

SOUTHTECH CHARTER ACADEMY, INC.
SOUTHTECH PREPARATORY ACADEMY, INC.

STA/STPA Governing Board Regular Meeting Minutes

June 8, 2023

1. Opening of Meeting

a. **Call to Order at 6:04 pm.**

b. **Pledge of Allegiance**

c. **Motion from the floor** to bring agenda items A-2 and PA-1 to the floor at this time so as to address the resignation of Christina Grenga from the Board.

Motion: Suzanne Nicolini

Second: Diane Heinz

All in favor. **Motion carries.** The Board thanks Ms. Grenga for her service to the Governing Board of SouthTech Schools.

d. **Roll Call**

Present: Roger Dunson, Russell Feldman, Diane Heinz, Dan Heller, Suzanne Nicolini, and Tony Robinson

Absent: Ayesha Edmond, Robert Kesten, and James Notter

Quorum confirmed.

e. **Open Meeting Act Statement**

2. Approval of the Minutes

a. **STA/STPA Governing Board Regular Meeting Minutes May 11, 2023**

Motion: Diane Heinz

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 approval STA items F-1, F-2, and F-4, and STP items PF-1 and PF-3
- F-3 and PF-2 will need to be pulled and a new motion made as we are still waiting for the Property & Liability insurance contract from the agent.
- Overall, STS is doing very well financially with over 6 months in reserves for both schools

b. **Executive Director – Carla Lovett**

- Wrapping Up a Great School Year:
 - SouthTech/Milagro Summer Camp Update
 - Principals' Reports
 - Career Academies Report
 - Successful first year of STS Transportation Dept.
- Important Dates:
 - SouthTech Schools will be closed from June 16 through July 16
 - Teachers return on August 4, 2023
 - First day of school is August 10, 2023
- Next Meeting: August 17, 2023 (no meeting in July)

c. **SouthTech Academy Principal – Eileen Turenne**

- Class of 2023 – Unofficial Graduation Rate of 97%
- Enrollment Update
 - Applications Received SY24
 - SY24 = 597

- SY23 = 607
 - SY22 = 528
- Events
 - My Teacher, My Hero Awards
 - 4 STA Teachers won awards
 - 2 veteran teachers, and two first-year instructors
 - Pathfinder Awards
 - First time with a finalist in STA history – Joshua Flores for CTE (IT Academy)
 - Class of 2023 Graduation Ceremony
- d. SouthTech Preparatory Academy Principal – Nicole Handy**
 - Enrollment Update
 - SY24 Current Enrollment by Grade Level
 - 6th = 167
 - 7th = 170
 - 8th = 184
 - Total = 521
 - Events
 - 8th Grade Dance
 - 8th Grade Graduation
 - End of Year Celebrations: Incentive Reward Party, 8th grade Field Day, Grade Level Pep Rallies
- e. Committees/Special Reports**
 - **Academies Presentation – Joshua Wigelsworth**
 - Record setting year at both the high school and the middle school
 - Industry Certifications SY23
 - STA
 - 964 Industry Certificates in SY23 vs. 878 in SY22
 - CTE acceleration rate of 99%
 - STP
 - 174 Industry Certificates in SY23 vs 150 in SY22
 - Passing Rate of 95% in SY23 vs 72% in SY22
 - Looking to the future
 - STA
 - 3 potential new academies
 1. E.V. Academy – high in both demand/relevancy and interest
 2. HVAC – high in terms of demand/relevancy, but low interest with high school students
 3. Construction – same issue as HVAC with low interest
 - New academies would take at least one year
 - Cautious due to revamping of CTE programs and IC's statewide
 - STP
 - Work on academies currently offered
 - Problem with expansion is the lack of space
 - **Board Meeting Discussion – Russell Feldman**
 - Issue with Board Member attendance
 - Possible solutions
 - Reduce the number of meetings
 - Every other month or every 6 weeks

- Discuss at the annual meeting in September
 - Will require a policy change
- Recommended Committee Meetings
 - Nominating Committee – should meet in August to prepare for the Annual Meeting in September
 - Policies Committee – Should also meet in August to begin revamping Board policies to bring to the Annual Meeting
- **Reserves Discussion – Carla Lovett & Ginger DeKalb**
 - The Board members provided their top three priorities for the reserves:
 1. Buses/Transportation (storage)
 2. Facility (especially STP)
 3. Security (metal detectors)
 - Staff members agree that transportation and facilities are the top priorities for them as well
 - Discussion of ways to best address those with the use of our reserve funds
 - Transportation
 - Need additional buses and drivers
 - Cannot expand the use of STP facilities until buses are removed from the campus
 - Locate property to lease for storage of buses and transportation office
 - Possible solution for STP facilities
 - Immediate - portables for classrooms or offices
 - Intermediate - construct a small building
 - Long term - expand into Quantum building
 - Takeaways
 - Look into purchasing an additional bus – agenda item in August
 - Look into a property for transportation compound
 - Look into purchasing portables (consultant) – perhaps an agenda item in September, but reliant on the removal of buses from STP campus

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 donations for the period from May 1, 2023 through May 31, 2023.

A-2 I recommend that the Board approve the resignation of Christina Grenga from the Governing Board effective June 2, 2023. (already approved at the start of the meeting)

Financial Items

F-1 I recommend that the Board approve and ratify the monthly financial statements for the month ending April 31, 2023, 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 the month ending April 31, 2023.

F-3 I recommend that the Board approve the **property & liability insurance plan.**

F-4 I recommend that the Board approve the Workers' Compensation Insurance for SY24 with Technology Insurance Co Inc.

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

- **Item F-3** pulled by Dan Heller.
- c. **Approval of SouthTech Academy Consent Agenda Except for Items Pulled**
 - **Motion:** Dan Heller
 - **Second:** Suzanne Nicolini
 - All in favor. **Motion carries.**
- d. **Approval of Each Pulled Item**
 - **Item F-3**
 - **Discussion:** We did not receive the policy at the time of the meeting.
 - **Motion** by Dan Heller to approve property and liability insurance contract when received as long as the premium does not exceed 10% over the budgeted amount, which included a 50% increase. This motion is required because we have not received quotes from our insurance agent but are required to approve the insurance policy prior to July 1, 2023.
 - **Second:** Suzanne Nicolini
 - All in favor. **Amended motion carries.**

6. 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 resignation of Christina Grenga from the Governing Board effective June 2, 2023. (already approved at the start of the meeting)

Financial Items

PF-1 I recommend that the Board approve and ratify the monthly financial statement for the month ending April 31, 2023, as required by the Sponsor.

PF-2 I recommend that the Board approve the property & liability insurance plan.

PF-3 I recommend that the Board approve the Workers' Compensation Insurance for SY24 with Technology Insurance Co Inc.

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

- **Item PF-2** pulled by Suzanne Nicolini.

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

- **Motion:** Suzanne Nicolini
- **Second:** Diane Heinz

d. Approval of Each Pulled Item

- **Item PF-2**
 - **Discussion:** We did not receive the policy at the time of the meeting.
 - **Motion** by Dan Heller to approve property and liability insurance contract when received as long as the premium does not exceed 10% over the budgeted amount, which included a 50% increase. This motion is required because we have not received quotes from our insurance agent but are required to approve the insurance policy prior to July 1, 2023.
 - **Second:** Diane Heinz
 - All in favor. **Amended motion carries.**

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

8. Board Comments

9. Motion to Adjourn at 7:27 pm

Minutes Prepared by:


Lisa DeVine

Approved by:


Russell Feldman

Dated

8/12/2023