

SOUTHTECH CHARTER ACADEMY, INC.3
SOUTHTECH PREPARATORY ACADEMY, INC.
SOUTHTECH SUCCESS CENTER, INC. FOUNDING BOARD
March 14, 2019 Minutes of the Governing Board/SAC/Founding Board Meeting

1. *Call to order by Mr. Heller at 7:15pm*
2. *Pledge of Allegiance*
3. *Roll Call by Barbara Fraga:*

Present: Aram Bloom, Dan Heller, Russ Feldman, Jonathan Flah, Diane Heinz, Suzanne Nicolini, Roger Dunson
James Notter, Roger Dunson

Absent: James Notter, Carl McKoy, Ayesha Edmond

Quorum

Mr. Bloom announced that before we go into Board Comments, Mr. Kidd wanted to say something. Mr. Kidd told the Board that he did not look at his evaluation until Mr. Bloom discussed it with him this evening. Mr. Kidd thanked the Board for their confidence in him and he thanked the committee that evaluated him and for the great evaluation, for all the support they have given him. He said it is a wonderful thing to work with a Board when everyone is in the honeymoon stage, and this one has lasted a long time. Mr. Kidd thanked the staff and said that they make him look good, and he agrees with what Mr. Boggess said that it is easy to be a leader when you have the staff that we have. The second item is about the Success Center charter going to the School Board on March 27. When we get back from Spring Break, we will start advertising for staff for STSC. After the charter is approved, we will begin to fill the positions that we will need for next year. Mr. Kidd said that he will take a leap of faith that we will have a place to open the school. We are planning on opening when school starts. Mr. Kidd again thanked everyone for their support.

James Notter, Roger Dunson

Absent: James Notter, Carl McKoy, Ayesha Edmond

Quorum

4. *Open Public Meetings Act Statement* – The meeting has been properly noticed.
5. *Public Presentation: None.*
6. *Approval of the Minutes for the STA/STPA Regular Governing Board/STSC Founding Board Meeting February 14, 2019:*

Motion by: Mr. Flah

Second by: Mrs. Nicolini

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 recommended approval for STA Items C-1 through C-3 and STPA Items PC-1 through PC-3.
- 8A. *Superintendent's Report:*

STA-STPA-STSC Charters: Mr. Kidd reported that he and Mr. Boggess had been in a number of meetings with the School Board members, the Superintendent, Chief Operating Officer and various others at the District to ask them to find funding for Odyssey than what they have committed to do. Mr. Kidd said he does not have enough positive response on that to make it happen yet. We have about a year to put pressure on them to get what we need. The meetings are congenial and everyone is behaving, but as far as getting anything done right now, it is extremely difficult. Mr. Kidd said he did not mind going on record by saying that fifteen years with SouthTech Academy, and sixteen if you count the year they converted, and there has always been opposition, but he has never seen the level of difficulty in getting things done that charter schools are experiencing right now. The charters for SouthTech Prep and SouthTech Success Center are slated to go to the School Board on March 27, and that could possibly be pushed ahead into April. Those charters, the renewal on Prep and the original charter on STSC were approved on April 4, 2018. By law, they were supposed to have had them negotiated within four to five months from the time they were Board approved. Mr. Kidd said they are trying to put the finishing touches on the Success Center and we still have SouthTech Academy to go. STA is still current, but Prep's charter has been expired since June 30, 2018, with extensions granted to the end of the year, so they have actually been operating without a charter since the first of the year. Mr. Boggess and Mr. Kidd met with Wanda Paul, COO and two School District attorneys, Joe De Pasquale and Shirley Knotts with reference to the portables at the back of the campus. They have insisted that we lease those portables and Mr. Kidd insisted that they not. He only saw the lease the day before, late in the afternoon. They want \$10/square foot, which equates to \$67,000 for the term of the school year. We started Prep at no cost, because they are on the STA campus and should be under the auspices of STA. They told Mr. Kidd that all seven portables are termite-ridden and need to be condemned and we cannot put kids in them. Mr. Kidd told them that two of them are concrete and steel,

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Odyssey Remodel: There has not been anything new on the Odyssey remodel and they are still pretty well where they were on that and Mr. Kidd has backed off to let them run with it, because he does not want to hold it up. We do have some feelers out and could possibly get some support on some of the things we need to open up. Staff is also working on getting an estimate for the cost on some decent furnishing.

