SOUTHTECH CHARTER ACADEMY, INC.
SOUTHTECH PREPARATORY ACADEMY, INC.
STA/STPA Governing Board
Regular Meeting Minutes
August 18, 2022

1. **Opening of Meeting**
   a. **Call to Order at 6:00 PM.**
   b. **Pledge of Allegiance**
   c. **Roll Call – Confirm Quorum**
      Present: Roger Dunson, Ayesha Edmond, Russell Feldman, Christina Grenga,
      Dan Heller, Robert Kesten, and Suzanne Nicolini
      Virtual: Tony Robinson
      Absent: Diane Heinz and James Notter
   d. **Open Meeting Act Statement**

2. **Approval of the Minutes**
   a. **STA/STPA Governing Board Regular Meeting Minutes June 9, 2022**
      Motion: Robert Kesten
      Second: Roger Dunson
      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 STA
      financial items F-1 through F-9 and STP financial items PF-1 through PF-5. There are no
      concerns with the May or June financials. The annual audit is currently underway.
   b. **Executive Director – Carla Lovett**
      - Welcome Back! School Year 22-23 is off to a great start!
        - Celebrating "20 years of SouthTech"
        - Theme: The Spirit of SouthTech
      - Highlights from 21-22
        - Accreditation
        - SouthTech United
        - Transportation Dept. Implementation
      - Tax Referendum Update
        - SY23 Spending Plan
        - Retro Funds - still in the court system
        - Renewal on ballot in November
      - Next Board Meeting: September 15, 2022
        - Annual/Organizational Meeting; Audits
      - Move October Meeting Date
        - **Motion** to discuss moving the October Board meeting to another date
          introduced by Robert Kesten
          Second: Suzanne Nicolini
          All in favor. **Discussion** of possible dates.
        - **Motion** to move the October 20, 2022 Board meeting to Wednesday,
          October 12, 2022 introduced by Suzanne Nicolini.
          Second: Robert Kesten.
          All in favor. **Motion carries.**

c. **SouthTech Academy Principal – Eileen Turenne**
- School Grade
    - Grading Scale:
        - A = 62% of points or greater
        - B = 54% to 61% of points
        - C = 41% to 53% of points
    - SY21-22 School Grade

Percent of Total Possible Points	Grade 2022	Grade 2021 (opted out)	Grade 2019	Grade 2018	Grade 2017
59	B	C	A	A	B

- 2021-2022 Success
    - Class of 2022
        - 100% Industry Certification Rate
        - 96% Graduation Rate
    - Team ELA
        - First time STA has ever beat the District and the State in FSA ELA passing rates
- 2022-2023 Enrollment
    - Enrolled = 1206
    - Present = 1194
    - Budgeted = 1150
- First Week Celebrations

d. **SouthTech Preparatory Academy Principal – Nicole Handy**
- The Success at SouthTech Prep
    - # 1. STPA is a "B" school!!!
    - # 2. Ms. Cemoin - 95% of students passed the Algebra 1 exam!!!
    - # 3. Staff Promotions:
        - Mr. Velazquez to Director of Student Services
        - Ms. Cemoin to Math Coach
        - Ms. Shahid to ELA Coach
    - # 4. 150 Industry Certifications at STP
        - Earned over 3 times more than previous year
        - STEM Academy performed better than majority of district high schools
            - 84% overall passing rate and 95% passing rate in higher level classes
- Feeder School Comparisons
    - 44 overall points more than Conniston (next highest scores)
    - Only "B" full Middle School with over 75% FRL in PBC
    - Acceleration points outperformed all other middle schools in PBC except Don Estridge (tied at 95) and North Grade K-8th (100)
- Enrollment
    - 6th grade = 177
    - 7th grade = 192
    - 8th grade = 179
    - Total = 548

