

*Southeastern Academy Charter School  
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes*

**Date: Tuesday, July 18<sup>th</sup> 2017**

**Location: Southeastern Academy Charter School – Science Classroom**

**Call to order: Meeting called to order at 6:32 pm**

**Chairman Alvin Ivey**

**Roll Call:**

**Board Members Present: Alvin Ivey, Lori Blackley, Greg Caulder, Tami George, Shelley Foil, Gwendolyn Roberts Payne, Eric West**

**Board Members Absent: Jay Britt, Alex Collins**

**Others Present: Tanya Branch, Lennie Higgins, Kristen Stone**

**Mission Statement:**

**Chairman Alvin Ivey**

Southeastern Academy Charter School will maintain high expectations and promote excellence, especially in the fields of math and science for all students. The school, within its rural community, will foster a caring and creative learning environment. The school emphasizes the social, emotional, physical, and intellectual development of each child. This will be obtained through learning experiences that help children reach their greatest potential in order to function as independent learners in a diverse and ever-changing society.

**Approval of Minutes – June 20, 2017 – Motion was made by Gwendolyn Roberts Payne. Seconded by Lori Blackley. All in favor. Minutes approved.**

**Public Comment:**

**Lennie Higgins**

Lennie Higgins has a daughter who already attends SeA. He also has a son who got in during this year's SeA lottery. However, they were notified 20 days before school starts that his son has now been bumped from his spot due to the hiring of a new teacher with a child in the same grade. Chairman Alvin Ivey thanked Mr. Higgins for his comments.

**Committee Reports-**

*Finance Committee – Tami George*

**The finance committee has not met since the last board meeting on June 20<sup>th</sup>. No update at this time**

*Policy Committee – Alex Collins*

**Alex Collins was out of town but Kristen Stone reported that the policy committee has not met but they do have a list of policies to be discussed and reviewed.**

*Vision Committee – Lori Blackley*

**The Vision committee met on July 17<sup>th</sup>. Plans for the Learning Lab were discussed. Greg Caulder is looking at options for the exterior and Tiffany Walters has come up with floor plan for the interior. Plans for raising money for the lab were also discussed. Lori Blackley is looking for a grant writer. It was suggested that we look into a matching grant. OPTS is on board for helping raise money for the Learning Lab and Lisa Ard is looking into having a brick campaign. Lori Blackley also stated that the Vision Committee will be looking at goals for our 10 year plan. Each committee will be asked to come up with goals.**

*Education – Gwendolyn Roberts Payne*

No report at this time. Next meeting is August 14<sup>th</sup> at 4:30.

**OPTS – Emily Jones**

Emily Jones, OPTS president, was not present, but Lori Blackley reported that OPTS is on board for using OPTS funds towards the Learning Lab. Kristen Stone reported that she has discussed setting an auction date with Emily Jones.

**Report from the Principal – Kristen Stone**

*General* - All board members were asked to complete a Conflict of Interest Disclosure form. This has already been completed by the SeA staff.

*Enrollment* – Enrollment has held steady at 218 students. The new charter school in Elizabethtown has contacted SeA about transferring some student records but when SeA contacted the parents they instructed us to hold off at this time.

*Bus Routes* – After Hurricane Matthew, the both SeA buses had 1 stop for drop-off and pick-up at the Lumberton Racquet Club. Kristen Stone proposed that we continue with 1 stop for pick-up and drop-off to save money and to help decrease confusion about which stop the parent is going to pick up their child. The proposed stop will be in the Sears parking lot as the Racquet Club will still be open once school starts. Parents will have until 3:40 pm to pick-up their child. Children still on the bus after this time will be transported back to SeA to wait with Kristen Stone for pick-up. Furthermore, Kristen Stone suggested that car riders be dismissed at 3:00 pm and bus riders at 3:10 pm. Gwendolyn Roberts Payne made a motion which was seconded by Lori Blackley. All in favor. Motion carried.

