

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

August 8, 2019 Minutes of the Governing Board Meeting

1. *Call to order by Mr. Notter at 7:25pm*
2. *Pledge of Allegiance*
3. *Roll Call by Ayesha Edmond*

Present: Aram Bloom, Dan Heller, Diane Heinz, Suzanne Nicolini, Carl McKoy, James Notter, Roger Dunson, Ayesha Edmond

Absent: Russ Feldman, Jonathan Flah **Quorum**

Mrs. Suzanne Nicolini announced that the Nominating Committee met on July 18, 2019 to review Robert Kesten's application for STA/STPA/STSC Board membership, and she motioned for recommend Board approval.

Motion: Mrs. Nicolini Second: Mr. Bloom

All in favor. Motion carries.

Mr. Kesten addressed the Board at the request of Mr. Notter, saying that he had previously served on the Board for 12 years and left because his wife took a position with SouthTech Preparatory Academy and loved every minute. However, Mrs. Kesten recently had the opportunity to return to the District for a teaching assignment, which permits Mr. Kesten to serve on the SouthTech Schools' Board. Mr. Kesten mentioned that when he left the Board two years ago, he told Mr. Kidd that he would return to serve on the Board when they changed the law regarding Board Members/family members working and serving as Board members, or if he wife ever left her position at STPA. He is a practicing attorney in Palm Beach and spoke some on his expertise in the field of Law, being Corporate and Real Estate. He has assisted SouthTech in the past, corporation-wise and tenant-wise, as needed and he once again offers his assistance as needed. Mr. Notter said Mr. Kesten did a magnificent job as Chair for three years.

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/STSC Regular Governing Board/SAC Meeting June 18, 2019.*

Motion: Mr. Bloom Second: Mrs. Nicolini

All in favor. Motion carries.

7. *Treasurer's/Financial Report:* Mr. Heller reported that the STA/STPA/STSC Finance Committee met prior to the Board meeting, and recommends approval for STA Items C1-C6; STPA Items PC1-PC4, and there were no financial items for SouthTech Success Center.

8A. Superintendent's Report:

Mr. Kidd began by saying right now we are dealing with many things coming out of Tallahassee, the School District, and preparing for school opening on Monday. Although the Active Assailant Response Procedures is on the agenda, he told the Board they would not see that tonight. It is not ready, it became too cumbersome, and the information that was needed was not out in time. It is a work in progress and we do have until October 1 to complete it. Mr. Kidd wanted it on the agenda, thinking the information would be out, but it did not happen. It will be an on-going living document that we will be revising from time to time. We will do a presentation tomorrow to staff on the Code Red lockdown with the armed assailant on campus. That will be just enough to instruct staff how to get to a safe or hardened area, and to be sure the doors are locked at all times. Mr. Kidd wanted to be sure that they have some type of instruction on this before school opened. We have the FSSAT, which is the School Safety Plan, and the compass for that has not yet come from Tallahassee. The principals were called into a meeting with School Police and a presentation was done, but we do not have the template for it. We have one from last year that we could use until this year's is finalized. So we have the Armed Assailant and the Mental Health Plan, which all came out at the last minute. So, we have done some training on parts of this and the Board can rest assured that we are working on it and will bring the plan in its final format back to the Board in September.

Referendum Litigation: Mr. Boggess attended that meeting and the only thing they decided is that it would not be thrown out. It is getting expensive, but Mr. Kidd believes that we will receive some revenue out of it.

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STA Charter: The District has requested another three-month extension that is in our favor. The good news is that as soon as we get our High-Performing letter for SouthTech Academy, we will have a 20-year extension to the charter instead of a 15-year extension.

New Facility: There was all kinds of construction equipment on sight and the contractor said that he would have us in the facility by August, 2020. Mr. Kidd thought that a company was going to donate the paint booths for Auto Body, but now they are going to sell it to us at cost. The District did approve the budget, but we may need to lobby to get more money. He is warning staff that next summer will not exist, but it will be trying to get everything done and ready to open the school. We cannot move this school with our staff, and there is supposed to be some money in the lease agreement. Now that they are breaking ground on it, we will start doing some heavy-duty planning on the phasing out here and phasing in at the new facility. We will have to hire someone to help us move, as we do not have the staff here to do that.

