noon.

Charter School Project (CSP): For the Charter School Project (CSP) grant for the Success Center, Mr. Kidd and a team of eight people will be going to Broward County for an interview with the Charter School Authorizers' committee from FLDOE on Friday, January 26, 2018 from 1:30-3:00pm. The Authorizer's Committee could not do the interview any later than 1:30pm, so the schedule on Friday will be tight, but there is potentially half a million dollars at stake.

Enrollment: There was a story going around that we were not taking students at mid-year this year. There are two ways of interpreting this. Most of the students who applied did not meet the attendance and discipline criteria. Of the few that did, the academies they requested are all full. Mr. Kidd explained how the transportation academies were revamped, so that the freshmen and sophomores do a rotation. This has helped build up numbers in all four programs. If they wanted Automotive, they still have to go through Auto Body, Marine, and Motorcycle Academies. Then they go back to Automotive for the last two years, so they actually get two and a half years, which has worked out well. So, between the applicants that met the criteria, but could not get into the academies of choice, and the students not meeting criteria, we did not take in students mid-year.

House Bill 7069: The Palm Beach County School District sued the State over HB 7069, which is about capital funding being distributed to charter schools. They had a hearing this past week, and the School District wanted the courts to let them hold the capital funding monies until the case was decided, which they are supposed to distribute to the charters schools February 1. It was denied, but there was a caveat in there, in that the Judge warned the District that it would be construed as retribution and bullying. The District may petition the court to hold the money. It would mean about a quarter of a million dollars for SouthTech Prep. If there is an appeal on it, and it goes to a higher court, it could be tied up in court for years. Eleven other Districts have filed a case.

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Mrs. Ernst asked what the School District gains by keeping the money and Mr. Kidd responded control.

Mr. Feldman added that the money just sits in escrow and they cannot spend it without a high risk for them, and we cannot spend it without a high risk for us. Mr. Kidd's recommendation to the Board is, if we get that money, we need to spend it. If we had to pay it back, we have reserves. Charter schools say that they need it to stay in the black. If we just put it in a bank account and sit on it, we will appear to be lying about needing the money. The affidavit that was put out by the Department of Education through the Comptroller's office said that the School District had a surplus revenue of \$55,000,000 last year. If we get the money, we will pay the rent with it, unless there is a court order that says otherwise. Mr. Kidd concluded his report.

Mr. Feldman asked Mr. Kidd how the District came up with the \$7,000,000 and where did they get that number. Did they develop a spec list? Mr. Kidd responded that he believes they did.

- 8B. Deputy Superintendent/Acting Principal's Report – STA/STPA/Adult Ed Program: Mr. Boggess brought the Board up to days from the Systems approach. They have engaged in the Professional Learning Communities, which is the System-wide Professional Development, and takes this from a stand and deliver model to more of an engaged educator's perspective on things for which they want to improve at. Ms. Julie Williams is on the SouthTech Schools LEA staff, doing a fantastic job with Consultant Debbie Cook. They take specific problems, classroom management or technology in the classroom, and looking at ideas on how they can innovate in that realm, and then they collegiately meet on those pieces to bring them back to the table and talk about it. We had a Systems-wide Title IX Training that Ms. Williams also conducted. We have all seen the news about sexual harassment, and unfortunately, it is part of the workplace and something that we do not tolerate at SouthTech Schools, whether it be sexual bullying from a student or staff interactions. Next week, we will be celebrating National Schools Choice Week with a variety of activities both at STA and STPA, and Mrs. Handy will give a detailed account of what those activities might look like.

For SouthTech Academy specifically, there was an article in the Palm Beach Post that listed the graduation rates. Mr. Boggess said that the article lumped traditional public high schools and lumped all of the charter schools in significantly different rates. They did not do the comparison correctly. When you look at John I. Leonard and Boynton Beach high schools, or West Boca and Jupiter, there is a comparison to be made. When you look at Mavericks or Quantum, or Academy for Positive Learning and G-Star, Inlet Grove or SouthTech, those are all very different schools with a different purpose and mission than a traditional public school. We are proud with our 93.5% graduation rate that we posted last year. Out of the 93.5%, 97% of those students left us with a dual-enrollment course, AP and Industry Certification. It is frustrating to see that SouthTech was lumped into the other schools in that charter realm that gave us less than 50% graduation rate. Inlet Grove had a 97% graduation rate and G-Star had 95% and in comparison to the rest of the Title I schools, we are still above the rest of the traditional public schools. Data is data, but it is all how your interpret it. Mr. Boggess wanted to make this point to the Board.

