

South Carolina Governor's School for the Arts and Humanities

School Improvement Council

Saturday, October 30, 2017

Minutes of the Meeting

approved 11-21-2017

Members Present: Leigh King, parent, dance, and the Florence County area; Robert McKay, Residential Life Coordinator; Thomas Shoemaker, faculty and dance; Craig Washington, parent, music and the Florence County area; Susan McCarty, parent, music and the Lexington County area; Lisa Moe, parent, music and the Spartanburg County area; Tamar Paltrow Zwerdling, parent, visual arts and the Greenville County area; Sam Mitchell, parent, music and the Spartanburg County area; Dana Cryster, student body co-president and music; Eric Johnston, parent, dance, and the York County area; Kevin Hopkins, junior class vice-president and visual arts; Jivan Kushbu, senior class president and visual arts; and Charles Poore, faculty and Spanish.

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

Guests Present: Barbie Washington, Katie Klutz, Kevin Oliver, Carlyn Tucker, and Rick Aparicio.

Call to Order and Introductions

Dean Julie Allen called this organizational meeting to order and asked for introductions from those present.

Overview of the School Improvement Council (SIC)

Dean Allen provided an overview of the SIC and spoke about accomplishments of the SIC, such as the adoption of an earlier departure time for check-out days. She also noted last year's discussion of sophomore rules. As the school year moves quickly, she apprised the SIC that the November meeting will include the consideration of the school calendar for 2018-2019. Dean Allen noted that the school's website (under the "Govies" tab) includes the official membership list of the SIC, the By-laws, and other information.

Dean Allen stressed that all community members are welcome at the meetings, but that only members vote. She indicated that school is accredited by ACCPAS (Accrediting Commission for Community and Precollegiate Arts Schools) As part of the on-going accrediting process, we will be re-vitalize our school's Strategic Plan as required by the ACCPAS.

Dean Allen also reported that achieving "Palmetto Gold and Silver" status no longer comes with funding as it once did. However, we do receive an ABC Grant (Arts in Basic Curriculum Advancement Grant) grant. Half of the grant comes to us for professional development and is primarily for our arts teachers. Half is used to bring teachers to our school to create professional development opportunities for arts teachers around the state. Drama and Creative Writing workshops have been included in this process.

Dean Allen reported that our annual school Report Card is now completed. The SIC should be aware that this Report Card year is a transition year so absolute ratings will not be reported as in some years.

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Dean Allen reported that she and Dr. Adderley met with the EOC (Education Oversight Committee) regarding the unique needs of our Report Card to reflect our growth.

Sam Mitchell asked whether there is a second type of accreditation process for our school. Dean responded that the ACCPAS process is more holistic and a better for the work of our school.

The minutes from the April 13, 2017, SIC meeting (of the previous school year) were received as information.

New Business

Dean Allen reviewed the available officer positions for this year. She requested nominations for officer positions. Mr. McKay nominated Mr. Johnston as Chair. Mr. Johnston accepted and was elected by acclamation. Ms. Moe said that she would be willing to serve as Vice-Chair. She was elected by acclamation. Dean Allen said that, prior to this meeting, Norman Belk would be willing to serve as Secretary. He was elected by acclamation.

The meeting schedule as noted in the school's schedule (November, January, February, March and April) and the meeting time at 4:30 PM on selected departure dates were agreed to by consensus. Members were asked to notify Norman Belk (864-282-3694) for Adobe Connect call-in options when needed.

Dean's Report

Dean Allen noted the recent Board of Directors Meeting. She pointed to Alumni News on the school's website. The "Eclipse" activities were a huge success with students, faculty and staff involved. She shared a student's "Eclipse in Six" responses. The experience was a prime example of the "new" students joining the strong feeling of community at the school.

Dean Allen spoke about the new Presidential Guest Artist Series, made possible by a grant from the Graham Foundation. Significant Guest Artists (about two per year) will come to our campus for a thorough involvement with all of our students. Ms. Moe noted the impact of a recent guest speaker from Haiti.

President's Report

Dr. Adderley, too, noted the sense of community at SCGSAH. He emphasized the importance of Outreach in the work of our school.

Dr. Adderley reported that in 2016-2017, we reached 23,000 participants through 185 Outreach Opportunities. We embedded a faculty member (Ashley Felder, a graduate of our school) in Hardeeville at Royal Live Oaks Charter School, and we are in year three of an official partnership with Williamsburg County School District in Kingstree.

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He noted that Read To Succeed has made a difference in school readiness and the curriculum being developed potentially makes other opportunities available. This is year two of the Busbee professional development school collaborative - a train the trainer model to assist the school in moving toward a more creative, arts integrated environment.

We are presently in year one of a Dance Outreach in Dorchester County with the Lowcountry Dance Academy, where we have contracted with a dance faculty who can teach there regularly.

Dr. Adderley praised the "iwannabeagovie.com" microsite aimed specifically at prospective students. Dr. Adderley asked parents to help both with recruiting and with positive press we have been getting in hometown newspapers and with local editors, etc.

Dr. Adderley reported on the slow process for getting appropriate land within the upcoming County Square project and no further updates are available at this point. The new Music Building is on target for construction to begin in February and will take approximately a year to complete.

Announcements

Mr. Johnston called for any announcements.

Dean Allen noted that graduation will be at 2:00 PM at the Peace Center on May 25, 2018.

Mr. Johnson invited feedback and suggestions for Agenda items. He provided his e-mail (edge21117@yahoo.com) and his telephone number (803-493-2393).

Ms. Moe noted the impact of Mechelle Luster in the music department, including her level of organization and strong communication.

Dean Allen invited Christina Vandiver to speak at the next SIC meeting regarding Public Relations.

Adjournment

Mr. McKay moved to adjourn. There was a second and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Norman Belk
SIC Secretary 2017-2018