Mr. Notter and Mr. Bloom met with Dr. Fennoy and Wanda Paul last week and said that the meeting was congenial. Mr. Kidd said that he appreciates them doing that.

Referendum Litigation: Mr. Kidd said that G-Star weighed in on a separate suit against the School District and the litigation in general is progressing. There is a lot of hope that the Legislature is going to resolve the issue before it goes to trial. There is a possibility that they will move pretty quick on it. Mr. Kidd said he sent everyone the news on the responsibility for placing the School Safety Officers, and it turns out that the Districts do have to do that, but it did not mention who would pay for it. Mr. Kidd spoke to Bob Haag from the Consortium, telling him that although they have the responsibility to assign them, it does not say who pays for it. The School District Board voted unanimously to repeal it last night. Frank Barbieri was on the 5 o'clock News this morning talking about how foolish it was and about how they were going to appeal it. Mr. Feldman asked Mr. Kidd we should we not be sending a letter requesting the office and payment for that service, for what we have done to this point at least. The Board should probably get some advice from our attorney. Other schools are sending them a letter requesting service and payment, and Renaissance sued them for payment. Mr. Kidd said that might be applicable for Prep, but for STA, the contract for School Police is part of the charter. We did receive early in the year about 50% of the compensation amount for the office. Kathy McNerney said that we receive an allocation from Safe Schools each month. It is about half the cost for STA and one-third the cost for Prep. We could do the letter, but right now we should just let it develop a bit, but if the Board wants him to do the letter, he will do it. Mr. Feldman mentioned that Miami is going to share the referendum money with the charters.

8B. Deputy Superintendent's Report: This is the time when every educator in Palm Beach County and the State of Florida is looking forward to next week, which is Spring Break. You have final exams taking place at STA and a variety of fun things taking place at STPA, and if you noticed on the way in, things are taking place with Adult Ed. Everyone feels that we are almost there, because when we get back from Spring Break, it is a downhill, slippery slope all the way to the finish line. In January, you heard from our Systems Staff and in February, you heard from Mr. Boggess and Mr. Kidd, so tonight the Board will hear from the school-based principals.

8C. High School Principal: Eileen Turenne

- **Continuous School Improvement:**

SouthTech Schools will work towards an "A"-rated system of schools and serve as a national model for career and technical programs.

- Pathfinder Nominees interviewed at Palm Beach Atlantic University on March 6th.
- Victory Party for top-scoring students on Winter EOC's on March 8th.