Mrs. Ernst asked Mr. Boggess if he were going to write a letter to the editor. Mr. Boggess said they have discussed this topic, but it is up to Mr. Kidd.

Ms. Heinz said that when she was an elected official, she did not respond to statements that inaccurately portrayed her. They do invite you to respond. You see who the writer of the story is, what their email address is, and then make a quick response. Perhaps you could get someone who is a good writer, or the marketing firm we use, and get the response back to them quickly, telling them that not all charter schools are created equal. If the response is well written, they will post it. She said she wishes she had done this.

Mr. Bloom suggested that perhaps they could task the Marketing Committee for handling. He does not see why the Board could not send a letter as well. They will see that the staff is getting the Board's support, especially if they are publishing articles that we are uncomfortable. He suggested that the Marketing Committee be reconstituted. Mrs. Nicolini said that there is a marketing representative for the school, and could they work with us? Mr. Kidd said yes, and they probably would do a good job with little coaching. He agrees with what Mr. Boggess about the comparisons. If they put us in with the same demographic population at 75%, we are at 93.5%. The Post breaks it out as they did for a reason, probably getting some coaching, to make the charters look far worse than what we are. Mr. Feldman said that the District presented it the same way in their own

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newsletter, only including their typical schools, and there was no where in the newsletter where their alternative or other schools were listed to show what the rate was.

Mr. Bloom said that if we could reconstitute the Marketing Committee and then work with the marketing representative, so the sub-committee could present it to the Board for vote and the Board will send the letter.

Mrs. Nicolini asked if we would wait a month to do it, and Mr. Bloom responded that the sub-committee could do it and we could retroactively approve it. Mr. Kidd said a motion from the floor that it would be done, and a letter go out under the Board's name and authorize Mr. Notter to sign it. It needs to be done right.

Mr. Kidd asked Jay to remind him to write something up for Kristine Gobbo and let Eileen work with her.

Mr. Boggess continued his report, saying that on February 6 and 7, SouthTech would be hosting the SkillsUSA regional competition this year. Also on February 6, we are having our STA Open House and we have been invited to be a part of the Business Development Board, "Claim Your Future" event, sponsored by the BDB and Kelly Smallridge. Twenty-five of our students will go to see all of the opportunities that are in Palm Beach County, from Lockheed Martin to Sikorski, and other big-time employers that are looking for the talent pipeline. We will also be there as a sponsor and SouthTech Schools will be trying to recruit kids to look at other post-secondary options, i.e. Pre-apprenticeship and Apprenticeship. Lastly, the Music and Sound Production, the Rock and Roll Academy performed last night at the South Florida Fair. The kids did awesome.

Mrs. Ernst asked where was the BDB event being held, and the response was the Palm Beach Convention Center.

Mr. Bloom said they would motion about the letter after the consent agenda. Mr. Boggess concluded his report.

8C. *Principal's Report:* Mr. Boggess already gave his report.

8D. *Middle School Principal:* Mrs. Handy said National School Choice is next week and we kick it off next Friday at Prep with the filming of a video. Every year, the students put out a dance along with the Comic Relief, including Mrs. Handy and staff members. On Monday, they will invite the parents to stop by for a snack to say thank you for choosing SouthTech Prep and to get them to post some positive comments on social media for school choice. Each day, there is something going on for the students and the staff as well. She invited the Board to come by anytime next week. Many of the changes occurring at Prep this year is because we have a very strong school wide positive behavior system, led by our Student Services team and our new Dean. Mrs. Handy said because middle school kids do not like being told what to do or told the rules and expectations in a stand and deliver model. To appeal to this generation of screen-addicted children, they made some fun videos that they also shared with the District. They are using the videos as their training models and sharing them with other schools. We just completed another video, a cyberbullying one promoting our STOPIT Ap, which both of our schools use. We will show it to the students tomorrow. Mrs. Handy said she would send the links for both videos. Mrs. Handy said that they are in the middle of diagnostics this week and so far, all the data she has seen is very strong, much better than where they were last year at this point. She said they received a letter from the Governor, commending them and circling the areas that they did the best, and he signed it personally. In improvement in Math achievement, they were in the top 2% of all middle schools in Florida; top 6% of all schools, elementary, middle and high school; top 8% of all the Title I schools and top 10% of all charter schools. The charter schools are the standard and they set the bar.

