

SC Governor's School for the Arts and Humanities

School Improvement Council

Minutes of the Meeting

September 29, 2018

Approved November 13, 2018

Present: Tamar Paltrow, Parent, Dance, and the Greenville County area; Emelyn Shabel, Parent, Drama, Govie Parent Representative, and the Greenville County area; Mary Green, Parent, Dance and the Greenville County area; Tom Black, Parent, Drama, and the Charleston County area; Norman Belk, Faculty and Library; Robert McKay, Residential Life Coordinator; Craig Washington, Parent, Music and the Florence County area; Charles Poore, Faculty and Spanish; and Laura Peace, Parent, Drama, and the Greenville County area.

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

Guest: Barbarette Washington, Parent.

Welcome and Call To Order

Dean Julie Allen welcomed those present and called the organizing meeting of the School Improvement Council Meeting to order at 10:30 AM. She began the meeting with introductions from those present.

Acceptance of Minutes from April 2018

Dean Allen called for Acceptance of the Minutes of April 26, 2018. After distribution of the minutes and perusal by the Committee, Mr. McKay moved to approve the Minutes as distributed. There was a second and the Minutes were approved.

Purpose of the School Improvement Council (SIC)

Dean Allen discussed the School Improvement Council as an instrument for collaboration among various stakeholders of the school. Goals include better outcomes for students and for an evolving and improving educational environment. Stakeholders include parents, faculty and staff, students, and administrators. School Improvement Councils are mandated by the state for these purposes. In addition, the SCGSAH-SIC membership attempts to reflect (as thoroughly as possible) the geographic areas represented in the school as well as each artistic area of study. The school SIC By-laws and the previous minutes of the SCGSAH-SIC are included in the website www.scgsah.org. As a part of these guidelines, the SCGSAH-SIC has a distinctive role to play in the official School Report Card as developed through Federal Guidelines and the South Carolina State Department of Education along with the Education Oversight Committee. The Chairman of the SCGSAH-SIC may write an annual "report" or yearly summary of annual progress for the School Report Card. Revisions to the required narrative of the School Report Card will create changes for the SCGSAH School Report Card.

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One of the duties of the SCGSAH-SIC is serve as the Steering Committee for the Arts in Basic Curriculum (ABC) grants. Such grants, applied for and received by the school, have provided opportunities for educational study for SCGSAH arts faculty. The arts faculty also creates and establishes quality educational opportunities for teachers from other schools in a “pay it forward” philosophy. Dean Allen spoke about this year’s grant process and how it could benefit our school and art education in South Carolina again in the coming years.

Julie Allen noted that SCGSAH is in the final year of the school’s Five-Year Strategic Plan, another element of input and leadership from the SIC. It is now time to develop a new plan. Tom Black asked about how one might find out about the current plan as we move toward developing the new plan. Dean Allen said that she would make available the previous plan for this purpose. She noted from the previous Strategic Plan several developments: the Animation curriculum, the recasting and updating of the entire Dance curriculum, and components of the school’s relationship with the GSA Foundation. She noted that a consultant has already been engaged and has produced useful background studies. The consultant Dr. Morris Blachman interviewed various groups within the school community. Elements of the new Strategic Plan include Enhanced Mission, Board Engagement, Outreach, and Resource Development. She noted that this Plan is not a plan for day-to-day activities, but one for long-range development.

Old Business

None Reported

New Business

Election of Officers

Julie Allen noted that the By-laws require the election of three officers: (1) Chair, (2) Vice-Chair, and Secretary. After some discussion, Mary Green’s name came to the fore for Chairman. Ms. Green agreed to serve if elected. Dean Allen called for a vote and Ms. Green was elected as Chairman. Tom Black’s name was presented for Vice-Chairman. He agreed to serve if elected. Mr. Black was then elected Vice-Chairman. Norman Belk’s name was mentioned as Secretary. He agreed to serve if elected. He was then elected Secretary.