- Need Sponsors:
  - 8th grade College Tour
    - MVP and siblings
    - ($370 pp)
- First Week Celebrations

e. **SouthTech Schools Transportation – Daniel Barone**
- Off to a great start
- Almost fully staffed
  - 2 drivers still needed as backup drivers
  - All routes are staffed
- Heavy ridership especially at the Middle School
  - Under legal capacity – at comfort capacity
- Repairs thus far have mostly been smaller and have been covered under warranty

f. **Committees/Special Reports**
- **Academies Update – Joshua Wigelsworth**
  - SouthTech Academy Highlights
    - 878 Industry Certifications at STA
      - most we have ever earned (led PBC and state of Florida)
    - 100% Acceleration from CTE standpoint at STA
      - Every senior earned at least 1 industry certification
      - Highest percentage STA has ever had
    - Successful implementation of Cyber Security aspects within our IT academy
      - Security Fundamentals certification led to us obtaining more IT certs than ever before
      - Adding Web Security this year as we continue to follow the cyber security trends
      - Instructor earned more certifications than previous 2 instructors combined
  - SouthTech Preparatory Highlights
    - 150 Industry Certifications at STP
      - Earned over 3 times more industry certifications last year than year prior
      - STEM Academy performed better than majority of high school programs who offer STEM certification (84% passing rate overall and 95% in higher level classes)
    - Culinary Program led to 16 incoming freshmen students entering our traditionally under enrolled Culinary Academy
      - Both STA and STP will continue to collaborate in regards to curriculum, certification preparation and use of our kitchen space to keep this pipeline strong.
        - Culinary visits to STA will begin as soon as bus routines are solidified
  - SouthTech Academy Challenges Ahead
    - IT Academy
      - FDOE has revamped what industry certifications look like within IT
        - Deleted 10 of the industry certifications we traditionally teach
        - This is year 1 of this transition
        - Both of our instructors have spent the

summer getting trained on new certifications

- Business Academy
  - FDOE has revamped what industry certifications look like within Business
  - Quickbooks/Social Media can no longer be taught in every business course
  - Adding a Web Foundations certification (new) to our curriculum to fill that void
- Building our Digi-Film Academy from the ground up
  - Year 1 with new instructor,vision and new certification
  - Planning a visit with WPTV to make sure we are following latest trends
  - Exposure and MAKE IT FUN!!
    - Added a Film Appreciation elective for all students to bring awareness/exposure to our amazing film area
    - Active on Recruitment Fair scene
- SouthTech Preparatory Challenges Ahead
  - IT Academy
    - FDOE has revamped what industry certifications look like within IT
      - FDOE deleted the certification we were offering last year
      - New instructor is in process of getting certified in HTML/Coding (latest trend)
  - Culinary Academy
    - Not to outgrow our current room
      - Due to the room being converted into kitchen/cook space, it limits amount of students we can have in a classroom due to district protocols
      - Great problem to have but something we need to keep an eye so we don't lose our current enrollment momentum
  - Ironing out the wrinkles
    - This CTE model is still new so being proactive is essential

4. **Public Comments on Agenda Items – None.**

5. **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 June 1, 2022 through June 30, 2022.
      A-2   I recommend that the Board approve the donations for the period from July 1, 2022 through July 31, 2022.
      A-3   I recommend the Board confirm the revisions to the Law Enforcement Service Agreement with School Police for continuation of services for SY2022-2023.

Financial Items

F-1   I recommend that the Board approve and ratify the monthly financial statements for the month ending May 31, 2022 as required by the Sponsor.

F-2   I recommend that the Board approve and ratify the monthly financial statements for the month ending June 30, 2022 as required by the Sponsor.

F-3   I recommend that the Board approve and ratify the SouthTech Schools Holdings, LLC Balance Sheet and Profit & Loss Report for month ending May 31, 2022.

F-4   I recommend that the Board approve and ratify the SouthTech Schools Holding, LLC Balance Sheet and Profit & Loss Report for month ending June 30, 2022.

