



**SC Governor's School
for the Arts and Humanities**

School Improvement Council
Minutes of the Meeting
March 12, 2019

Approved April 9, 2019

Please take a few minutes to reach out to your legislators to thank them for their continued support of the SC Governor's School for the Arts and Humanities. You can call, write a letter or send an email. It doesn't have to be a long call or note, just a simple thank you is great. If you are not sure who your representatives are, you can access that information by going to the following website. <https://www.scstatehouse.gov/legislatorssearch.php>

Thank you!
Mary Green
Govie Parent & SIC Chair 2019

Present: Pierceton Mazell, Junior Class President; Emelyn Shabel, Govie Parents Representative, Creative Writing and the Greenville County area (via telephone); Mary Green, Chairman, parent, Dance, and the Greenville County area; Tom Black, Vice-Chair, parent, Drama and the Charleston County area (via telephone); Norman Belk, Secretary, Faculty and Library Services; and Robert McKay, Student Life and Residential Life Coordinator.

Ex-Officio Members Present: Julie Allen, Dean of Arts and Academics; Dr. Matthew Burns, Director of Student Services and Admissions; Dr. Cedric Adderley, President.

Guests: Rochelle Williams, Executive Director, GSA Foundation; and Kelle Stone, Govie Parents Group, Visual Arts, and the Greenville County area.

Welcome and Call To Order

Chairman Mary Green welcomed those present and called the meeting to order promptly at 6:30 PM.

Approval of Today's Agenda

Chairman Mary Green called for approval of today's agenda. Norman Belk so moved. There was a second and the Agenda for March 12, 2019, was approved.



Approval of the Minutes of February 12, 2019

Chairman Mary Green called for approval of the Minutes of February 12, 2019. Norman Belk noted new material added on page 4 paragraph 1 and regarding student ideas. With that addendum, Mr. McKay moved for the approval of the minutes as presented in the meeting. There was a second and the minutes were approved.

President's Report

Dr. Cedric Adderley spoke first about the continuing budget process in the state legislature. So far, our request for shingle roof replacement (\$120,000) is the only request finding approval. Prospects in the Senate may prove better. Dr. Adderley also noted some highlights from his printed report. (1) Our summer Outreach programs are fully staffed. (2) *Spark!* is a program that explores the relationship between Drama and Reading for third grade students who are at risk of retention through the state's **Read to Succeed** law. (3) IGNITE – our introduction to the arts program – will be held at five sites throughout the upstate in June. In the second week of June, our teacher retreats for Visual Arts and Creative Writing will take place on our campus.

Dr. Adderley noted that Dr. Burns is now Vice President for Student Development. There were many “congratulations” for Dr. Burns’s achievements and this recognition of his skills.

Dean's Report

Dean Julie Allen noted our very successful admissions process. She pointed to the weekly newsletter as a source for updated information on Commencement and the Celebration of Achievement.

In addition, she pointed to a new initiative about sophomore students. A “banner crop” is coming for the next residential year. In the residential program, which has many more juniors and seniors, it is felt that our sophomores need on-going support throughout their three years as residential students. For assistance and information, we have pulled together some of our third year seniors to serve as a focus group.

Dr. Burns noted upcoming events, including the Prom, Spring Orientation for incoming residential students, and the April 1 date as the day for admissions acceptances to be mailed out.

Dean Allen noted that she is retiring on June 30, 2019, but will be available to help with a transition for the new Dean for Arts and Academics. There were many accolades for her time as Dean and teacher at the Governor’s School.

Dean Allen pointed to our upcoming events such as the Presidential Guest Artist Garth Fagan, a Tony Winning Choreographer, and to Brandon Michael Hall as the 2019 President's Alumni Award recipient.



New and Old Business

Chairman Mary Green expressed some concerns for incorrect information being “out there” on social media and some news outlets. Dr. Adderley said that we need to look at how information goes out and how information is funneled. It was noted that our National Merit Finalists seem to be missing from the accolades about our school. This year, it appears that a “mix-up” regarding the information has delayed the announcements. When “Fake News” appeared earlier about our school, Dr. Adderley created a swift response in an e-mail to parents.

GSA Foundation and Updates

Rochelle Williams, the new Executive Director of the GSA Foundation spoke about her background and about the role of the GSA Foundation in the daily life and development of our students and our school. Guest Artists, Professional Development, and Community Outreach are just of a few of the areas where the GSA Foundation lends support. Garth Fagin’s appearance as a Presidential Guest Artist this year and “Artists in Bloom” planned for April 25, 2019, are two events supported by the Foundation. The Presenting Sponsor - Blue Cross/Blue Shield of South Carolina - will allow our 20th Anniversary Events to be created around the state.

With advocacy as a major thrust of the Foundation, Ms. Green asked about how parents and others can help. Ms. Williams spoke about how one can “opt-in” for information about events and “non-pushy” ways of giving to the school.

Ms. Green said that she would provide information about thanking our legislators to Dean Allen and to Norman Belk for distribution to various constituencies.

Announcements

Chairman Green called for any announcements. Robert McKay reiterated our Alcohol-Free Prom and After Prom as an excellent way to volunteer.

Guest Kelle Stone noted upcoming events to thank all staff for their hard work at the school.

Adjournment

Hearing no further business to come before the SIC, Chairman Mary Green adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Norman Belk
Secretary 2018-2019