

**South Carolina Governor's School for the Arts and Humanities
School Improvement Council
Minutes of the Meeting – November 21, 2017**

approved January 12, 2018

Present: Dana Cryster, Student Body Co-President; Kushbu Jivan, Student Body Co-President; Eric Johnston, Chair, parent, dance and the York County area (via telephone); Leigh King, parent, dance, and the Florence County area; Sam Mitchell, parent, music, and the Spartanburg County area; Norman Belk, Secretary and faculty, Charles Poore, faculty; and Robert McKay, Residential Life Coordinator.

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

Guest Present: Christina Vandiver, Director of Public Relations

Welcome and Call to Order

Chairman Eric Johnston welcomed those present and called the meeting to order.

Approval of Today's Agenda

Mr. Johnston called for approval of the Agenda as presented. The Agenda was approved by consensus.

Dean's Report

Dean Julie Allen began her report on the sad note that our school's founder Dr. Virginia Uldrick passed away earlier in November. She noted that the current students attended a special meeting in memory of Dr. Uldrick. Among those present at that meeting was Dr. Uldrick's daughter Lisa. She was moved by memories shared by faculty members from the school's founding. After the meeting, students re-assembled at the sculpture of Dr. Uldrick in front of the school. Students placed roses at the feet of her likeness. A private funeral and burial was held at Buncombe Street Methodist Church in Greenville. Our school will be the site of a memorial for Dr. Uldrick on January 7, 2018.

Dean Allen presented copies of the 2017 South Carolina State Report Card for SCGSAH. She noted that the rankings (or absolute ratings) are not presently provided (This is a transition year.). The SIC's role will include a summary report that our chairman will participate in. More information will be added to the report card in coming iterations. This information will include advanced placement and end-of-course scores. Dean Allen invited comments from the SIC.

Dean Allen noted that SCGSAH has four YoungArts Finalists: one in Visual Arts and three in Creative Writing. More announcements about our students are likely to come soon from YoungArts.

In the area of mandated testing, Dean Allen reported that 11th graders are expected to take the ACT tests. In coming years, the state will offer and pay for ACT or SAT tests or allow students to opt out. The dates for these tests are not yet known, but they are expected to be late in February or in early March.

The Graham Foundation has provided funding for two amazing guest artists for this school year: (1) Rita Dove and (2) Laurie Anderson. **Rita Dove** served as Poet Laureate of the United States and Consultant to the Library of Congress from 1993 to 1995 and as Poet Laureate of the Commonwealth of Virginia from 2004 to 2006. She has

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received numerous literary and academic honors, among them the 1987 Pulitzer Prize in Poetry. She will be with us on March 5 & 6, 2018. **Laurie Anderson** is an American avant-garde artist, composer, musician and film director. Her work spans performance art, pop music, and multimedia projects. She will be with our students and outreach program(s) on April 13, 2018.

Dean Allen turned over her time to Christina Vandiver, SCGSAH's Public Relations Director. Ms. Vandiver spoke about her first year at the school, providing increased public awareness for applications and for our supporters and funders. She has emphasized social media and developed promotional events. She is currently coordinating the SCGSAH school branding initiative. The discovery phase of the initiative is prepared for December 2017. An element of branding initiative is a new look and feel for the school's website. The revised website is presently scheduled for an unveiling in early to mid summer 2018. One result of her work has been the development of the micro-site <https://iwanttobeagovie.com/> targeted to prospective students.

Ms Vandiver indicated that she welcomed parent support and suggested that they sign-up for email alerts in the spring. She also emphasized parent support where local media might respond to our efforts. Sam Mitchell asked about the micro-site and whether it is a stand-alone site. Ms. Vandiver said that it is standalone site built for mobile devices with student testimonials about "what is good about being a Governor's School student."

Chairman Johnston thanked Ms. Vandiver and Dean Allen for their fantastic results this year.

President's Report

President Cedric Adderley indicated he would provide brief highlights in his report: (1) the 40th Annual *Joint* Meeting of the *Southeast U.S.-Japan Association (SEUS)* and the *Japan-U.S. Southeast Association (JUSSA Japan)* October 21-24, 2017. This prestigious gathering of global business leaders celebrates long-standing economic and cultural ties. Our students participated with a string quartet and with a brass quintet in addition to being able to interact with the delegates.

Dr. Adderley also spoke about the "Share the Music," 2-day tour in South Carolina. The tour concluded with a performance at Claflin University.

Dr Adderley also reported on this year's very successful GSA "Songwriters in the Round" fundraising events in Greenville and Hilton Head. He indicated that this year could be the last of this kind of program, but that Phillip Lammonds, a major participant and coordinator of the events, said that these celebrated artists will not forget the school and its mission and that their commitment will be ongoing.

Dr. Adderley also reported on a \$35,000.00 Duke Energy grant to support the IGNITE program in the Pee Dee area. He is very much in favor of our rebranding initiative and the company selected: Cyberwoven. He also noted the progress of admissions and the newer Govie Saturdays which have been successful. Prospective parents have been particularly pleased with the programs. There is no news on the County Square development process at this time. Dr. Adderley said that the process for our new Music Building has reached the state engineers offices. The groundbreaking is expected to be in February 2018.

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Chairman Johnston asked if there were questions for the President or **Old Business** to bring before the SIC. Hearing none, he moved the Agenda forward.

New Business

Dr. Burns distributed draft school calendars for the school year 2018-2019. One was the “calendar at the glance” - a one page document - and the other included a more detailed look at the day-by-day activities and the major events in the school year. He discussed the state requirements for the number school days and the myriad challenges to create a calendar for our environment. The calendar will be published in December.

Chairman Johnston directed that **Ms. McCarty's discussion on potential new courses** be moved to the January meeting. She was not able to attend today's meeting.

Mr. Belk reported for Ms. Lisa Moe on further SIC training. He discussed Ms. Moe's varying experiences in her extensive SIC activities. She indicated that successful SIC work comes when the Council is thoroughly involved in the school and SIC decision-making. Mr. Belk pointed to the URLs listed in the today's Agenda. These provide access to the SC-SIC training documents and the SC-SIC *Handbook*. On behalf of Ms. Moe, Mr. Belk encouraged SIC members to take advantage of this information.

Announcements

The upcoming Dance program - a free, but ticketed event at the Gunter Theater at the Peace Center - will be great this year. Dean Allen and Chairman Johnston urged parents to reserve tickets early.

Ms. Mitchell spoke about the great Opera Scenes program offered twice this year. She said that she is a big fan of the Livestreaming service the school offers.

Adjournment

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

Respectfully submitted,

Norman Belk
Secretary 2017-2018