

SOUTHTECH CHARTER ACADEMY, INC.3
SOUTHTECH PREPARATORY ACADEMY, INC.
SOUTHTECH SUCCESS CENTER, INC. FOUNDING BOARD
December 13, 2018 Minutes of the Governing Board/SAC/Founding Board Meeting

1. *Call to order* by Mr. Notter at 3:04pm
2. *Pledge of Allegiance*
3. *Roll Call* by *Barbara Fraga*:

Present: Roger Dunson, Ayesha Edmond, Russ Feldman, Jonathan Flah, Diane Heinz, Carl McKoy, Suzanne Nicolini, James Notter

Absent: Aram Bloom, Dan Heller

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 November 8, 2018:*

Motion by: Mr. McKoy

Second by: Ms. Heinz

All in favor.

Motion carries.

7. *Treasurer's/Financial Report:* In Mr. Heller's absence, Mr. Notter reported that the STA/STPA Finance Committee met prior to the Board meeting and they recommend approval for STA Items C-1 through C-4 and STPA Items PC-1 through C-4. Mr. Kidd served in Mr. Heller's role at the committee meeting, and the consensus was that the financials were in order and would be recommended for approval by the Board.

8A. *Superintendent's Report:*

Transition-Construction Ongoing Meetings at Odyssey: Mr. Kidd reported that the meetings at the new SouthTech site are going well and that 30% submission on the plans was made about two weeks ago. We are beginning to see some of the elevations in some areas. The footprint of the site itself is pretty well in place now. Mr. Kidd said he would like to get the Architect in for a meeting and let them discuss the project progression with the Board. The District finally got up to \$15.3million for the project. There was more discussion on the cost estimates of the project, and construction management at risk on the project did their preliminary estimates and came in \$23.1. We did our own and came up with between \$17-18 million. That should start some head scratching. We have been reasonable to low on every request and have not been over-budgeted on anything that we have requested.

SouthTech Prep: We have started some preliminary negotiations with the owners of the Prep facility, but nothing to bring to the Board as yet. We are talking some along the lines of trying to purchase that. Doug, the primary owner is going back to Canada and sold out everything except those two buildings, and he would like to see us in them. Mr. Kidd hopes to have more on that at the January or February Board meetings. Mr. Kidd said that he had not as yet involved the Facility Committee into what is going on because it has been a see-saw type of thing, and there has not been any decisions that require Board action to date.

Donna Baize: Donna could not attend tonight's meeting and we will recognize Donna at the January Board meeting for her service to the Board.

Charter Negotiations: Mr. Kidd said we still do not have one and the District continues to kick the can down the road. We have negotiated a charter for Prep, however, it is still hung up in Legal and has not gone to their attorney yet. Hopefully, Prep will be on their January meeting. Success Center and Academy will hopefully follow soon after. Prep will actually be working without a charter between December 31 and the District's next Board meeting. We have granted several extensions to them.

Tax Referendum: Mr. Kidd said that the District came out with the tax referendum, specifically excluding charter schools. It went to the November 6 elections for vote and was approved. The charter schools informed the District that there would be a law suit if they excluded charters and the early stages of that are now taking place. At the end of his report today, Mr. Kidd will tell the Board what he feels should be our position on it. It does not require Board action, but he will ask the Board to ratify his position on it, because that would show solidarity. There are a number of independent charter schools that will be plaintiffs in the law suit against the District for that money. The Corporate charter schools have decided to put their efforts into the Margaret Stoneman Douglas Act, trying to get equality in that and pushing that cause in Tallahassee. The new governor

**SOUTHTECH CHARTER ACADEMY, INC.
SOUTHTECH PREPARATORY ACADEMY, INC.
SOUTHTECH SUCCESS CENTER, INC. FOUNDING BOARD**

December 13, 2018 Minutes of the Governing Board/SAC/Founding Board Meeting Page 2

promotes choice, and there is a Republican House and Senate, who will favor choice. Choice within the state of Florida should have some real opportunities within the next two to four years. It is in SouthTech's favor. The Corporate charters will not be getting involved in local politics, but will still reap the benefits, if the charters prevail in this. There is a possibility that the courts will determine that the entire referendum was illegal because they did exclude the charters, and may throw it out completely. In that case, we will all lose. Mr. Kidd said that his position is that SouthTech Schools has a moral obligation to assist in bearing the financial burden of this lawsuit. It will be pro-rated on a per student basis. Shawn Arnold, on retainage to SouthTech Schools estimates that the suit in Palm Beach County will cost somewhere around \$75,000. How many schools will participate in the financial responsibility remains to be seen. The rewards, if it prevails, would be considerable. With three charters outstanding right now, and the fact that policy is being repurposed for SouthTech Academy, puts us in a position where we do not need to be a plaintiff in the suit, but we can support it financially. We need to show some respect to the District as our Sponsor, but at the same time we need to advocate for our students, and he believes this is a fair balance. Mr. Kidd asked Mr. Notter to stand with Mr. Kidd by Board action and see how it works out. Hopefully, we will come out of it and give our teachers' raises and to continue to compete on a fairly level playing field as the District.