Meeting Schedule for 2018-2019

The SIC is required to meet six times per year. Meeting times were discussed. Dr. Burns noted that one alternative is create a trial meeting time using conference calling and Adobe Connect. Suggested times and dates were discussed. It was agreed to attempt meetings on the second Tuesday evenings of the month at 6:30. The in-person meeting will be in the Boardroom as usual. By consensus, it was agreed that our first such meeting will be November 13, 2018.

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President's Report

Dr. Adderley noted that the summer Discovery Program will change names and approaches next year.

The new name is Arts Odyssey and will be two one-week programs for younger students. This change will not affect the Summer Dance Program or the two-week Academy Program.

Dr. Adderley reported that we have currently 231 students in the Residential Program. In other highlights, Dr. Adderley pointed to the growth in Outreach with over 25,000 people reached in 30 counties. He noted the Outreach program "Spark! Inspiring Tomorrow's Readers through Drama" and the positive results so far in incorporating drama practices with reading skills development. This program was designed for rising 3rd and rising 4th grade students identified by the Read to Succeed legislation as at-risk for retention. More work needs to be done with our partners in this Williamsburg County School District location to corroborate these early findings. Other Outreach Programs now include the on-going Dance programming with the Lowcountry Youth Dance Academy and a Library Outreach program for incarcerated youth in Greenville County Juvenile Detention Center. The program was designed and implemented by Mr. Michael Giller, Assistant Director of Library Services.

Mr. Black asked about the nature of the support for the school and about how members of the SIC work toward supporting SCGSAH. Dr. Adderley talked about the school as a part of the General Assembly's budget process and the myriad offices that are approached by our school for ongoing support. He noted that good advocates for SCGSAH include our parents (the SIC among the several groups) students, alumni, and other stakeholders. He discussed the role of Ted Riley and special events for lawmakers.

Ms. Green asked about the "connections" of the school to constituents. Dr. Adderley noted the new Public Relations efforts using all media as well as public programs of the GSA Foundation. He noted that 25 percent of our students need support to attend our school and that the Foundation fills that important gap. As the school approaches the 20-year anniversary mark, Dr. Adderley is working with various groups to determine how to celebrate. Events are now being planned. Issues include how best to get appropriate media coverage and how best to get the message to as many South Carolinians as possible.

Dean's Report

Dean Allen noted that the idea of Livestream for performances at SCGSAH originally came from this body – the SIC. Other ideas – including the 4:30 class ending for days before long weekends and holidays – also have roots in the SIC.

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Dr. Burns noted that many Dining Service questions, including billing issues, can be addressed by the ARAMARK Representative. Arrangements will be made to have the Representative present at our next meeting.

Dean Allen noted the "Stand for the Arts" Award to be received by the School on October 23, 2018, at the ONE Building. Invitees include the Legislative Delegation, the Mayor, and other interested stakeholders. The idea for this timing and location relates to Wind Ensemble performance at the Gunter Theater which is just down the street and later that same evening.

Dean Allen noted last year's Presidential Artists Series and discussed this year's invited artists: Alonzo King (from San Francisco Alonzo King LINES Ballet – Mr. King has interests in Music, Drama, and Dance) for first semester and the Tony Award Winning choreographer (*Lion King*) Garth Fagan for the second semester. Mr. Fagan specializes in West African Dance.

Tamar Paltrow indicated that we should look at timing for Dance students to get evening meals. She also noted issues with the time of use for microwave ovens in the Residence Hall. These items can be addressed in the next meeting.

Announcements

Dr. Burns thanked parents for participating in Family Weekend, with some parents coming quite a distance to participate in programs and the College Fair.

Dean Allen noted that the weekly school newsletters sent out to parents and others is a "refresh" of the previous newsletters and that we hope it provides up-to-date and useful information.

Adjournment

Chairman Mary Green called for a motion to adjourn. Mr. McKay so moved. There was a second and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Norman Belk
Secretary 2018-2019