

**MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF
SOUTHLAND COLLEGE PREP CHARTER SCHOOL, INC.
February 4, 2019**

The meeting of the Board of Directors of Southland College Prep Charter School, Inc. (the "Corporation") was held pursuant to notice as required by the Illinois Open Meetings Act, and said meeting was held as follows:

Date: February 4, 2019

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Place: Matteson School District 162
4601 Sauk Trail
Richton Park, IL 60471

Directors Present:

Kevin Murphy, Secretary (entered at 6:35 p.m.)
Dr. Blondean Y. Davis
Dr. Vinni Hall
Dr. Barbara Meyer
Dr. Barbara Radner

Directors Absent:

Ronald Bean, President
Alicia Rodman McCray, Vice President

Also Present:

Robert Hall, attorney
Craig Englert, chief financial officer
Zack Zayed
Yvonne Williams
Sherry Grutzius
Sheliah Blissett
Dr. Carl Cogar
Southland staff members
Monica Fountain
George Faris
Denise Faris

Due to the absences of Board President Ron Bean and Board Vice-President Alicia Rodman McCray, Director Blondean Y. Davis asked that Director Barbara Radner chair the meeting. This was agreeable to all present.

I. Motion made by Director Hall and seconded by Director Meyer to approve the

minutes of meeting on November 19, 2018.

Upon the motion duly made, seconded, and carried by a voice vote of 4 YEAS, 0 NAYS:

RESOLVED, the minutes of meeting on November 19, 2018, were approved.

- II. Motion made by Director Meyer and seconded by Director Radner to approve the renewal of a line of credit with Wintrust Bank in the amount of \$1,000,000.00, with Southland's Chief Executive Officer hereby granted authority to sign the documents required for the renewal of the line of credit on behalf of Southland.**

Mr. Englert explained that Southland has never used the line of credit, but it is good to have the available credit in case of an emergency.

Upon the motion duly made, seconded, and carried by a voice vote of 4 YEAS, 0 NAYS:

RESOLVED, the renewal of a line of credit with Wintrust Bank in the amount of \$1,000,000.00, with Southland's Chief Executive Officer hereby granted authority to sign the documents required for the renewal of the line of credit on behalf of Southland was approved.

- III. Motion made by Director Hall and seconded by Director Murphy to approve the following Personnel Matters:**

- a. Approval of part time, at-will employment of Ms. Christel Allen to serve as head basketball coach during the 2018-2019 school year, pursuant to the terms of an employment agreement to be entered on behalf of the parties.
- b. Approval of part time, at-will employment of Mr. Kevin Battles to serve as an assistant basketball coach during the 2018-2019 school year, pursuant to the terms of an employment agreement to be entered on behalf of the parties.
- c. Approval of part time, at-will employment of Ms. Kona Burks to serve as assistant speech coach during the 2018-2019 school year, pursuant to the terms of an employment agreement to be entered on behalf of the parties.
- d. Approval of part time, at-will employment of Mr. Arthur Clark to serve as assistant basketball coach during the 2018-2019 school year, pursuant to the terms of an employment agreement to be entered on behalf of the parties.
- e. Approval of part time, at-will employment of Mr. Leroy Hanes to serve as indoor track coordinator during the 2018-2019 school year, pursuant

to the terms of an employment agreement to be entered on behalf of the parties.