Mr. Notter said he would absolutely will support Mr. Kidd and Mr. Boggess. He said that Palm Beach County has to stand strong for all public school children.

Further discussion followed.

Mr. Boggess added that the return of investment in the law suit just for STA and Prep would come to \$1.46 million over a four-year period. This does not include STSC in year one, \$135,000 and by year four, given the estimated growth of the school, nearly \$500,000. So the financial impact for all schools over the four-year period would be \$2 million.

Mr. Notter asked for a motion to authorize the Superintendent to move forward to financially support on a prorated basis in the legal actions taken by select charter schools in Palm Beach County against the Palm Balm Beach County School Board in the recently passed 2018 Tax Referendum.

Motion: Mr. Feldman Second: Ms. Heinz

All in favor. Motion carries.

8B. Deputy Superintendent's Report: Mr. Boggess said that what the season is all about was on display this afternoon, that we try to give more than we receive. A tradition has been set within SouthTech Schools that the Holiday Luncheon is a signature event, not only for the school, but for participants throughout the District and the community, who come for relationship with one another and with the staff. It comes down to what we do here – we serve. We started off the school year with the idea of servant-leadership, because we believe that you are not just going to become a better student or a better employee, but the idea is to become better people. He told the Board that their gift to the staff members means more than they will ever know, and he thanked them.

Mr. Boggess said there was a different lineup for the reason that we believe in growing our own, and in leadership, that is what you do. For that reason, the STA and STPA Assistant Principals would be giving the report this month.

Erin Kurtz, Assistant Principal of School Counseling & Assessment

- The school counseling department delivered the ADAP Curriculum to 9th grade medical students. ADAP stands for Adolescent Depression Awareness Program and aims to break the stigma of mental illness.
- We are nominating 3 students for Pathfinders this year. Matthew Koegler (technical vocational), Abigail Mesa (communications), and Christopher Hayot (art) will be competing for this prestigious scholarship. They working on their applications and will interview in March
- Several teachers hosted PBSC intro to education students this semester. These students completed observations. This will hopefully lead to a continued relationship and these students will hopefully come back as teacher applicants one day.
- We would like to see the Board at graduation on May 16 at 2 p.m. at the South Florida fairgrounds.

**SOUTHTECH CHARTER ACADEMY, INC.
SOUTHTECH PREPARATORY ACADEMY, INC.
SOUTHTECH SUCCESS CENTER, INC. FOUNDING BOARD**

December 13, 2018 Minutes of the Governing Board/SAC/Founding Board Meeting Page 3

Josh Wiglesworth, Assistant Principal of Career and Technical Education

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.
 - 239 (74%) STA seniors have successfully completed at least one Industry Certification.
 - 186 of 239 (78%) STA seniors have successfully completed either an Industry Certification, AP Class, or a Dual Enrollment course.

Program Expansion:

- SouthTech Schools will create a 21st century learner who is collage and career-ready via a K-20 system in Palm Beach County.

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.

Government Relations:

- SouthTech Schools will increase its involvement in the community, strengthening and expanding community, business and industry partnership, and increasing alumni engagement.

Katie Spitzig, Assistant Principal of Academics

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.

- **Remind/Safety Update:** A remind account was set-up for all faculty and staff to be utilized in case of an emergency. This will allow all teachers/staff members to send important information and communicate in the event of an emergency. Remind was rolled-out today with DIL’s and all staff members will receive the information regarding Remind tomorrow morning.
- **PERT Results:** 39% of students who took the PERT earned a qualifying score. This is exciting news for our Math Department and Nicole Julien. In addition to these results, we currently have no seniors stills in need of the Algebra 1 graduation requirement!
- **Tutoring Updates/New system:** The tutoring team has revamped tutoring for 2019. Based on feedback, most students attending tutoring were there for computer access and not tutoring/teacher support. The team decided to create a time for students to use the Media Center to get computer-based assignments completed. Access for students will take place before school and during both lunches. For afterschool tutoring, students will be invited by an invitation from their teacher. This will create a smaller, more individualized environment to help students in need of tutoring services. NHS will also be there to assist their peers with homework.

Program Expansion:

SouthTech Schools will create a 21st century learner who is collage and career-ready via a K-20 system in Palm Beach County.

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.

Government Relations:

SouthTech Schools will increase its involvement in the community, strengthening and expanding community,

**SOUTHTECH CHARTER ACADEMY, INC.
SOUTHTECH PREPARATORY ACADEMY, INC.
SOUTHTECH SUCCESS CENTER, INC. FOUNDING BOARD
December 13, 2018 Minutes of the Governing Board/SAC/Founding Board Meeting Page 4**

business and industry partnership, and increasing alumni engagement.

