

South Carolina Governor's School for the Arts and Humanities  
School Improvement Council

February 16, 2018 – Minutes of the Meeting

Approved March 23, 2018

Present: Tamar Paltrow Zwerdling, parent, Visual Arts and the Greenville County area; Kushbu Jivan, Senior Class President and Visual Arts; Eric Johnston, Chair, parent, Dance, and the York County area (via telephone); Susan McCarty, parent, Music, and the Lexington County area; Sam Mitchell, parent, Music, and the Spartanburg County area; Lisa Moe, parent, Music, and the Spartanburg County area; Norman Belk, faculty and Secretary; Robert McKay, Residential Life Coordinator; Thomas Shoemaker, faculty and dance; Craig Washington, parent, Music, and the Florence County area (via telephone); and Charles Poore, faculty and Spanish).

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

Guest: Tammy Hubert, Public Safety.

Welcome and Call To Order

Chairman Eric Johnston welcomed those present and called the meeting to order at 4:31 PM.

Approval of Today's Agenda

Mr. Johnston requested approval of today's Agenda. It was agreed by consensus to approve the Agenda as presented.

Approval of the Minutes of January 12, 2018

Mr. Johnston called for approval of the Minutes of January 12, 2018. Mr. McKay so moved. There was a second, and the Minutes were approved as distributed.

Dean's Report

Dean Julie Allen asked Tammy Hubert, Public Safety Director, to talk about new and upcoming security measures.

Security Measures

Ms. Hubert gave a thorough description concerning security cameras on campus and upgrades to that system. She also discussed needed improvements to the fire alarm/detection system and how it is deployed properly during a lockdown. She spoke also about the school's mass notification. Refinements to the lockdown structure are coming soon. These refinements and restructuring of lockdown procedures come in part due to the recent unfortunate situation in Florida. The new approach includes "thinking it through." Faculty and Staff have had training on the "Run, Hide, Fight" training from other school districts. Ms. Zwerdling asked about drills and other training. Ms. Hubert discussed our experiences so far and noted that the school will have more training sessions with a drill components. She noted that our students take such activities seriously. She also talked about needed upgrades to the main gate and other entrances and exits.

Dean Allen then discussed the many travels for art areas this time of year: Drama students will travel to Chicago; Dance students will travel to Pittsburgh; and Music students will travel to Atlanta. In addition,

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there are upcoming tests for all students including the ACT and a career readiness (four hour test) for juniors possibly on April 18. Our school still meets state requirements for end-of-course testing. Danielle Lewis meets with students needing supervised study for tests.

Dean Allen reported on the Admissions process for all programs. Beginning in Charleston, faculty and staff in all art departments will audition 1200 applicants. So far, our art department chairs report very positive comments on the quality of candidates for our programs. Finally those admitted must fit into the kind of balance we need for our school. Hopefully, letters of admission will be sent out on April 1, 2018.

Black History is being celebrated in February at our school including a session with Ms. McKnight at our Community Meeting today.

Chairman Johnston said that, as a parent of a senior, he felt that his student has been always in a very safe environment at SCGSAH. He said that part of the security felt has to do with the quality of the communication from Dr. Burns and the student life offices.

President's Report

Ms. Allen presented the written report from President Cedric Adderley as distributed at the beginning of the meeting. Highlights include our participation in Arts Advocacy Day on February 6, 2018, at the Statehouse. In addition, the report includes the final budget hearing information for FY 2019 agency budget plan and the eleven appropriations requested, of which the top three may be included in our request: (1) Fire protection System Component Upgrade, (2) IT Core Switch replacement, and (3) Director of Outreach and Engagement position.

The Music addition construction will not threaten the historic American beech tree at the edge of our campus. Form the early planning stages, a construction zone has been planned for an area 90 feet away - well beyond what the city ordinance requires.

Old Business

Chairman Johnston asked whether there was any Old Business. Hearing none, he moved on to New Business.

New Business

Student Life Policies

Dr. Burns updated the SIC on student concerns. A later curfew had been requested through student council. The answer from the various administrative bodies has been "no." Tenth-graders had requested changes to their hours and off-campus privileges. Given the nature of developing balance for tenth-grade life, no changes were approved. Major changes, beyond those that came to administration, would come to the SIC. Members of the Council voiced general approval of this approach.

Dr. Burns urged members of the Council to send suggestions to him. Dean Allen noted that the Governor's School for Science and Math requires a two-hour, mandatory, monitored study hall.

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We feel we are in a good place with our timing for students who need time for study and time for rest. Dr. Burns reported that we always look at like-minded schools: boarding schools, both public and private. We want to create a balance. Chairman Johnston noted contrasts with the Governor's School for Science and Math, and that the plans at our school bode well for development of artists, students and scholars.

Announcements

Mr. Johnston called for announcements. He noted the Senior Dance Showcase and the amazing growth of students as artists. He sat near Dr. Adderley and his wife at the performance.

Adjournment

Mr. Johnston called for a motion to adjourn. Mr. McKay so moved. There was a second and the meeting was adjourned at approximately 5:44 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Norman Belk  
Secretary 2017-2018