

MEETING MINUTES

Board: Scintilla Charter Academy
Board Meeting: August 29, 2017

School: Scintilla Charter Academy

The minutes of Sunshine Law meetings need not be verbatim transcripts of the meeting. These minutes are a brief summary of the events of the meeting.

| Date: | Start | End | Next Meeting: | Next time: | Prepared by: |
|-----------------|--------------|------------|----------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| August 29, 2017 | 6:55 PM | 7:20 PM | September 26, 2017 | 6:45 PM | J. Denham |

| Meeting Location: |
|---|
| 2171 East Park Ave., Valdosta, GA 31602 |

| Attended by: | |
|---|---|
| Enid Santana Zachary Cowart Eric Tillman Jeremy Baker Jerry Jennett Garrett Copeland | Staff: Mandy Avera, Dean of Students & School Support Amanda Miller, Director of Academic Enhancement Jennifer Denham, Director of Communications Angela Chastain, Director of Finance Others: Darren Hill, Moody Air Force Base Omar McGlamery, citizen |
| Highlights: | |

CALL TO ORDER

Pursuant to public notice, the meeting commenced at 6:55 P.M.

I. Administrative Functions

- **Approve Agenda for the August 29, 2017 meeting.**
Zachary Cowart presented the agenda for the August 29, 2017 meeting. Jerry Jennett made a motion to accept the agenda as presented. Enid Santana offered a second. The vote passed unanimously.
- **Approve Minutes from June 13, 2017 meeting.**
Eric Tillman made a motion to approve the minutes from June 13, 2017. Garrett Copeland offered a second and the vote passed unanimously.

II. New Business

Federal Programs Grant Approval – Amanda Miller presented the grant award notifications for FY18. Title I is \$108,402, Title II \$13,601, Title IV \$10,000, and

Scintilla Charter Academy

\$70,939. We are required each year to complete the Consolidated Application so that we can be awarded the grants from the state and then create the budgets. Mrs. Miller explained that the documents required for the Consolidated Application were submitted on 8/28/17 following availability for review by all stakeholders. Mr. Jennett asked if this is an annual process that is the same from year to year and Mrs. Miller explained that it is an annual process but the format changed significantly this year for the CNA (Comprehensive Needs Assessment) and DIP (District Improvement Plan). Jerry Jennett made a motion to approve the proposal as presented, Enid Santana made the second and the vote passed unanimously.

III. OLD BUSINESS

BB&T financing is moving forward regarding the school expansion. Industrial Authority approved the bond and approval will now be sought through Superior Court. Mr. Cowart stated that this should proceed with no problem. The board is currently working on a number to purchase the school from True North. Architect should have all design ready in October.

IV. FINANCIAL REPORT

Eric Tillman explained that the FY16 Audit took place during mid-August. Everything went smoothly and a report is expected within the next month or so.

V. SCHOOL RELATED REPORT

Federal Programs Update

Amanda Miller explained that the CLIP was submitted on August 28th. The submissions will be reviewed by GADOE on Aug. 29-30th and revisions will be made if requested. Once the CLIP has been approved a budget will be created for each grant. SCA provided multiple opportunities for stakeholder input throughout the needs assessment and CLIP development process.

Enrollment Update

Mandy Avera explained that we currently have an enrollment of 502 at this time with a target of 480. Waiting list is still strong at around 85 children. Mr. Cowart asked if the school is comfortable with that numbers and Mrs. Avera and Mrs. Miller explained that teachers are fine with current enrollment and have expressed the benefit of being at 21-22 scholars per class at the beginning of the year rather than the addition of a scholar mid-year. We worked to enroll siblings to keep families together resulting in a class size no larger than 22. Mr. Jennett asked how common it is for children to move. Mrs. Avera explained that it is not extremely common but that many of the moves are a result of military families getting orders.

Implementation Grant

Mandy Avera explained that she and Mrs. Miller worked throughout the summer to apply for an implementation grant offered by the state of Georgia. This grant could result in over \$700,000 for our school. It includes programming, supplies, technology, and teaching resources—the money could not be spent on facility or salaries. This grant is only available to charter schools in their first three years and the money would have to be spent in one year. Mrs. Avera shared that the school feels very good about the application submitted. Mr. Jennett asked exactly what the grant is focused on. Mrs. Miller said that it is focused on implementing the unique academic program of the school. Mrs. Avera said that SCA was thrilled to be selected to apply for the grant.

GMAS Scores

Amanda Miller explained that GMAS has 4 levels of scoring (i.e. beginning learner, developing learner, proficient learner, and distinguished learner). GADOE assigns a point value to each level which produces a weighted proficiency score used to calculate the content mastery portion of the CCRPI score. The weighted proficiency point values are as follows: Beginning Learner: 0.0, Developing Learner: 0.5, Proficient Learner: 1.0, and Distinguished Learner: 1.5. Based on these point values, SCA's weighted score was compared to Valdosta City Schools and Lowndes County which are the two districts located in SCA's attendance zone. Amanda Miller mentioned that the desire for SCA is to see all students succeed and that this comparison is provided as SCA's annual academic score on the SCSC's Comprehensive Performance Framework is based on the performance of SCA compared to students at other districts within SCA's attendance zone. Amanda Miller noted that SCA's weighted proficiency score this year surpassed Valdosta City's weighted proficiency score in grades 3, 4, and 5 in all subjects tested. Information was also provided to show the growth in performance of 3rd and 4th grade scholars who scored proficient and above in 2015-2016 and compared to the 2016-2017 school year. Third grade students scoring proficient and above in FY17 as compared to FY16 increased by 87% in ELA and 201% in Mathematics. Fourth grade students scoring proficient and above in FY17 as compared to FY16 increased by 72% in ELA and 42% in Mathematics. Amanda Miller stated the school was extremely proud of the growth demonstrated by SCA scholars. To see the amount of growth in student achievement at this level with the year one implementation of two brand new curriculum resources is amazing.

Enid Santana asked if the report is broken down. Mrs. Miller explained that subgroup data will be used to evaluate the impact of the academic program at SCA for all students and will be used to make modifications to meet student's needs.

Mr. Cowart asked when the SCSC Board Governance Training will be taking place and Mrs. Avera assured the board she would resend the information to them as soon as the meeting is over.

Mrs. Miller asked the board to mark their calendar for October 17th for our first Celebration of Learning. This will be an opportunity SCA scholars to share their work with an authentic audience of their peers, families, and the community. The exact times will be announced in the next few weeks based on grade level plans but will be held sometime between the hours of 5-7pm.

VI. OPEN FORUM

No participation.

VI. NEXT MEETING DATE

September 26, 2017 at 6:45 pm in the SCA Media Center.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:20 pm. A motion to adjourn was made by Eric Tillman and seconded by Jerry Jennett. The motion passed unanimously.

Zachary Cowart, Board Chair

Date: _____