



SC Governor's School for the Arts and Humanities

School Improvement Council
Minutes of the Meeting
November 13, 2018
6:30 PM

approved December 11, 2018

Present: Pierceton Mazell, Junior Class President; Malcolm Davis, Student Body Co-President; Tamar Paltrow, Parent, Visual Arts, and the Greenville County area; Emelyn Shabel, Parent, Govie Parents Representative, and the Greenville County area; Mary Green, Parent, Chair, Dance, and the Greenville County area; Tom Black, Parent, Vice-Chair, Drama, and the Charleston County area; Leigh King (via telephone), Parent, Dance, and the Florence County area; Norman Belk, Faculty, Library, and Secretary; Robert McKay, Residential Life Coordinator; Craig Washington, (via telephone), Parent, Music, and the Florence County area; and Charles Poore, Faculty and Spanish.

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

Guest: Neil Robinson, Director of Aramark Food Services on campus.

Welcome and Call To Order

Chair Mary Green welcomed those present, asked for introductions all around, and called the meeting to order.

Approval of Today's Agenda

Ms. Green called for a motion to approve the Agenda as presented. Mr. McKay so moved. There was a second and the Agenda was approved as presented.

Approval of the Minutes from September 29, 2018

Ms. Green called for any changes, additions or deletions to the minutes. She did point out that the name "Mr. Brown" should be changed to "Mr. Black" on page 3, paragraph 3. With that change, Ms. Paltrow moved that the minutes be approved. There was a second and the minutes were approved.

President's Report

Dr. Cedric Adderley provided a written report and spoke about some of the report's highlights. He also noted the new venues at Drayton Mills in Spartanburg. There he announced the *Grand Jeté* competition to be hosted by the Governor's School in the spring. Several of our Dance students performed. The Governor was also in attendance.

As in year's past, Dr. Adderley participated in one of the simultaneous programs entitled *Two Paths to the Top*. Our school joined forces with the Governor's School for Math and Science to provide



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the programs in Columbia, Florence, Greenville, and Charleston. These programs are joint information sessions for prospective students and their families.

Dr. Adderley noted the \$10,000 award from **Ovation TV** and **Spectrum** media access provider. The award is part of their joint *Stand for the Arts* initiative. Spectrum will run a public service announcement highlighting the Governor's School.

Ms. Green noted that she was delighted to see Dr. Adderley on a panel for Greenville Education Partners on the topic of "Greenville Arts Education: Then, Now, and Tomorrow."

Turning to on-campus activities, Dr. Adderley expressed his appreciation for our first Presidential Guest Artist – Alonzo King, a talented choreographer and "brilliant" man who brought out the best in our students and those from Wade Hampton High School, our outreach partner. Mr. King's two-day residency featured his signature originality and inspiration.

Dr. Adderley noted that the service learning club Connecting Arts Through Service (CATS) continued volunteer services with the young students from Sterling Community Center by hosting "Rock Star" programs and by participating with the Sterling students in a pen pal initiative with students in Kenya.

Dr. Adderley reported that the Music Building is now expected to be completed in August 2019 and that the fall performance calendar has grown and is posted online.

Dean's Report

Dean Allen said that the turnout for "First Look" – a program for interested students and families to explore the Governor's School – was good. She noted that during this coming summer's programs, the school is working toward reaching more students at a middle school level with the Arts Odyssey program. The program will have two independent one-week sessions – one for rising 8th-graders and one for rising 9th-graders.

Dr. Burns asked members of the SIC to assist the school's efforts by providing contacts in schools or organizations where we might make an impact in recruiting for any of our programs. He noted that we now have field liaisons in arts discipline areas to help get the word out about the admissions process.

Ms. Allen spoke about the new Director of Guidance Deborah Ware and our experience with the online college application program *Naviance*. Our experience has been good. Some teachers feel



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comfortable with the program and some feel not-as-comfortable with it. Students and parents can also find out about the progress of the individual's application process.

Lastly, Dean Allen spoke about the on-going issues (including misidentification as the Governor's School for Math and Science) with the revised school report cards. The issuance of the report cards will be delayed until after Thanksgiving Day. The company hired to facilitate the process indicates that the data is 85% complete. Early scrutiny indicates that some of the data is flawed. While we have been able to modify the school report card in the past (working with the State Department of Education, Office of Accountability) to better fit our profile as the Governor's School for the Arts and Humanities, it appears that future report cards will have to match the model established by the Federal Government.

Mr. Craig Washington expressed similar discouragement with this year's school report card process. Malcolm Davis expressed surprise that our school might suffer identity issues. Dean Allen advised that we'll have "to wait and see" what the final outcome might be.

Old Business

Dining Updates and Information – Mr. Neil Robinson, Director of School Food Services with our vendor Aramark, was introduced by Dr. Burns. Mr. Robinson noted that the service tries to take into consideration everybody's needs, all-the-while highlighting nutritional values of foods with signs and information (i.e., "vegan," "vegetarian," etc.) and introducing new foods. Mr. Robinson meets with student-led feedback groups. He reported that a new nutritionist/marketing educator will join the staff as soon as tomorrow. Mr. Black asked whether this new person is permanent. Mr. Robinson said that she is and she will assist in communicating food values and other information to students and to the Aramark staff.

Ms. Green talked about the 6:10-end-of-the-day for dancers and how it can seem to students that the dining area is closing up and nothing nutrient rich is left to eat. Pierceton Mazell spoke about the nutrition needs of dancers on a daily basis.

Mr. Robinson said that a retraining of staff as to closing procedures would be in order (the evening meal normally closes at 7:00 PM). In addition, nutritious food is always available and communication can help. Mr. Robinson said that the use of e-mail can help, also. Mr. Robinson also enjoys creating a "wow" factor with the display of foods to make them enticing as well as nutritious and fresh. Malcolm Davis spoke about Mr. Robinson's attendance at meetings of Student Council where such things as costs, nutrition, taste, and freshness can be discussed. Dean Allen expressed a "hats off" thank you for the continuous service that staff provides each



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day when students are on campus. Ms. Green said that she appreciates this chance for dialog, which is always important. Mr. Black suggested that a use of "Instagram" photos could be useful with pictures of food to be served.

New Business

Dean Allen suggested that we postpone the discussion of the new Strategic Plan until the December meeting when the Council could take more time. Some brief questions were asked. Dean Allen said that a few areas may need more "teeth" in the new plan. For example, more collaborative programs within arts and academics areas could be planned. Mr. Black asked about the nature of a 5-year plan which contrasts with the times for strategic plans in the private sector. Dean Allen noted that the 5-year model is what is expected by our external agencies such as the Accrediting Commission for Community and Pre-Collegiate Arts Schools (ACCPAS), the agency that provides our accreditation. The current plan for 2013-2018 has been studied in preparation for the new plan. Stakeholder groups have been working on a revised plan which remains fluid. It was noted that the Board of Directors is the responsible party for the success of the plan. To that end, The Board authorized Morris "Moss" Blackman, Consultant, to interview various stakeholder groups including Board members and selected groups of employees on campus. Julie herself has spoken with Student Council. All of these groups expect excellence for us as a school. The plan may have "audacious" goals, given the big thinking so far.

Ms. Green expressed support for having this large discussion at our next meeting.

Announcements

Ms. Green spoke about the great attitudes and services of staff at the residence hall desk.

Adjournment

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

Respectfully submitted,

Norman Belk
SIC Secretary 2018-2019