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- Spring Break Challenge (on the website)
 - 2019 College Tour—Informational Meeting: April 9
 - **Program Expansion:**
SouthTech Schools will create a 21st century learner who is college and career-ready via a K-20 system in Palm Beach County.
 - Business Management Advisory Board
 - The Milagros Center
 - Keiser University
 - City of Delray Beach
 - **Facilities Improvement/Growth:**
SouthTech schools will host the most current facilities for career and technical programs relevant to business and industry needs. The facilities will allow for project-based learning in both the academic classroom and career academies for real world learning.
 - STEM Lab
 - PLC Adult Learning→ Student Achievement
 - SMART Board Usage
 - Laptop carts are up & running
 - **Government Relations:**
SouthTech Schools will increase its involvement in the community, strengthening and expanding community, business and industry partnership, and increasing alumni engagement.
 - Parent Training Event in Partnership with the Caridad Center
 - Healthcare Resources
 - SIS Gateway Training
 - Meet the Teacher & Explore Healthcare Resources
 - City of Delray Beach Campus Tour
- 8D. Middle School Principal: Nicole Handy**
- **Program Expansion:**
SEL Grant written for flexible learning environment in the STEM classroom
 - **Government Relations:**
Letter writing campaign to our Senator and Representatives for equitable funding for charter schools
 - **Continuous School Improvement:**
 - Peer to Peer observations of best practices in the classrooms
 - Annual District Audit went well - positive feedback from district staff
 - Stay interviews being conducted by Hardy and Handy
 - Heiken Eye Bus came to provide free eye exams and glasses for identified students in need
 - **Facilities and Growth:**
 - Over 150 6th grade applications processed for next school year. Projected to have 180 per grade level.
 - Congrats to Loncey Elie, who was a graduate of our 2nd class at Prep for being Valedictorian of the class of 2019!
- 8E. SouthTech Success Center Principal: Maynard Harvey**
- Heavy emphasis on recruitment at this time.
 - Student recruitment at approximately 70-75 with planned visits to four additional middle schools.
 - Developing teacher staffing recruitment plans to identify five teachers for opening of STSC 2019-2020.
 - Actively involved in architectural planning of Transportation facility at new facility on Woolbright. Serving as communique between architect/teaching staff/administration staff.

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8F. SouthTech Adult Education Director: Eric Messmer

- o Adult Cosmetology had a Hair, Nails, and Skin Care competition last night
- o We were proud of the turnout for the event and the growth within our Cosmetology program and noting our talented team of Patrice Marsh (Adult Cosmetology program coordinator), Mary Carstarphen (instructor), Renee Maqsudi (skin care program), and Andrea Barath (nail tech program)
- o We have more than 300 people participating in our evening programs
- o We recently distributed certificates to 9 students who have completed our Advanced Automobile Electrical System program--special note to Mr. Jean Gibbs (the instructor)
- o Mr. Messmer is grateful for the opportunity that the Board, Mr. Kidd, and Mr. Boggess have provided for him to contribute to SouthTech Schools. Additionally, thankful for SouthTech team both day and night (particular main office staff) that allow the evening programs the chance to be successful. Incredible amount of talent displayed regularly by this system of schools.
- o We approach the adult programs with a "growth mindset".

Mr. Boggess continued by saying that there are three questions that he would like the Board to be very aware of and that he continues to go back to when we are talking about the Odyssey project. Essentially, it comes down to this: What are we building? Who are we building it with? What are we building it for? We are building Palm Beach County's Premier Career and Technical Center. As a Board, as a community, that is what we are building. We are building it with this community, anyone and everyone that will step up and help, from the City of Boynton Beach, the City of Delray, Palm Beach County Commission, the School District, Palm Beach State College, Business and Industry, and anyone that you bring to the table. Lastly, what are we building it for? We are building it for the next generation workforce and the time is here and the time is now. If we do not do act now as a nation, we are in peril in the next 10-20 years. Just because you wear a scarlet "C" on your chest does not mean that our students are not public school students. So this is how we are talking with the superintendent, with the Board members, to Presidents, to CEO's, and to legislators, and this is how you answer them because they need to know it. Mr. Boggess thanked the Board for their leadership. Mr. Heller asked that this be sent to the Board members in an email.

8G. Committee Reports: Mr. Bloom reported that the Superintendent's Evaluation Committee met two weeks ago and completed Mr. Kidd's evaluation, and we met with Mr. Kidd tonight, as required by his contract and finalized his evaluation. That has been handed out and has been added to the Consent Agendas to be handled as STA Item B-1, Item PB-1, and SCB-1. This could be discussed further as we get to these items on the agendas.

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.

Old Business

None.

Administrative Items

A-1 I recommend that the Board approve the donations for the period from February 14, 2019 to March 14, 2019.

A-2 I recommend that the Board approve Policy 1.02 Governing Board revision.

