

SOUTHTECH CHARTER ACADEMY, INC.
SOUTHTECH PREPARATORY ACADEMY, INC.
STA/STPA Governing Board Regular Meeting Minutes
April 14, 2022

1. Opening of Meeting

a. Call to Order at 6:00 pm

b. Pledge of Allegiance

c. Roll Call – Quorum confirmed.

Present: Russell Feldman, Diane Heinz, Dan Heller, Robert Kesten, Suzanne Nicolini, and Tony Robinson

Absent: Roger Dunson, Ayesha Edmond, Christina Grenga, and James Notter

d. Open Meeting Act Statement

2. Approval of the Minutes

a. STA/STPA Governing Board Regular Meeting Minutes March 10, 2022

Motion: Robert Kesten

Second: Suzanne Nicolini

All in favor. **Motion carries.**

3. Reports

a. Treasurer's/Financial Report – Dan Heller

The Finance Committee met earlier this evening and recommends for Board approval SouthTech Academy Items F-1 through F-3 and SouthTech Preparatory Items PF1 through PF-3.

b. Executive Director – Carla Lovett

i. Transportation

1. Starting to use the buses for field trips and one afternoon route at the high school

2. Full implementation will not take place until next school year

3. Survey went out to students to see how many intend on using bus service next year

4. Hired a transportation dispatcher, Crystal Anderson

5. Will begin advertising and hiring drivers in the summer

a. Board members questioned the Staff as to whether they foresee a problem hiring, especially with the District starting to ask for letters of intent for next school year. They said that they did not, but as it is the preference of the Board they will begin advertising sooner

ii. Accreditation – Team visit (virtual) April 25-28

1. Those selected to participate in a virtual interview with a member of the Cognia Engagement Review Team have already been notified

iii. Finalist for the Best of Palm Beach (Palm Beach Post) in the Kids & Education category

iv. Next Board Meeting: May 12, 2022

v. Upcoming Events

1. Cosmetology Hair & Fashion Show - Fri, April 22 at 12:30 pm

2. Student Nurses' Pinning Ceremony - Tues, May 17 at 6:30 pm

3. STP 8th Grade Graduation - Tues, May 24 at 6 pm
 4. STA Graduation (S. Florida Fairgrounds) - Wed., May 25 at 6:00 pm
- c. SouthTech Academy Principal – Eileen Turenne**
- i. 2022-2023 Application Update
 1. SY22 – 353 Applications Received
 2. SY23 – 412 Applications Received
 - a. Increase of 59 Applications over the same time last year and rising
 - ii. Annual Compliance Review with the School District of Palm Beach County
 1. Desktop review at STA – reviewed uploaded files
 2. Can receive either compliant, partially compliant, or not compliant ratings
 - a. Zero non-compliant areas
 - b. Three areas of partial compliance
 - i. Follow-up meeting for further feedback especially in regards to ESE
 - ii. Biggest take away is a school wide training at the beginning of next school year to review 504 and IEP procedures
 - iii. Events
 1. Student accomplishments
 - a. The Palm Beaches Student Showcase of Films
 - b. 12th Annual Drug Prevention Media Contest Awards Night
 - c. 2022 Young Artists & Authors Showcase
 - d. CTE High School Student of the Year
 2. Class of 2022 Accomplishments
 - a. 92% Graduation rate and climbing!
 - b. 100% Industry Certification!
 - i. First time in school history
- d. SouthTech Preparatory Academy Principal – Nicole Handy**
- i. Events this Month
 1. FSA Testing Pep Rally
 2. FSA Writes – 99% Attendance
 3. Accreditation planning
 4. Annual Compliance Review
 - a. In-person at STP
 - b. Same ratings scale – compliant, partially compliant, or not compliant
 - c. Glows
 - i. Curriculum/Instruction
 - ii. School Based Teams
 - d. Grows
 - i. ESE – does not meet standards in 4 or more areas
 1. New staff members – learning curve
 2. EdPlan issues
 3. New rules not yet published
 5. Recruitment Open House – 4.13.22
 - a. 75 families
 - b. 20 applications
 6. Applications to date

- a. 6th grade – 167
- b. 7th grade – 40
- c. 8th grade – 41
- 7. Spots available for next year
 - a. 6th grade – 180
 - b. 7th grade – 5-10
 - c. 8th grade – 15-20

e. **Committees/Special Reports – None.**

4. Public Comments on Agenda Items – None.

4. SouthTech Academy Consent Agenda

a. Introduction of Consent Agenda for SOUTHTECH ACADEMY:

Administrative Items

A-1 I recommend that the Board approve the donations for the period from March 1, 2022 through March 31, 2022.