F-5   I recommend that the Board approve the amended SouthTech Academy Operating Budget for SY22.

F-6   I recommend that the Board approve the SouthTech Charter Academy Charter School Proposed Referendum Revenue & Expenditure Report for Year Ending June 30, 2023.

F-7   I recommend that the Board approve the one-year service agreement with Edmentum for the use of APEX Learning Courses, PS Implementation Services bundle, and Study Island: College and Career Readiness Library at SouthTech Academy for SY23.

F-8   I recommend that the Board approve the service agreement with Nationwide Interpreter Resources, Inc. (NIR) for Sign Language interpreting services at SouthTech Academy for SY23.

F-9   I recommend that the Board approve and ratify the Fifth Amendment to the Lease Agreement between SouthTech Schools Holdings, LLC and Florida High School for Accelerated Learning (Quantum High School).

b. Poll Board for Items to be Pulled for Comment or Questions
Item A-3 was pulled by Russell Feldman for confirmation only.

c. Approval of SouthTech Academy Consent Agenda Except for Items Pulled
Motion: Robert Kesten
Second: Dan Heller
All in favor. **Motion carries.**

d. Approval of Each Pulled Item
Item A-3:
    Motion: Robert Kesten
    Second: Suzanne Nicolini
    Discussion: The SY23 Law Enforcement Agreement for STA was approved by the Board at the June meeting. The following day, Mr. Feldman received a phone call from the Police Chief indicating that a change was needed to the contract. The Board approved contract stated that in the event that the school police officer is absent, the District will respond as needed, but a replacement school officer will not be assigned. However, the Chief said that this is not in alignment with the MSD Act as an officer must always be present on campus while students are there. Therefore, they asked that that sentence be removed and a new contract signed.
    All in favor. **Motion carries.**

6. SouthTech Preparatory Academy Consent Agenda
    a. Introduction of Consent Agenda for SOUTHTECH PREPARATORY ACADEMY:
    Financial Items
    PF-1   I recommend that the Board approve and ratify the monthly financial statements for the month ending May 31, 2022 as required by the Sponsor.

PF-2 I recommend that the Board approve and ratify the monthly financial statements for the month ending June 30, 2022 as required by the Sponsor.

PF-3 I recommend that the Board approve the amended SouthTech Academy Operating Budget for SY22.

PF-4 I recommend that the Board approve the SouthTech Preparatory Academy Charter School Proposed Referendum Revenue & Expenditure Report for Year Ending June 30, 2023.

PF-5 I recommend that the Board approve the purchase of a perimeter fence from Budget Fence and Gate Systems for the SouthTech Preparatory Academy campus.

   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: Dan Heller
   All in favor. **Motion carries.**

   d. Approval of Each Pulled Item – N/A

7. **Public Comments on non-Agenda Items – None.**

8. **Board Comments**
   - **Dan Heller** – Kudos to Jennifer Melillo for starting the school year off nearly fully staffed. And congratulations to Nicole Handy and the Middle School staff for achieving the goal of becoming a "B" rated school.
   - **Suzanne Nicolini** – Would like to commend all staff members for working so hard to make it a smooth start to the school year.
   - **Russell Feldman** – Josh Wigelsworth presentation was great! He would like to see him be able to speak to our successes at the state level in the future.
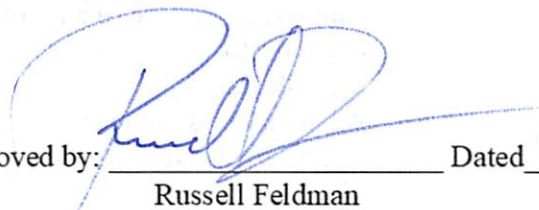
9. **Motion to Adjourn at 7:06 PM**

Minutes Prepared by: _Lisa DeVine_   Approved by: _Russell Feldman_   Dated _9/15/2022_