A-3 I recommend that the Board approve the commitment between Children's Services Council and Palm Beach County Youth Services Bureau for the collaborative efforts in obtaining a full time mental health counselor for the 19-20 School Year.

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Personnel Items

B-1 I recommend the Board approve the Superintendent's Competency Assessment form.

Financial Items

C-1 I recommend that the Board approve and ratify the monthly Charter school bank account reconciliation for month ending January 31, 2019 as required by the Sponsor.

C-2 I recommend that the Board approve and ratify the Charter school monthly Disbursement Report for month ending January 31, 2019 as required by the Sponsor.

C-3 I recommend that the Board approve and ratify the monthly financial statements for month ending January 31, 2019 as required by the Sponsor.

Emergency Items

None.

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

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

Motion: Mr. Flah Second: Mr. Heller

All in favor. Motion carries.

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

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

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Emergency Items

None.

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

17. *Approval of SouthTech Preparatory Academy Consent Agenda*

Motion: Mr. Feldman Second: Ms. Heinz

All in favor. Motion carries.

18. *Approval of Each Pulled Item (Item-by-Item):*

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

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20. *Introduction of Consent Agenda for SouthTech Success Center* - Mr. Kidd introduced the Consent Agenda.

Administrative Items

SCA-1 I recommend that the Board reschedule the Thursday, June 20, 2019 Board meeting to Tuesday, June 18, 2019 and authorize revising the FY19 calendar to reflect the change.

SCA-2 I recommend that the Board approve the FY20 SouthTech Curriculum and Instruction (C&I) related calendar dates, as required by the District for data system modifications and approve the corresponding FY20 SouthTech School calendar.

SCA-3 I recommend that the Board approve the updated SouthTech Schools Fiscal Policies and Procedures Manual.

Personnel Items

SCB-1 I recommend that the Board approve the revised annual contracts for employment for FY19.

Emergency Items

None.

21. *Poll Board for Items to be Pulled for Comment or Question:*

22. *Approval of SouthTech Success Center Founding Board Consent Agenda:*

Motion: Mr. Dunson Second: Ms. Heinz

Motion carries. All in favor.

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; Suzanne Nicolini, Alternate Chairperson.

Mrs. Nicolini said that most had been reported by Mrs. Turenne. She reminded the Board that graduation will be on May 16, at 2:00pm at the Fairgrounds. Mrs. Nicolini also mentioned that when she and other Board members met at the school, she realized that many of the Board members have not gone through the security clearance in the front office. If you have not done so, please go to the front office to get clearance. Mr. Messmer brought up the certifications and we have quite an accomplishment with 89.4% of our seniors with certifications. We may have close to 100% by the time the seniors graduate, as there are about 25 of them working on them now. Her grandson did not think much about certifications until he went to college and received college credit for them, a fact that many of the students are not aware of. Mr. Brown asked Dominic to come and talk about it to the students in Automotive. They polled the parents about the school starting time, as it is so early, and basically, they want to keep the same starting time.

Introduction of the SouthTech Academy SAC Consent Agenda – Mrs. Nicolini: None.

26. *Poll SAC for Items to be Pulled from the SAC Consent Agenda for Comment or Questions:* **None.**

27. *Approval of SAC Consent Agenda Except for Items Pulled:* **N/A**

28. *Approval of Each Pulled Item (Item-by Item) – Introduction by Chairperson:* **None.**

29. **Governing Board in Capacity of School Advisory Council (SAC) for:**

South Tech Preparatory Academy

School Improvement Steering Committee (SISC) Report – Ms. Edmond, Chairperson was not present and Mr. Hardy gave the report. He said SISC had a brief meeting and discussed enrollment and applications status for SY19. They have already processed 150 applications for the sixth grade, and out of that number, 105 have been accepted. They also shared with the parents about the recent Charter Review, and the different areas of the school that are scrutinized by the District. They also discussed the testing schedule for the spring and answered questions regarding that. Upcoming events and the Parent-Teacher Organization were discussed. STPA graduation will be held at Boynton Beach High School at 6:00pm on May 15, 2019.