*Employee Hiring* – Kristen Stone reported that she had 14 applicants for the EC Teacher Assistant position. After interviewing the 14 applicants, Kristen Stone recommended Davona Grissett for the position. Ms. Grissett has an Associates Degree in Childhood Education from RCC. She has worked as a nursing assistant and at Cottonwood Pre-K. She has 2 children, a 4 year old and 5 month old. Ms. Grissett would like to become a teacher. Upon board approval, a background check will be instituted. Lori Blackley made a motion that we accept Mrs. Stone's recommendation, Davona Grissett. Gwendolyn Roberts Payne seconded. All in favor. Motion carried.

*Dates for 2017-18 school year* – Teachers will return to school on August 8<sup>th</sup>. They will have orientation on the 8<sup>th</sup> and half a day on the 9<sup>th</sup>. Open House will be August 9<sup>th</sup> with the following schedule:

1:00-2:00 – Grades K-2

2:00-3:00 – Grades 3-5

3:00-4:00 – Grades 6-8

Open House will start in the SeA gym and OPTS will be present.

August 21<sup>st</sup> – School-wide (K-8) field trip to the Columbia Zoo in South Carolina for a program on the solar eclipse. The school will charter 5 buses.

August 28<sup>th</sup> – September 1<sup>st</sup> – SeA Book Fair

August 30<sup>th</sup> – Friends and Family of SeA Day with lunch

August 28<sup>th</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> grade BOG (State required test)

**Report from the Financial Secretary – Tanya Branch**

Tanya Branch reported that the SeA school floors have been stripped and waxed except for the gymnasium for a total cost of \$3600. \$1700 has been paid.

Calvin Ard has completed the roof. Pictures and the repair invoice will be forwarded to the insurance company and funds issued by the insurance company will then be applied to the roof bill.

At the last meeting there was discussion about a storage building and the need for more storage particularly for Matt McDaniel's sports equipment as well as for drama club props, etc. Kristen Stone reported that Jeff Kennedy will build a closet in the back of the hallway beside the cafeteria. Cost is expected to be less than \$1000.

At 7:12 pm, Chairman Alvin Ivey requested that the board go into closed session. Lori Blackley made the motion and Eric West seconded. All in favor. Motion passed.

At 7:20 pm, Tami George made a motion to adjourn the closed session. Gwendolyn Roberts Payne seconded. All in favor. Motion carried.

Tami George made a motion that the SeA Board general meeting be adjourned. The motion was seconded by Lori Blackley. All in favor. Motion carried.

There being no further business to come before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:22 pm by Alvin Ivey.

Respectfully submitted,

Shelley Foil, Secretary

**Southeastern Academy Charter School  
Board of Directors Closed Session Meeting Minutes**

**Date: Tuesday, June 18<sup>th</sup> 2017**

**Location: Southeastern Academy Charter School – Science Classroom**

**Closed session meeting convened**

**Roll Call:**

**Board Members Present: Alvin Ivey, Lori Blackley, Greg Caulder, Tami George, Shelley Foil,  
Gwendolyn Roberts Payne, Eric West**

**Board Members Absent: Jay Britt, Alex Collins**

**Others Present: Tanya Branch, Lennie Higgins, Kristen Stone**

**7:12**

**SeA Board began closed session at 7:13 pm.**

**Alvin Ivey asked the circumstances regarding Lennie Higgins's public comment. Kristen Stone reported that because of new teacher hires a kindergartener and 5<sup>th</sup> grader were bumped from their spots. The 5<sup>th</sup> grader being Lennie Higgins's son. There was only one spot available in 5<sup>th</sup> grade. Alvin Ivey commented that he understands Mr. Higgins frustration but that school policies were followed. Alvin Ivey requested that Kristen Stone compose a letter to Mr. Higgins.**

**Tami George made a motion to adjourn the closed session. Gwendolyn Roberts Payne seconded. All in favor. Motion carried.**

**Closed session adjourned at 7:20 pm**

**Motion was made by Tami George that the SeA Board meeting be adjourned. The motion was seconded by Lori Blackley. All in favor. Motion carried.**

**Meeting adjourned at 7:21 pm.**

**Next meeting is August 22<sup>nd</sup> at 6:30.**