



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

School Improvement Council

Minutes of the Meeting

December 11, 2018 – 6:00 PM

Approved February 12, 2019.

Present: Pierceton Mazel, Junior Class President; Emelyn Shabel, Govie Parent Representative, Drama and the Greenville County area; Kushbu Jivan, Student Body Co-President; Mary Green, Chair, Parent, Dance, and the Greenville County area; Tom Black, Vice-Chair, Parent, Drama, and the Charleston County area; Norman Belk, Secretary, Faculty, and the Library; Robert McKay, Residential Life Coordinator; and Charles Poore, Faculty and Spanish.

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

Welcome and Call To Order

Chairman Mary Green welcomed those present and called the meeting to order.

Approval of the Agenda for Today and Approval of the Minutes from November 13, 2018

Hearing no objections to today's agenda, Chairman Green called for approval of the Agenda as presented and the Approval of the Minutes from November 13, 2018, as presented. Mr. McKay so moved. There was a second and the Agenda for today and the Minutes from the previous meeting were approved.

President's Report

Dr. Cedric Adderley presented his report which highlighted, in part, the appointment of the new Executive Director of the GSA Foundation. Dr. Adderley also spoke about the value of the Foundation, its role for the Governor's School, and the desire of the present Foundation Board to increase the total value of the Foundation's assets and to increase commensurately the role for the Foundation in the artistic endeavors of our students.

Dean's Report

Julie Allen reported that our students garnered three places among the YoungArts Finalists this year:

1. Rowan Brown, Creative Non-Fiction Finalist, 2. Kennedy Jackson, Theater Finalist, and 3. Kushbu Jivan, Photography Finalist. These finalists (winners at the highest award level) will present their work at New World Center and the YoungArts Campus in Miami in January 2019.

Dean Allen also noted that SIC members had received an electronic link to our School Report Card. This final report reflects an "Excellent" rating after much work with help from the State Department of Education.



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Dean Allen recognized Dr. Burns for information on Arts Odyssey next summer – two successive programs for rising 8th and 9th graders. Dr. Burns reported that the response has been very good and applications are strong. We look forward to the organization of these new one-week programs.

Mr. Black asked about the benefits of the School Report Cards. Dean Allen noted that all schools are required to have such a report card and that the Federal Government requires uniform reporting measures. Dean Allen spoke about the value of measuring the fundamental core of our process which includes academic and artistic excellence while also providing special needs assistance where needed and as required.

Old Business

Strategic Plan Information and Update

Dean Allen presented updated information on previous discussions about the present Strategic Planning Process. Printed information – formatted partly in the ABC [Arts in Basic Curriculum] grants process to match the ABC concept of facilitating Strategic Planning in ABC site schools. We are a beneficiary of this grant process. Our School Improvement Council properly serves as the Steering Committee.

Dean Allen spoke about the four areas of Strategic Planning where faculty and staff committees have met as many times to develop ideas and methods of establishing goals and measurements of accomplishment. These four areas are: Board Engagement, Outreach, Sustaining the Mission, and Resources.

Dr. Adderley coordinated the Board Engagement Committee. Commenting that he has not worked with more involved and eager Board, Faculty, and Staff stakeholders in the past, he is especially happy that brand new Board members are eagerly embracing the draft action planning. Objectives include engagement *to increase 15 percent annually* with Governor's School staff and faculty, and with local and statewide constituencies. Objectives and Action Steps are outlined in the draft.

Outreach Director Carol Baker worked with a diverse Outreach Committee to create draft documents outlining three "big picture" ideas: 1. Growth and Sustainability, 2. Policies/Structures/Procedures and 3. Quality Programming.



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Dean Allen and Dr. Burns worked with the Committee for Sustaining the Mission. Draft objectives include (with action steps): (1) to sustain and refine a rigorous pre-professional program of artistic and academic excellence, (2) to promote collaboration among art areas and academic areas throughout the school, (3) to review and refine recruitment plans for summer programs and residential high school to ensure that the school is accessible to the state's artistically talented students, and (4) to review and support services for student success in school programs.

John Warner, Vice-President for Finances, coordinated the Resources Committee. With the goal of ensuring that resources are available to execute the mission, programs and other goals of the school, the Committee drafted three objectives (with action steps): (1.) secure and maintain funding for the school (Board, President, etc.), (2.) Ensure that facilities are maintained/constructed to meet program needs and (3.) Ensure equipment and technology is maintained to meet objectives and goals of the school. In addition, Mr. Warner completed a list of foreseeable facilities needs for each department.

Much discussion about the nature of the process and about the well-being of the school ensued during and after this presentation. Dr. Adderley assured the SIC members that the Board of Directors is robust, thanks to the present administration in Columbia. He further noted that the Outreach element of the school has grown and should continue to grow. Recent admissions attest, in part, to this success in Outreach.

Ms. Green complimented the use of Livestreaming performances and noted that videos could be developed for artistic instruction. Pierceton Mazell noted that the approach to "getting the word out" through Middle School has been a good idea and that our school is a caring place. That idea should be a part of our message. Mr. McKay noted that upgrading our orientation process could assist with these goals and action plans.

Ms. Green said that she is impressed with the whole process. Tom Black moved to approve the efforts as they stand with the idea that a final document and Strategic Plan program could come back to the SIC in February 2019 for final approval. There was a second, and the motion was approved.

New Business

Chairman Green called on Dr. Burns for presentation of the School Calendar for 2019-2020. Dr. Burns used the projection system to point out required elements of establishing the calendar. He then



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noted that a call from the Peace Center in the afternoon before this meeting threw the whole planning off. The Peace Center, regrettably, withdrew the use of their facility for Graduation 2020, because of an expanded and conflicting schedule for a Broadway Show. Much discussion ensued. No good options appeared in the absence of the availability of the Peace Center. Pierceton Mazell expressed the positive feeling for the relationship with the Peace Center among the students. Without knowing the absolute dates for certain items such as AP Exams, how best to schedule for an early graduation (in relation to testing times, required days, etc.) proved to be problematic. It was agreed by consensus that the calendar be re-studied by the groups already signed off on the draft and presented again at the next appropriate meeting.

Announcements

Emelyn Shabel announced a Govie Parent sponsored Holiday event for students on December 17, 2018.

She shared a sign created in support of the event.

Adjournment

Hearing no further business, Chairman Green adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Norman Belk
Secretary 2018-2019