8E. *Committee Reports:* None.

9. *Public Comments on Agenda Items – Five (5 Minutes Maximum Each Person)*

SouthTech Academy – None.

SouthTech Preparatory Academy – None.

10. *Introduction of Consent Agenda for SouthTech Academy* – Mr. Kidd introduced the Consent Agenda, saying that Item C-4 is withdrawn from the agenda and they will bring it back next month.

Old Business

None.

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Administrative Items

- A-1 I recommend that the Board approve the donations for the period from December 14, 2017 to January 18, 2018.

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 month ending November 30, 2017 as required by the Sponsor.
- C-2 I recommend that the Board approve and ratify the Charter school monthly Disbursement Report for month ending November 30, 2017 as required by the Sponsor.
- C-3 I recommend that the Board approve and ratify the monthly financial statements for month ending November 30, 2017 as required by the Sponsor.
- C-4 I recommend the Board approve the revised Agreement with Medical Career Academy, Inc. to provide Continuing Workforce Education classes on South Tech Academy's campus, and authorize the President to sign all related documents. - **WITHDRAWN**

Emergency Items

None.

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

None.

12. *Approval of SouthTech Academy Consent Agenda with exception of the items pulled:*

Motion: Mr. Dunson Second: Ms. Heinz

All in favor. Motion carries.

13. *Approval of Each Pulled Item (Item-by-Item):* None.

Mr. Bloom asked for a motion to reconstitute our marketing committee and authorize it to work on drafting a letter to the Palm Beach Post.

Motion: Mrs. Nicolini Second: Mr. Dunson

Ms. Heinz asked Mr. Kidd what he had in mind. Mr. Kidd made a suggestion for the Board to consider. If they reconstitute the committee and go through the process of getting the committee together, it will take a long time. He asked that we get our marketing representative, Kristine Gobbo, to draft something and have Mr. Notter sign it.

Mr. Feldman said he was concerned with the time issue, and asked when the article was printed and the response was two weeks ago. Mr. Bloom said the Board would take a vote to authorize the drafting of and signature by Mr. Notter.

Mr. Kidd asked if they could commission him through staff to task Kristine Gobbo to write the letter for Mr. Notter's approval, and authorize him to sign it on behalf of the Board. **The amended motion is to authorize staff to prepare a letter and authorize the Board chair to sign that letter on behalf of the Board in response to the Palm Beach Post article.**

All in favor. Motion carries.

14. *Public Comments on non-Agenda Items:* None

15. *Introduction of Consent Agenda for SouthTech Preparatory Academy* – Mr. Kidd introduced the Consent Agenda.

Old Business

None.

Administrative Items

None.

Personnel Items

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

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Financial Items

- PC-1 I recommend that the Board approve and ratify the monthly Charter school bank account reconciliation for month ending November 30, 2017 as required by the Sponsor.
- PC-2 I recommend that the Board approve and ratify the Charter school monthly Disbursement Report for month ending November 30, 2017 as required by the Sponsor.
- PC-3 I recommend that the Board approve and ratify the monthly financial statements for month ending November 30, 2017 as required by the Sponsor.

Emergency Items

None.