Personnel Items

P-1 I recommend that the Board approve a two-year extension of the temporary teaching certificate for an instructor at SouthTech Academy.

Financial Items

F-1 I recommend that the Board approve and ratify the monthly financial statements for the month ending February 28, 2022 as required by the Sponsor.

F-2 I recommend that the Board approve and ratify the SouthTech Schools Holdings, LLC Balance Sheet and Profit & Loss Report for month ending February 28, 2022.

F-3 I recommend that the Board approve the Food Services Agreement for SY2022-2023 with the Sponsor and authorize the Board Chair to sign all related documents.

b. Poll Board for Items to be Pulled for Comment or Questions

- i. Suzanne Nicolini pulled Item P-1.

c. Approval of SouthTech Academy Consent Agenda Except for Items Pulled

Motion: Robert Kesten

Second: Tony Robinson

All in favor. **Motion carries.**

d. Approval of Each Pulled Item

Motion: Suzanne Nicolini

Second: Robert Kesten

Discussion: Ms. Nicolini was looking for an explanation as to why these teachers are trying to get an extension of their temporary teaching certificates. Mrs. Lovett explained that initially teachers are granted a 3-year temporary teaching certificate to allow time for them to pass the permanent professional teaching certificate. However, if that individual is nearing the end of the third year and have not obtained their permanent certificate, they may ask for a one-time, 2-year extension. In order to qualify for this extension, the individual must meet certain criteria and the extension must be approved by the Board. Mr. Feldman further explained that in these instances parents are made aware through the teaching out of field letters generated annually.

Vote: All in favor. **Motion carries.**

5. SouthTech Preparatory Academy Consent Agenda

a. Introduction of Consent Agenda for SOUTHTECH PREPARATORY ACADEMY:

Administrative Items

PA-1 I recommend that the Board approve the donations for the period from March 1, 2022 through March 31, 2022.

Personnel Items

PP-1 I recommend that the Board approve a two-year extension of the temporary teaching certificate for three instructors at SouthTech Preparatory Academy.

Financial Items

PF-1 I recommend that the Board approve and ratify the monthly financial statements for the month ending February 28, 2022 as required by the Sponsor.

PF-2 I recommend that the Board approve the Food Services Agreement for SY 2022-2023 with the Sponsor and authorize the Board Chair to sign all related documents.

PF-3 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 SY2022-2023.

b. Poll Board for Items to be Pulled for Comment or Questions – None.

c. Approval of SouthTech Academy Consent Agenda Except for Items Pulled

Motion: Robert Kesten

Second: Tony Robinson

All in favor. **Motion carries.**

d. Approval of Each Pulled Item – N/A

6. Public Comments on non-Agenda Items – None.

7. Board Comments

- a.** Mr. Robinson congratulated the principals on all of their accomplishments and told them to keep up the good work.
- b.** Ms. Nicolini wanted to know if Board Members are allowed on campus and if the Adopt-An-Academy was still being looked at. Ms. Lovett explained that while campus visits had been put on hold due to COVID, we are at a point now that we can likely begin them again. That being said, she asked that the Board allow time for the Accreditation review, but said that after that she would not mind Board members coming on campus. Of course, it would have to be scheduled visits so as not to disturb classroom instruction. Mr. Feldman suggested that there be a summertime presentation of the academies to the Board.
- c.** Mr. Heller wanted to make sure that the Board members were aware that this would be the final LPN pinning as STA is sunsetting the clinical program. He also asked about the new term limit rules, but was reminded that they are not elected officials and therefore the new law does not apply to the Board Members. Mr. Heller also inquired about new business partnerships, to which Mrs. Lovett reviewed some possible new business partners for STS.

8. Motion to Adjourn at 6:55 pm.

Minutes Prepared by:


Lisa DeVine

Approved by:


Russell Feldman

Dated

5/12/22