- f. Approval of part time, at-will employment of Mr. Leroy Hanes to serve as boys track head coach during the 2018-2019 school year, pursuant to the terms of an employment agreement to be entered on behalf of the parties.
- g. Approval of part time, at-will employment of Mr. Edward McKinnie to serve as assistant indoor track coach during the 2018-2019 school year, pursuant to the terms of an employment agreement to be entered on behalf of the parties.
- h. Approval of part time, at-will employment of Mr. Edward McKinnie to serve as assistant track coach during the 2018-2019 school year, pursuant to the terms of an employment agreement to be entered on behalf of the parties.
- i. Approval of part time, at-will employment of Ms. Phaedra Richardson to serve as girls bowling head coach during the 2018-2019 school year, pursuant to the terms of an employment agreement to be entered on behalf of the parties.
- j. Approval of part time, at-will employment of Ms. Catresea Travis to serve as indoor track coordinator during the 2018-2019 school year, pursuant to the terms of an employment agreement to be entered on behalf of the parties.
- k. Approval of part time, at-will employment of Ms. Catresea Travis to serve as girls track head coach during the 2018-2019 school year, pursuant to the terms of an employment agreement to be entered on behalf of the parties.
- l. Approval of part time, at-will employment of Mr. Andre Wakefield to serve as an assistant boys basketball coach during the 2018-2019 school year, pursuant to the terms of an employment agreement to be entered on behalf of the parties.
- m. Approval of part time, at-will employment of Ms. Lauren Wells to serve as group interpretation coach during the 2018-2019 school year, pursuant to the terms of an employment agreement to be entered on behalf of the parties.
- n. Approval of part time, at-will employment of Ms. Lauren Wells to serve as assistant play director during the 2018-2019 school year, pursuant to the terms of an employment agreement to be entered on behalf of the parties.

- o. Approval of part time, at-will employment of Mr. Ken Wilcoxon to serve as assistant track coach during the 2018-2019 school year, pursuant to the terms of an employment agreement to be entered on behalf of the parties.
- p. Approval of part time, at-will employment of Mr. Ken Wilcoxon to serve as assistant indoor track coach during the 2018-2019 school year, pursuant to the terms of an employment agreement to be entered on behalf of the parties.
- q. Approval of the resignation of Ms. Kristen Cornell, teacher, effective December 21, 2018.

Upon the motion duly made, seconded, and carried by a voice vote of 5 YEAS, 0 NAYS:

RESOLVED, the Personnel Matters were approved.

IV. Motion made by Director Hall and seconded by Director Murphy to accept the Illinois State Charter School Commission's Notice Regarding Southland's Performance Which Commends Southland for Exceptional Performance, noting that Southland's Academic Performance Exceeded the Commission's Standards for the 2017-2018 School Year and Southland Earned an Accountability Status of Good Standing for the 2017-2018 School Year.

The letter read:

Dear Mr. Bean and Dr. Davis:

On behalf of the Illinois State School Commission (the Commission), we commend Southland College Prep Charter High School (Southland) for its exceptional performance for the 2017-2018 school year.

The vision of the Commission is that all Illinois children and families have access to a high quality public education and experience high performing schools and academic experiences. Based on criteria established through the Commission's Accountability System, Southland has received an Accountability Status of **GOOD STANDING** for the 2017-2018 school year. Southland's academic performance **Exceeded** the Commission's standards for the 2017-2018 school year; Southland met 100% of standards on fiscal and 100% of standards on organization.

We are impressed by Southland's stellar commitment to high-performance and we have shared your achievement with Commissioners to further celebrate your achievement. Southland will be recognized during an upcoming Commission meeting, highlighted in this month's Commission Connection newsletter, and we will schedule a presentation of recognition for Southland at one of your future board meetings.

We are confident Southland is providing the type of high-quality education we want for all students.

Sincerely,
Shenita Johnson
Executive Director/General Counsel

Director Radner commented that the letter was outstanding.

Upon the motion duly made, seconded, and carried by a voice vote of 5 YEAS, 0 NAYS:

RESOLVED, the Illinois State Charter School Commission's Notice Regarding Southland's Performance Which Commends Southland for Exceptional Performance, noting that Southland's Academic Performance Exceeded the Commission's Standards for the 2017-2018 School Year and Southland Earned an Accountability Status of Good Standing for the 2017-2018 School Year was accepted.

V. Motion made by Director Murphy and seconded by Director Hall to accept the Financial Report.

Mr. Englert referred to the information in the Directors' packets regarding the Financial Report. He said that it indicates beginning balances for each month and makes the Directors' aware of Southland's cash flow and expenses that are anticipated for the rest of the year. Mr. Englert said the administration is still projecting a surplus.