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Ms. Heinz said that in the Finance Committee meeting, they were talking about attrition of students of Mrs. Handy reported that during the school year, they only lost two students, one of which moved out of the area. Ms. Heinz wanted to commend her on how she has been able to recruit more children and only lose two, so she gave Mrs. Handy and Mr. Hardy a lot of credit, especially with this age group.

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

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*

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

Mr. Bloom announced that before we go into Board Comments, Mr. Kidd wanted to say something. Mr. Kidd told the Board that he did not look at his evaluation until Mr. Bloom discussed it with him this evening. Mr. Kidd thanked the Board for their confidence in him and he thanked the committee that evaluated him and for the great evaluation, for all the support they have given him. He said it is a wonderful thing to work with a Board when everyone is in the honeymoon stage, and this one has lasted a long time. Mr. Kidd thanked the staff and said that they make him look good, and he agrees with what Mr. Boggess said that it is easy to be a leader when you have the staff that we have. The second item is about the Success Center charter going to the School Board on March 27. When we get back from Spring Break, we will start advertising for staff for STSC. After the charter is approved, we will begin to fill the positions that we will need for next year. Mr. Kidd said that he will take a leap of faith that we will have a place to open the school. We are planning on opening when school starts. Mr. Kidd again thanked everyone for their support.

33. *Board Comments:*

Ms. Heinz wished everyone a well-deserved Spring Break. She said that the Board is so proud of them, and they are the ones who make everything happen, including Mr. Kidd and Mr. Boggess.

Mrs. Nicolini basically said the same, that they all needed a break and that they deserved it.

Mr. Feldman said he was happy to see the work that Shawna Kingsley did regarding getting a Mental Health Counselor for the LEA. That is going to be a great success and she has some other wonderful ideas. The staff is doing a wonderful job, especially the Assistant Principals. If you have ever been in the system, you know how they run around more than most people getting the nitty-gritty work done.

Mr. Dunson thanked everyone for the hard work they do and the great results show it. Enjoy your time off next week.


Mr. Heller said that when you are at the end of the line, all you say is ditto. He gave kudos to staff and to Mr. Messmer, Mr. Kozak, the financial staff, Mr. Boggess, Mrs. Handy, Assistant Principals and to Mr. Kidd. Mr. Heller said we would survive some of the adversities that we have had and come out on the other side, continuing our progress upwards. One way or another, we will make Odyssey work. He wished everyone a good Spring Break.

Mr. Flah commended everyone for all that they do and he said he had a couple of questions. He asked how many students there were in Adult Education right now, and the response was 500. He then asked how many more could we fit into that program, and the response was another 1,000. He asked what the student capacity was for STA and Mr. Boggess responded 1,600. He asked who funds the college visiting field trips, and the response was that the kids pay for their own trip. His last question was whether we have discussed with FP&L about doing a solar and alternative energy management program here. Mr. Boggess said no. FP&L is now putting small panels up on the roofs, with all the monitors in the classrooms. Mr. Flah thinks it could be a real exciting thing and Keiser University is involved in alternative energy. In talking earlier about what this school does, using those three-pillar questions, we know that not every kid is made for college. He thanked everyone for what they do and wished everyone a great Spring Break.

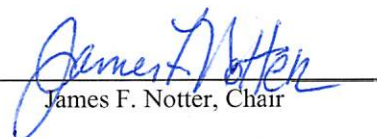
34. *Motion to Adjourn:*

Mrs. Nicolini motioned to adjourn at 8:45pm until the Regular Board meeting on March 14, 2019 at 7:00pm.

Minutes Prepared by:


Barbara J. Fraga

Approved by:


James F. Notter, Chair

4-11-19