16. *Poll Board for Items to be Pulled for Comment or Questions:*
17. *Approval of SouthTech Preparatory Academy Consent Agenda:*
Motion: Mrs. Nicolini Second: Mr. Dunson
All in favor. Motion carries.
18. *Approval of Each Pulled Item (Item-by-Item): None.*
19. *Public Comments on non-Agenda Items: None.*
20. *Introduction of Consent Agenda for SouthTech Success Center:*
No Agenda.
Mr. Kidd mentioned that the approval of the charter is pending the negotiation of the lease for SouthTech Academy.
Mr. Feldman said his concern on this is that we would not have time to recruit. Mr. Kidd agreed, but said in the first year, we will open with 75 students, opening small, and probably fill it out with the kids who did not meet the criteria for STA. Hopefully, we will have closure in time to get advertising done on it.
21. *Poll Board for Items to be Pulled for Comment or Question: None.*
22. *Approval of SouthTech Success Center Founding Board Consent Agenda:*
None.
23. *Approval of Each Pulled Item (Item-by-Item): None.*
24. *Public Comments on non-Agenda Items: None.*
25. *Governing Board in the Capacity of School Advisory Council (SAC) for:*
South Tech Academy:
School Improvement Steering Committee (SISC) Report – STA SISC – Mr. Feldman, Chairperson; Mrs. Baize, Alternate Chairperson; Suzanne Nicolini, Alternate Chairperson.
Mrs. Nicolini said that Mr. Boggess had covered most of the SISC report. She did say that report cards are delayed and will not be sent out until next week. Graduation is May 23, 2017 at 4:00pm at the Florida Fairgrounds, so please note it on your calendars. There is much going on with the National Charter School Week, and Literacy Week. She commented that it would be nice to get the Board member involved in some of these activities. Mr. Feldman said it would be good to distribute the activity chart to the Board members, and Mr. Bloom asked Barbara to do that.
Introduction of the SouthTech Academy SAC Consent Agenda – Mr. Feldman, Chairperson – No Agenda.
26. *Poll SAC for Items to be Pulled from the SAC Consent Agenda for Comment or Questions: N/A*
27. *Approval of SAC Consent Agenda Except for Items Pulled: N/A*
28. *Approval of Each Pulled Item (Item-by-Item) – Introduction by Chairperson: N/A*
29. *Governing Board in Capacity of School Advisory Council (SAC) for:*
South Tech Preparatory Academy
School Improvement Steering Committee (SISC) Report – Ms. Heinz, Chairperson
Ms. Heinz asked Mrs. Handy to give the report. Mrs. Handy said that the eighth grade promotion ceremony will be on May 25, 2017, Friday at 6:00pm at Park Vista High School.
Introduction of the SouthTech Preparatory Academy SAC Consent Agenda – None.
30. *Poll SAC for Items to be Pulled from the SAC Consent Agenda for Comment or Questions – N/A*
31. *Approval of SAC Consent Agenda Except for Items Pulled: N/A*

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32. *Approval of Each Pulled Item (Item-by Item) – Introduction by Chairperson: N/A*

33. *Board Comments:*

Ms. Heinz said that they spoke about this at the Finance Committee meeting, that is, the reactivation of the Facilities Committee, and to get someone involved that needs to be involved. She also recommends a person that hopefully, we might be able to broaden our Board members with some people she knows that are great in construction and have been Rotarians for a long time. If we could get the Facilities Committee up and running, it might be helpful. Mr. Bloom told Ms. Heinz to send the names to Barbara. Mr. Bloom said he might send names in as well.

Mrs. Nicolini thanked Mr. Kidd for his lengthy report on Odyssey, because she has a million questions and she has been hearing them from the school, so you did not take too long. If we get accurate information from Mr. Kidd, we can pass it on. Mrs. Nicolini said she is here only twice a week, and every time she comes in, there are three other things they have added on to their agenda, and she does not know how they do it all and then show up at meetings at night. Mr. Kidd said that they do not get bored.

Mr. Feldman said that it is nice to have Mr. Kidd back, smiling, happy, looking good and getting better. He thanked the staff and told them to have a great second semester. He congratulated the middle school.

Mrs. Ernst congratulated Mrs. Handy on the love letter she received from the Governor. She thanked the school for a wonderful luncheon and commented how her husband enjoyed it and told everyone about it. Mrs. Ernst told Mr. Kidd said it is good to see him back with color in his face.

Mr. Dunson said there is always going on at SouthTech and that they are doing a great job. He is always impressed by all the things they do and get the students to do. Thank you.

Mr. Bloom wished everyone a Happy New Year and the best of luck in the Auto Tech competition and in the Skills competition next week.

Mr. Heller said ditto to everything.

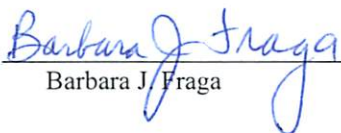
Mrs. Baize said just keep doing what you are doing and that she is always very proud that she serves on the Board. She apologized that she missed the luncheon, but she had a very good reason. Her son finally graduated from University of Central Florida.

Mrs. Nicolini said that her grandson is participating in the competition tomorrow and on Saturday, and he is one of the students in the internship for Palm Beach County. The Automotive Program is working!

34. *Motion to Adjourn:*

Mr. Heller motioned to adjourn at 8:25pm until the Regular Board meeting on February 8, 2018 at 7:00pm.

Minutes Prepared by:


Barbara J. Fraga

Approved by:


James F. Notter, Chair

2/8/18