- o **AMM Conference:** Shawna and I attended the conference. It was a great experience and we learned to network with ESE directors and their staff from around the state.

Kevin Hardy, STPA Assistant Principal

Continuous School Improvement:

- Mr. Hardy said they are writing the planning for the Professional Development Day on January 7, when the staff returns, working with the Systems Staff on the training regarding students with disabilities and Active Shooter Training.
- We are also planning our time with the PLC facilitators, with our touch points with them. In conjunction with our Administrative PLC group, we are focusing in the month of January in building expertise among our instructional staff, particularly with our Department Leaders.
- Bobby Newman, our Testing Coordinator, has completed his clinical (inaudible), so this is another staff member that can help with mentoring new teachers.

Program Expansion and Government Relations are combined:

- This is relative to our Guidance Department Counselor who is increasing mental health therapy opportunities and offerings, by including group therapy through partnership with Palm Beach Youth Services, so we are servicing more students in that area.

Facilities Improvement/Growth:

- We just received three new Smart Panels and our staff will be training on that next Monday.

Mr. Boggess asked Mr. Harvey if he had anything to report on SouthTech Success Center, since he does not have an Assistant Principal.

Maynard Harvey:

Mr. Harvey said he is in a holding pattern right now, actually executing a lot of things, primarily keeping us in planning, looking forward to doing some organizational things. Hopefully, the charter will move so when we come back after the break, that will allow us to move forward and be aggressive with obvious plans. Happy Holidays.

Mr. Boggess thanked the Administrative team and the SouthTech Schools team and the principals for all that they do. He thanked Mr. Kidd for his leadership and also the Board for their leadership. Mr. responded by thanking everyone for being part of what we all do well together.

8C. *High School Principal:* No report

8D. *Middle School Principal:* Assistant Principal, Mr. Hardy, gave the report.

8E. *SouthTech Success Center Principal:* No report.

8F. *SouthTech Adult Education Director:* No report.

8G. *Committee Reports:* Mr.

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 November 8, 2018 to December 13, 2018.

Personnel Items

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

**SOUTHTECH CHARTER ACADEMY, INC.
SOUTHTECH PREPARATORY ACADEMY, INC.
SOUTHTECH SUCCESS CENTER, INC. FOUNDING BOARD**

December 13, 2018 Minutes of the Governing Board/SAC/Founding Board Meeting Page 5

Financial Items

- C-1** I recommend that the Board approve and ratify the monthly Charter school bank account reconciliation for month ending October 31, 2018 as required by the Sponsor.
- C-2** I recommend that the Board approve and ratify the Charter school monthly Disbursement Report for month ending October 31, 2018 as required by the Sponsor.
- C-3** I recommend that the Board approve and ratify the monthly financial statements for month ending October 31, 2018 as required by the Sponsor.
- C-4** I recommend that the Board approve the Internal Revenue Service Form 990 for SouthTech Academy, Inc.

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: Mrs. Nicolini Second: Ms. Heinz

All in favor. Motion carries.

13. *Approval of Each Pulled Item (Item-by-Item): N/A*

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

None.

Financial Items

- PC-1** I recommend that the Board approve and ratify the monthly Charter school bank account reconciliation for month ending October 31, 2018 as required by the Sponsor.
- PC-2** I recommend that the Board approve and ratify the Charter school monthly Disbursement Report for month ending October 31, 2018 as required by the Sponsor.
- PC-3** I recommend that the Board approve and ratify the monthly financial statements for month ending October 31, 2018 as required by the Sponsor.
- PC-4** I recommend that the Board approve the Internal Revenue Service Form 990 for SouthTech Preparatory, Inc.

Emergency Items

None.

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

17. *Approval of SouthTech Preparatory Academy Consent Agenda:*

Motion: Ms. Heinz Second: Mrs. Nicolini

All in favor. Motion carries.

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

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

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

No Agenda.

SOUTHTECH CHARTER ACADEMY, INC.
SOUTHTECH PREPARATORY ACADEMY, INC.
SOUTHTECH SUCCESS CENTER, INC. FOUNDING BOARD
December 13, 2018 Minutes of the Governing Board/SAC/Founding Board Meeting Page 6