Enrollment: We had one of the best turnouts of accepted students and we were up 100 at STA, and STPA has a waiting list of 7 or 8, and STSC had 125 enrolled. Many of the students that were accepted did not respond, and many who responded are changing their mind. Every day, new applications are coming in. Right now, the latest count is 1126 for STA and the budget was built on 1145. Mrs. Kurtz was getting exit interviews and primarily, it goes to – too early start – too far to ride – want to be closer to home – and many times, it is because their friend is going to a particular school, and they want to go there with them. There is a constant turnover. We will be working with real numbers in October, when they have the FTE Eleven Day Count.

Mr. Heller had a question as to whether there will be some sort of training for the Governing Board on the Active Shooter Plan. Mr. Kidd said we could do that, although it is not a requirement. Mr. Heller said it may not be a requirement, but it is a good idea. Mr. Notter said it was a good point.

- 8B. *Deputy Superintendent's Report:* Mr. Boggess went through a slide presentation, showing the Board what the teachers came into, and all that is taking place to set the tone for another incredible SouthTech Schools year. The first slide showed recent graduates, Valedictorian Loncey Elie and Salutatorian Pressley Narcisse. Loncey is going to FAU, majoring in Biology, and hoping to go to NYU to become a doctor in sports medicine. Pressley is going to FAU's Honors College to study Biology, and he plans to be an Oncologist. Both Loncey and Pressley were SouthTech Preparatory students that matriculated to SouthTech Academy into the LPN Program, and graduated in a class that had a 98% graduation rate. Our students graduate college and career-ready. Mr. Boggess said we do not build a school, but we build people, and in doing so, people build a school. It is the administrators, the teachers, the deans, and most of all, the students. When we talk about creating success stories, one student at a time, yes, it is a new facility, but it is the people within it that are going to create that success. Mr. Boggess said that he spoke at a conference this summer about the great work of the SouthTech Schools collective, and in doing so, he got to sit in on other presentations and speakers. He asked that the Board read something written by a Los Angeles inner city teacher that did a project-based learning experience with democracy. One of the key tenants of democracy is public education. A seventh-grade student, with his team and with his group, came up with this: "The poorest, quietest, most uninterested, shy, angry, sad, annoying kid, has a birthright to the highest quality education." That is what democracy stands for. Mr. Boggess made a point to staff that it does not say, "The wealthiest, most outgoing, perky, smiling, clean-smelling, excited student", it says all the others, and they get the same birthright to the highest quality public education possible. Mr. Boggess says he ties it to his idea behind why he does what he does, and why does staff do what they do. He mentioned to the Board that the Boggess family is expecting their fifth child in November. If this is what he believes for public education, he believes it not only for his children, but for all of our children, the ones that come in to our schools from homes that he has never lived in, and from backgrounds that he does not have. He said he wants them to have the highest quality education as he expects his children to receive. He ties it all together to say that we are providing the highest quality public education possible. When you put together that for two years now, we have been back-to-back "A" SouthTech Academy high school, with a 98% graduation rate, and you go a step further to say that we have been "A" rated for the last five out of eight years, with three high-performing "B"s. The Valedictorian and the Salutatorian from the Class of 2018 and 2019 are both from SouthTech Preparatory, and over 10% of half of both

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those classes are also from SouthTech Preparatory. Great things are happening. Mr. Boggess says he does not say that because it is his opinion, but the data proves it. When he makes statements saying that we are the best in Palm Beach County, it is factual. When the students matriculate to SouthTech Preparatory as a sixth grader, with likeminded data, the surrounding schools are all "C"-rated middle schools. We will change that this year. The students are being prepared for a high school with thirteen different career academies. When the kids move from Congress Middle to go to Boynton Beach High, they move from a "C" school to a "C" school. However, when students come to SouthTech Academy, they are moving up to an "A" school.

8C. High School Principal: Eileen Turenne presented a Power Point for her report – see attached.

