

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT COUNCIL
SOUTH CAROLINA GOVERNOR'S SCHOOL FOR THE ARTS AND HUMANITIES
MINUTES OF THE MEETING
JANUARY 13, 2017

*Approved at the Meeting of March 10,
2017
R. Belk*

Present: Christopher Toumey, Parent, Drama and the Richland County area; Tamar Paltrow Zwerdling, Parent, Visual Arts and the Greenville area; Paul Gee, Parent, Creative Writing and the Anderson County area; Sarah Crockford, Parent, Music and the York County area; Meesh Hayes, Parent Drama and the Richland County area; Earle Oxner, Parent, Creative Writing and the Greenville County area; Marty Epp-Carter, Faculty and Visual Arts; Norman Belk, Faculty and Library; Leah Abbott, Student Body Co-President; and Robert McKay, Residential Life Coordinator.

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

Guest Present: Liam Toumey

WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Toumey welcomed those present and called the meeting to order.

APPROVAL OF TODAY'S AGENDA

Mr. Toumey asked for approval of today's agenda. Ms. Epp-Carter so moved. There was a second and the Agenda was approved as distributed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR NOVEMBER 2016

Mr. Toumey called for approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of November 2016. Mr. McKay so moved. There was a second and the minutes of the November 2016 meeting were approved.

DEAN'S REPORT

Dean Allen noted that some of our students were absent due to making successful auditions for the finals of the YoungArts Competitions. She also noted that the Unified Auditions for drama in Chicago and the High School Dance Festival in Norfolk, Virginia, are upcoming. The Unified Auditions contingent this year also includes one vocalist. The upcoming Spring Break will have approximately 49 students on tour in Italy, where students will present musical performances at St. Peter's Cathedral and other locations.

The performance calendars will be updated soon to reflect the numerous performances in spring.

Guidance will administer the ACT required tests. The state's requirement for all such tests as being online and in a "wired" setting is not a possibility for our school. Most, if not all, schools seek an exemption.

A discussion ensued about Martin Luther King, Jr. Day and about Black History Month in February.

Dean Allen reported that Fletcher Smith, a lawyer and parent of a former student, provided an excellent program about service today at our community meeting. Dr. Burns pointed to planned activities surrounding the Voting Rights Act and other notable Black History highlights. Karen Davis, advisor to the Multicultural Club, is planning a large event to celebrate Black History in February. Mr. Gee spoke about visiting Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta and the potential of not being able to visit the church in the future.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

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Mr. Toumey recognized Liam Toumey to represent the Senior Class. Liam noted that the senior class gift is slated to be a relief or mural on the grounds of the school. Plans for a "phone bank" of targeted groups for donations are in the works. One-hundred percent giving is the goal. The GSA Foundation will, as is customary, provide the fiduciary support. Mr. Gee noted that some employers will match donations to eleemosynary entities selected by employees.

Continuing under New Business, Mr. Toumey recognized Mr. Oxner who asked about college visits. Dean Allen noted that the April 15 date (after which absences are unexcused) stands as a marker in our calendar for our students who are so highly engaged in end-of-course and AP Exams, not to mention required rehearsals, performances, etc. Some exceptions are made, but very few.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. McKay noted that there will be a fundraiser at the Woodruff Road Chick-Fil-A for our Prom Fund.

Supporters are asked to place receipts in a box on a specific day (Monday night) from 4 to 8 PM.

Ms. Zwerdling noted that she is involved in an initiative to re-invigorate Greenville's Sister City status with Bergamo, Italy.

Vocal students will attend an open Master Class with Renee Fleming and Dance students will have learning opportunities with the Paul Taylor Dance Company.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Toumey asked for a motion to adjourn. Mr. McKay so moved and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Norman Belk
Secretary