21. *Poll Board for Items to be Pulled for Comment or Question: None.*
22. *Approval of SouthTech Success Center Founding Board Consent Agenda: N/A*
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 reported that everyone probably knows, we are an “A” school and therefore, we receive money. A vote was taken by the teachers as to how to distribute the money, which is \$111,202. Sixty-five of the teachers voted to receive \$1100 each, administration (6) - \$1100 each; the staff (22) - \$1100 each and STA for education purposes, \$904 and the taxes were taken out of the employee checks. Mrs. Nicolini said that a recommendation is needed from the Board to accept their motion and for approval.
Introduction of the SouthTech Academy SAC Consent Agenda – Mrs. Nicolini: From the floor.
D-1 I recommend that the School Advisory Council (SAC) approve distribution of the School Recognition Funds as ultimately agreed upon by SouthTech Charter Academy, Inc. staff and the School Improvement Steering Committee.
Motion: Mr. Feldman Second: Mr. Dunson
Mr. Feldman said that the distribution does recognize that this school operates as a family and as a team, and he is very proud of that. Often, he hears that when monies are distributed, one group gets one amount, while the other group gets a different amount, and he is very happy to see that there was an even distribution.
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:
Motion: Mr. Feldman Second: Mr. Dunson
All in favor. Motion carries.*
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 reported that there was no meeting.
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*
33. **Board Comments:**
Mr. McKoy wished everyone Seasons Greetings and Happy Holidays and be safe. He looks forward to seeing everyone next year.
Ms. Edmonds wished the same and said for everyone to get some rest and enjoy your family and the holidays.
Mr. Dunson said he has a grandson who is a fifth grader at Plumosa Elementary School and he mentioned that SouthTech had been to his school and he and his buddies were very impressed. Mr. Dunson asked him what impressed him and he said that SouthTech has Engineering and Culinary. So whoever went to Plumosa did a great job and made a great impression on the students. Happy Holidays and enjoy your time off.
Mr. Feldman wished everyone Happy Holidays. He said that two things struck him as the staff was giving their report. What Josh Wigglesworth said that when we see students struggling in certain areas in industry certification, they counsel the student into other areas where they feel they would be more successful and potentially receive it. That is a great thing and he hopes the students are taking advantage of it. Mr. Feldman said he is very glad that they sent some of the staff to the AMM Conference (Administrative Management Meeting). He hopes that Mr. Harvey can attend with the staff next year because it would be quite valuable. Mr. Feldman also mentioned the Legal Issues in Special Ed Conference in May, that it is very expensive and he recommends it because you learn a lot. If four people go, perhaps they could share a room.

**SOUTHTECH CHARTER ACADEMY, INC.
SOUTHTECH PREPARATORY ACADEMY, INC.
SOUTHTECH SUCCESS CENTER, INC. FOUNDING BOARD**

December 13, 2018 Minutes of the Governing Board/SAC/Founding Board Meeting Page 7

Mrs. Nicolini said that she appreciates everyone, and the one thing that she continues to emphasize to the Board is that we need you to volunteer. We have three Pathfinders Nominees coming up and they practice before the interviews. She said that they need judges for these interviews, and Mrs. Nicolini suggested that some of the Board members volunteer. This way we could show the students that the Board supports them. She has asked Guidance to let us know when this will happen, so that we can get our names on the list for judging. If there is anything else that staff needs us for, we are here for them. Mrs. Nicolini thanked everyone and told them it has been a great year.

Ms. Heinz said that one thing that she is good at is writing, and in a speech, it depends on who is listening. She remembered that they said we had one weakness and that was presentation skills. Ms. Heinz volunteered for any students that need to go to their Skills contest, and they need help with presentation and how to do it in a stronger manner. If there is any way that she could volunteer once a week for the students, before they go to their Skills contests on how to make their presentation. She would probably have to be tutored a little on what the parameters are, but she could probably help with that.

Mr. Notter said, that as Chair, he wishes everyone happiness during the holiday season. We will have challenges in 2019. He said that he has never, and still today, have worked with a more child-centered, student-focused Board, for the right things for kids, than this Board, and he has served on many Boards in his lifetime. He said that it blows him away, personally and professionally, to see the challenges that Mr. Kidd goes through the medical challenges on a day-to-day basis, and yet comes to work today, looking sharp, looking like he never had a surgery in his life, being able to go through the agenda. He is certainly a very special individual and so is everyone else in this room and this building on a day-to-day basis. Live life.

Mr. Kidd said someone once told him if you are going to be stupid, you have to be tough, so he tries to be tough. He greatly appreciates everybody's patience in putting up with him. Hopefully, this will be the last of these surgeries. Mr. Kidd said he never worries about the school, when he has to be out, because he knows that everyone here has their shoulder to the wheel, and will move it forward with or without him, on a daily basis and a minute-by-minute basis. He thanked everyone for all they do and told them they to enjoy their holidays and know that he loves each one.


34. *Motion to Adjourn:*

Mrs. Nicolini motioned to adjourn at 5:00pm until the Regular Board meeting on January 17, 2019 at 7:00pm.

Minutes Prepared by:


Barbara J. Fraga

Approved by:


James F. Notter, Chair
JES for 1/17/19