8D. Middle School Principal: Nicole Handy reported:

- Several new staff including two new Administrators: A.P - Dr. Denise Beattie and Parent Liaison - Gustavo Guzman
- Opening with all positions filled
- Enrollment - 531 students scheduled so far
- Mrs. Handy expressed her frustration about the C grade. It is difficult for a Middle School to get higher than a C. She said that academically, they score very close to the High School, but we do not have the Graduation rate or College and Career Acceleration Cells, which they do very well in both.
- STPA had three amazing New Student Orientations. Dean Johnson organized the events and had several community partners involved. The BBHS marching band and dancers greeted the new families as they entered! They had a food truck and Kona Ice out front and lots of vendors and a radio station broadcasting live from the events. It was very welcoming and special.

8E. SouthTech Success Center Principal: Maynard Harvey reported:

- Student Enrollment is at 110
- Staff includes five teachers, one paraprofessional, and one administrative assistant
- Approximately 65 ESE students, 45 regular Ed Students.
- Anticipating busy start with high demand based on population to be served.

8F. SouthTech Adult Education Director: Eric Messmer reported:

- Adult Ed starts their registration on Monday for Workforce and for ESOL and GED Programs
- Mr. Messmer said he is proud of the distance they have covered in the Medical Coding program. They had seen a dip in the program and this past spring, propped the program up, putting a premium on it, and they have eight people who pre-registered for the Medical Coding Program, so there could be about 20 individuals in that program. The program is a six-course program and it has fantastic instructors. The last time they ran more than twelve people through the program and had a 100% pass rate on the professional coding exam. If a person went to a private college for this program, they would pay \$20,000. We are delivering a program at an amazing cost for what people are getting.
- The program has also started Skincare and Nails in the past 18 months and Mr. Messmer receives many phone calls on the certifications that they offer.
- Mr. Messmer says he is making decisions focused on the long-term health of the programs, not necessarily focused on students all the time, and making decisions on convenience. Ms. Marsh does a fantastic job, as does Renee Maqsudi, Skin Care Instructor and Brianda Gonzalez, former SouthTech student and Nail Tech Teacher. We have extended these programs from two to three semesters, so they are more digestible. It is more fiscally responsible.
- Last year, we had a record number of 81 in the Trades Training that we offer in HVAC, Electrical, and Plumbing, and ABC had 12 of those 81. This year, it seems that HVAC seems to be the most popular.
- There will also be changes in ESOL and GED, as we have the opportunity to target student weaknesses within these programs. We have a new data report that actually shows which lessons the students need to focus on. We use Burlington English, a computerized program. Mr. Messmer thanked Marilyn and Diana for their help.

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- Mr. Messmer said that he has Professional Development for the evening staff, just as the day staff has theirs. There is one at Palm Beach Central on Saturday.
- They also have an Active Shooter Training for the staff. We also have onsite Professional Development programs for ESOL, GED and Workforce Training.
- Mr. Messmer thanked the front office staff for their support. He said that they are looking forward to a productive year.

Ms. Heinz asked the question if some of the students who go to Residential portion have an opportunity to move on to Commercial at ABC. Mr. Boggess responded to her question, saying that the partnership built between ABC and STA has been incredible, allowing us to rebrand a program that was no longer in existence in Palm Beach County. Using recently passed legislation HB 7071, they are opening up apprenticeship sponsorship to charter LEAs. He had a meeting with the President of ABC this morning, and we are not talking just Palm Beach County, but the State of Florida in partnership with ABC, and what it could bring to our system of schools. He thanked Ms. Heinz for bringing it to our doorstep.

8G. Committee Reports: Nominating Committee met on July 18, 2019 to review Mr. Kesten's application for Board membership.

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

The following items are for Board ratification. They are time-sensitive items executed between June 18, 2019 and August 8, 2019 by the Superintendent.

OB-1 I recommend that the Board ratify the Title II, Part A Supporting Effective Instruction 2019-2020 grant application.

OB-2 I recommend that the Board ratify the Title IV, Part A- Student Support and Academic Enrichment Entitlement 2019 2020 grant application.

OB-3 I recommend that the Board ratify the Title III- Language Instruction for English Language Learners and Immigrant Students 2019 2020 Entitlement grant application.

OB-4 I recommend that the Board ratify the Title I, Part A: Improving the Academic Achievement of the Disadvantaged 2019-2020 grant application.

OB-5 I recommend that the Board ratify the Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act (Perkins V) Secondary, Section 131 Entitlement grant application.

Administrative Items

A-1 I recommend that the Board approve the Mileage Reimbursement rate increase to align with grant compliance.

