

**SOUTHTECH CHARTER ACADEMY, INC.**  
**SOUTHTECH PREPARATORY ACADEMY, INC.**  
**Governing Board Regular Meeting Minutes**  
**April 11, 2024**

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**1. Opening of Meeting**

- a. **Call to Order at 6:01 pm**
- b. **Pledge of Allegiance**
- c. **Roll Call**

Present: Ayesha Edmond, Russell Feldman, Diane Heinz, Suzanne Nicolini, and Erika Rotbart

Virtual: Tony Robinson

Absent: Roger Dunson and Dan Heller

**Quorum confirmed**

- d. **Open Meeting Act Statement**

**2. Approval of the Minute**

- a. **STA/STPA Governing Board Regular Meeting Minutes March 7, 2024**

**Motion:** Suzanne Nicolini

**Second:** Erika Rotbart

All in favor. **Motion carries.**

**3. Reports**

- a. **Finance Report – Ginger DeKalb**

- Reviewed the financials for both schools for the month of February 2024

- b. **Executive Director – Carla Lovett**

- Jersey Mike’s Fundraiser
- Retro Tax Referendum Settlement – Retro bonuses for staff
- Electric gate at STA
- STP Facilities Update
- Legal Update
- Save the Date
  - April
    - Thursday, April 25, 12:30 PM - STA Cosmetology Hair & Fashion Show
  - May (No Board Meeting)
    - Tuesday, May 7, 8:30 AM - Senior Awards Breakfast - STA cafeteria
    - Thursday, May 16, 1 PM - SouthTech Academy Graduation- Fairgrounds
    - Wednesday, May 22, 6 PM - STP 8th Grade Graduation- STA Gym
    - Thursday, May 30 – Last Day for Students
    - Friday, May 31 - Last Day for Teachers
  - June
    - Thursday, June 6, 6 PM – Governing Board Meeting

- c. **SouthTech Academy Interim Principal – Erin Kurtz**

- Enrollment & Recruiting
  - Current Enrollment is 1057
  - We accepted 259 new students (250 last year)
  - Recruiting Open House planned for 4.30.24
- Class of 2024
  - Graduation Rate = 97%
  - Acceleration Rate = 99%
- Events
  - College Mini-Tour

- Scholastic Achievement Dinner
- Fiddler on the Roof
- Music & Sound Production Concert
- d. SouthTech Preparatory Academy Principal – Nicole Handy**
  - Enrollment & Recruiting
    - Total Applications received = 220 (236 last year)
    - Total accepted = 145 (132 last year)
    - Recruitment Open House took place 4.9.24
  - Open Positions
    - Social Studies (1)
    - Math/Elective (1)
    - Maintenance/Custodian (1.5)
  - Events
    - Saturday Science Camp
    - “Seas the Day” field trip to SeaWorld
      - 433 students and 35 staff attending
      - 89 students not attending
- e. Special Reports**
  - i. CTE Report – Joshua Wigelsworth**
    - STA CTE Updates
      - 23-24 Industry Certifications
        - 600 and counting (testing through May)
      - 23-24 Acceleration Rate
        - 99.5% of our current STA seniors have earned at least 1 industry certification (second time we have accomplished this)
      - CTE Academy Highlights
      - STA returns top SkillsUSA
        - 24 students qualified for state competition and 11 students will be competing on 4.14.24 in Jacksonville
          - Medical
          - IT
          - Auto Body
          - Auto Tech (stole the podium at Regionals)
      - Career Academy Expansion Ideas
        - Agri-Tech Academy
        - Education Academy
        - EV Academy (electric vehicle)
        - HVAC Academy
    - STP CTE Updates
      - 23-24 Industry Certifications
        - Goal = 150
        - Current = 158
          - Less than 10 students remaining
      - 23-24 Acceleration
        - Goal = 80% passing rate
        - Current = 90% passing rate
      - CTE Academy Highlights
  - ii. Summer Camp – Barbara Stark & Carla Lovett**
    - Tuition free camp for middle school and high school students from SouthTech
    - Run by Milagro Center in Delray Beach
    - Structured day - 2 hours of academics (tutoring, credit recovery), then enrichment activities for the remainder of the day
      - Arts, music, golf, tennis, swimming and water safety, field trips and more
      - Students that attended the camp last year had no learning loss and some showed

improvement

- Paid for through grant funding

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

5. **Consent Agenda (Note: All board action is representative of action for both schools unless otherwise noted)**

a. **Introduction of Consent Agenda:**

**Financial Items**

- F-1** I recommend that the Board approve and ratify the monthly financial statements for the month ending February 29, 2023.
- F-2** I recommend that the Board approve the Memorandum of Understanding between The Milagro Center and SouthTech Schools, for a 2024 Summer Camp Program.
- F-3** I recommend that the Board approve the consulting agreement with The Stepping Stones Group LLC for Speech-Language Pathology and other services offered as needed.
- F-4** I recommend that the Board approve the proposed one-time Retro Tax Referendum Bonus to be distributed to all eligible employees.
- F-5** I recommend that the Board approve the purchase and installation of an electric gate at the SouthTech Academy campus. (SouthTech Academy Only)
- F-6** I recommend that the Board approve the professional janitorial service proposal from Glow Cleaning Plus, LLC at SouthTech Preparatory Academy for SY2024-2025. (SouthTech Preparatory Academy Only)

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

- Suzanne Nicolini pulled Items F-3 and F-5

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

**Motion:** Diane Heinz

**Second:** Ayesha Edmond

All in favor. **Motion carries.**

d. **Approval of Each Pulled Item**

**Item F-3**

**Motion:** Diane Heinz

**Second:** Suzanne Nicolini

**Discussion:** Ms. Nicolini asked if this was applicable to only STP, but Ms. Lovett explained that both schools' contracts were included in the agenda. Ms. Nicolini also asked about some of the terms of the agreement, such as travels expenses, cost of living increases, etc. Ms. Lovett explained each of these and Ms. Nicolini agreed that it was a good contract.

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

**Item F-5**

**Motion:** Diane Heinz

**Second:** Suzanne Nicolini

**Discussion:** Ms. Nicolini questioned why there was only one bid. Ms. Lovett explained that three bids were obtained but only the one selected was presented to the Board. The Board members then discussed installing a camera. Ms. Lovett explained that staff will look into this and bring back proposals at the June meeting

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

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

7. **Board Comments**

- Reminder – No Board meeting in May
- Next Board meeting June 6, 2024

8. **Motion to Adjourn at 7:45 pm**

Minutes Prepared by: Lisa DeVine

Lisa DeVine

Approved by: Russell Feldman

Russell Feldman

Dated 6/6/2024