

STA/STPA Governing Board
Expansion Workshop Minutes
April 21, 2025

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 12:00 PM.

2. Roll Call

Present:

- In-Person: Roger Dunson, Russell Feldman, Diane Heinz
- Online: Ayesha Edmond, Dan Heller, Suzanne Nicolini, Tony Robinson

Absent:

- Erika Deutsch-Rotbart

3. Expansion Updates

SouthTech Central Project

- Proposed replication of STA in central Palm Beach County near the fairgrounds
- Construction to occur on county-owned land
 1. Requesting a long-term lease (40 to 100 years) at no cost
 2. Projected opening: August 2027
- A steering committee was formed and has met several times
- A packet has been submitted to the Sheriff's Office to obtain a letter of support for presentation to the County Commissioners
- A contract with DLR is on the April Board agenda

Indian River State College (IRSC)

- IRSC is a state-approved charter school authorizer
- Plans to open a medical school and contacted STS regarding the creation of a medical academy charter high school to serve as a pipeline
- Discussion included charter schools IRSC previously opened with Martin County as the sponsor
- IRSC wants to become the sponsor but then cannot operate the schools directly
- They are seeking STS to take over operations starting the next school year
 1. Indiantown High School – CTE-focused
 - Challenges: low enrollment, need for improved community engagement and transportation options
 2. Clark Advanced Learning Center – college-prep
 - High-performing; no changes needed
- Potential for further expansion opportunities in the future with this new relationship

Synergy

- A private school in Fort Pierce operating for over 25 years
- Serves grades 6–12 and offers CTE programs
- The facility is for sale fully furnished, including CTE equipment
- The intention is to convert the school into a charter within the first few years

4. Board Discussion

- Board members expressed a combination of excitement and concern
 - Excited about expanding educational opportunities to other communities and increasing recognition particularly at the state and national levels
 - Concerns were raised about the tight timelines for IRSC and Synergy projects and the financial burden of managing all three initiatives
- Financial analysis and budget planning are required to proceed
- The Board will have to make a decision about how to proceed
 - Currently only expansion related agenda item at the regular Board meeting on April 24, 2025 is the DLR contract, but there will be a discussion only item at the meeting

5. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:52 PM.

prepared
by:

Lisa DeLina 4/24/2025

approved
by:

Paul J. [Signature] 4/24/2025