A-2 I recommend that the Board approve the SouthTech Schools and SouthTech Academy 2019-2020 calendar revisions.

A-3 I recommend that the Board approve STA's Active Assailant Procedures SY19-20 draft.

A-4 I recommend that the Board approve the SouthTech Charter Academy, Inc. Organizational Chart 2019-2020 revisions.

Personnel Items

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

B-2 I recommend that the Board approve the Job Description revisions drafts for Secondary School Principal, Assistant Principal - School Counseling, Instruction & Assessment and Assistant Principal - Career Academy Coordination & Instruction.

Financial Items

C-1 I recommend that the Board approve and ratify the monthly Charter school bank account reconciliation for month ending June 30, 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 June 30, 2019 as required by the Sponsor.

C-3 I recommend that the Board approve and ratify the monthly financial statements for month ending June 30, 2019 as required by the Sponsor.

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- C-4 I recommend the Board approve the amended STA Operating Budget for FY19.
- C-5 I recommend that the Board approve and sign the adoption of Palm Beach County School District's Mental Health Allocation Plan for SY 20.
- C-6 I recommend that the Board approve the Position Funding Agreement with Palm Beach County, Children's Services Council of Palm Beach County and South Tech Charter Academy, Inc.

Emergency Items

None.—Mr. Kidd said there is an Emergency Item for STA in the Emergency Items' packet.

- E-1 I recommend that the Board approve and sign the scheduled Emergency Drills for SY19-20 for SouthTech Charter Academy, Inc.

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. Kesten Second: Mrs. Nicolini

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

- PA-1 I recommend that the Board approve the SouthTech Preparatory Academy 2019-2020 calendar revisions.
- PA-2 I recommend that the Board approve the Mileage Reimbursement rate to align with grant compliance.
- PA-3 I recommend that the Board approve the SouthTech Preparatory Academy, Inc. Organizational Chart 2019-2020 revisions.
- PA-4 I recommend that the Board designate Gustavo Guzman as the Board representative to facilitate parental involvement, provide access to information, assist parents and others with questions and concerns, and resolve disputes as now required by law.
- PA-5 I recommend that the Board approve STPA's Active Assailant Procedures SY19-20 draft.

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 month ending June 30, 2019 as required by the Sponsor.
- PC-2 I recommend that the Board approve and ratify the Charter school monthly Disbursement Report for month ending June 30, 2019 as required by the Sponsor.
- PC-3 I recommend that the Board approve and ratify the monthly financial statements for month ending June 30, 2019 as required by the Sponsor.
- PC-4 I recommend that the Board approve the agreement between SouthTech Preparatory Academy, Inc. and the Boynton Beach Police Department for off duty Police Officer Special Detail for SY2019-2020.
- PC-5 I recommend the Board approve the amended STPA Operating Budget for FY19.

Emergency Items

None.—Mr. Kidd said there are two Emergency Items for STPA in the Emergency Items' packet.

- PE-1 I recommend that the Board approve and sign the adoption of Palm Beach County School District's Mental Health Allocation Plan for SY 20.
- PE-2 I recommend that the Board approve and sign the scheduled Emergency Drills for SouthTech Preparatory Academy, Inc.

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16. Poll Board for Items to be Pulled for Comment or Questions: **None.**
17. Approval of *SouthTech Preparatory Academy* Consent Agenda with exception of the items pulled:
Motion: Mr. Kesten Second: Ms. Heinz
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.
Old Business
None.
Administrative Items
SCA-1 I recommend that the Board approve the Mileage Reimbursement rate to align with grant compliance.
SCA-2 I recommend that the Board approve the SouthTech Schools and SouthTech Academy 2019-2020 calendar revisions.
SCA-3 I recommend that the Board designate Ruth Galvan as the Board representative to facilitate parental involvement, provide access to information, assist parents and others with questions and concerns, and resolve disputes as now required by law.
SCA-4 I recommend that the Board approve STSC's Active Assailant Procedures SY19-20 draft.
Personnel Items
SCB-1 I recommend that the Board approve the Personnel actions for the previous month.
Financial Items
None.
Emergency Items
~~None.~~ Mr. Kidd said there are two Emergency Items for STSC in the Emergency Items' packet.
SCE-1 I recommend that the Board approve and sign the adoption of Palm Beach County School District's Mental Health Allocation Plan for SY 20.
SCE-2 I recommend that the Board approve and sign the scheduled Emergency Drills for SY19-20 for SouthTech Success Center, Inc.
21. Poll Board for Items to be Pulled for Comment or Question: **None.**
22. Approval of *SouthTech Success Center* Consent Agenda:
Motion: Mr. Kesten Second: Mr. McKoy
All in favor. Motion carries.
23. Approval of Each Pulled Item (Item-by-Item): **N/A**
24. Public Comments on non-Agenda Items: **None.**
25. Governing Board in the Capacity of School Advisory Council (SAC) for South Tech Academy. There was no meeting.
School Improvement Steering Committee (SISC) Report – STA SISC – Mr. Feldman, Chairperson; Suzanne Nicolini, Alternate Chairperson.
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. There was no meeting.
School Improvement Steering Committee (SISC) Report – Ms. Ayesha Edmond, Chairperson – None.
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**

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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. **Governing Board in the Capacity of School Advisory Council (SAC) for
South Tech Success Center.**
School Improvement Steering Committee (SISC) Report – STA STSC – Vacant, Chairperson
Introduction of the SouthTech Success Center SAC Consent Agenda – Chairperson - None.
34. *Poll SAC for Items to be Pulled from the SAC Consent Agenda for Comment or Questions: None.*
35. *Approval of SAC Consent Agenda Except for Items Pulled: N/A*
36. *Approval of Each Pulled Item (Item-by Item) – Introduction by Chairperson: None.*
37. *Board Comments:*

Mr. Kesten thanked the Board for permitting him to come back on the Board. He was gone for two years and really missed it and he is looking forward to some wonderful things out of SouthTech.

Mr. McKoy said he is looking forward to a productive year.

Ms. Edmond welcomed Dr. Beattie and said she is looking forward to working with her at SouthTech Prep.

Mr. Bloom told the staff to just go out there and do what they do best. He told Mr. Kesten it was nice to have him back on the Board.

Mr. Heller said he greatly appreciates the staff getting us ready for the new school year. It is great to hear that you mentioned individual teachers, who are very much essential in our getting our “A” grade for the school. He commensurate with Mrs. Handy about the academic performance of the school not being comparable with the high school, because of how the grading structure is; so we really do have in a sense, an “A” Prep school. We are striving to get our numbers up for enrollment. He wished everyone, staff, teachers and students a great year.

Mr. Dunson said he was glad to see everyone and they all look like they are full of energy and ready to go. We are going to have a good year, probably challenging, but are not they all? Have a great Monday and have a great year.


Mrs. Nicolini commended everyone because she has been here for the last two weeks, and she cannot believe how much they have accomplished. The school really looks good. She pointed out the smoked windows on the doors to the Board, how it is part of the security in all of the classrooms in case of an assault. Mrs. Nicolini mentioned she did not see too many staff members wearing their badges, and was told that we have not received the badges yet. She met some of the new teachers and they are really nice, and we are going to have a good school year.

Ms. Heinz commended and thanked the grant writers and said no wonder we get the money that we do. She told Mrs. Handy that every time she sees her, she thinks of the song Respect, because she respects every one of her students. She is probably the only principal that would have handed two students over to Ms. Heinz her first day going to Prep. The students told her that the food was bad and what teachers should be fired, and every other thing, and Ms. Heinz said that is because Mrs. Handy respects every one of her students. Forget the grading because she gets kids with second and third-grade reading level, and for her, Mrs. Handy is a middle school “Dream” principal, and her students respect her. Ms. Heinz said she honors Mrs. Handy because she treats her students like the great individual they are becoming.

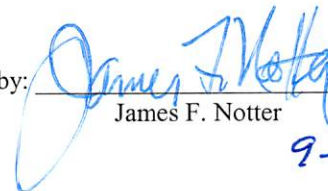
38. *Motion to Adjourn:*

Mrs. Nicolini motioned to adjourn at 8:35pm until the Annual & Regular Board meeting on September 17, 2019 at 7:00pm.

Minutes Prepared by:


Barbara J. Fraga

Approved by:


James F. Notter

9-17-19