In response to a question from Director Hall about why the IDEA Room & Board revenue was higher than budgeted, Mr. Englert responded that Southland has a student that is placed in a residential facility. The State reimburses Southland for this cost through the IDEA Room & Board grant. This placement was not known at the time the budget was developed.

Upon the motion duly made, seconded, and carried by a voice vote of 5 YEAS, 0 NAYS:

RESOLVED, that the Financial Report was accepted.

In another matter, Director Hall requested that Attorney Robert Hall discuss recommendations provided to the Directors regarding the election of the Board's officers. Mr. Hall explained that Southland's by-laws require that the Board elect four officers: president, vice president, secretary, and assistant secretary. This was done with the inception of Southland and these officers have remained in their positions for nine years, which is not typical of most boards, said Mr. Hall. Now that there is a vacancy in one of the offices (assistant secretary) due to Dr. Bordelon's resignation from the Board, Mr. Hall suggested that a policy be crafted that provides for the election of officers every two years. A draft policy had been provided to the Board members, which would result in the nomination by ballot of candidates for each of the Board offices at a Board meeting, with election by ballot of the officers at the subsequent meeting. Mr. Hall said the policy makes it clear to the public how the officers will be elected. It was the consensus of the

Board that the policy should be brought forward at the next meeting for approval and that the nomination ballots shall also be submitted to the Board for action at that meeting. Mr. Hall said these items would be included on the Board's next agenda.

VI. Report from the Chief Executive Officer.

Audience to Visitors

Dr. Davis asked if anyone in the audience wished to address the Board. No person attending the meeting wished to address the Board.

Ninth Grade On-Track Program

Dr. Davis requested that Sherry Grutzius, Director of Instructional Support and Academic Advising, report on the ninth grade on-track program.

Ms. Grutzius said she would share initiatives that she and Ms. Michals began last year and rolled over into this year, as well as new initiatives.

At the conclusion of the first semester, Ms. Grutzius said that the ninth grade on track percentage counts for 6.25 percent of Southland's ESSA (Every Student Succeeds Act) score. Last year, Southland moved its percentage from 85 percent to 90 percent. Furthermore, 98 percent of current ninth grade students are on track after the first semester. Ms. Grutzius said that her team tracks the ninth grade students' grades weekly and follows up with teachers, students and parents.

Ms. Grutzius reviewed the components of the Ninth Grade On Track Program:

1. "Path to Success": A program involving Counseling, Advising, and Study Skills ("CASS")
 - a. Organizational Skills
 - b. Binder Checks
 - c. Time Management
 - d. Community and Relationship Building
 - e. THT (Teens helping Teens) Peer Mentor Small Group Help via CASS
2. Ninth Grade Support throughout the year
 - a. Weekly grade monitoring
 - b. Weekly parent follow-up/communication
 - c. Arrange parent/teacher meetings
 - d. Small group intervention
 - e. Homework Club
 - f. Ninth Grade Saturday Support
 - g. Peer Mentor Facilitation

- h. Peer Tutoring Facilitator
3. Ninth Grade level chair (Ms. Michals)
- a. Conducts meetings
 - b. Strategizes with teachers about individual student success

Ms. Grutzius noted that the binders contain the students' worksheets and papers. It serves as an archive of their work. She said that Ms. Michals, grade level chair, also meets once a month with the ninth grade teachers and she is in frequent contact with the parents of ninth grade students.

Director Davis noted that about 24 percent of Southland's enrollment is from schools with student bodies of fewer than 100 students. Additionally, only two percent of the elementary district feeder middle schools are departmentalized. The On-Track program was developed to support students in their transition to high school from very different middle school environments.

In discussing the mentor program, Ms. Grutzius pointed out that it was started last year by student Indya Gettings as a National Honor Society project. She said the mentors and the mentees are paired by Ms. Michals and meet in the resource center during the CASS period with Ms. Michals supervising. Ms. Grutzius said that if the mentor identifies an issue, it is reported to Ms. Michals, who will take the appropriate steps as needed.

Director Meyer commended Ms. Grutzius on the ninth grade on track percentage.

Ms. Grutzius said her goal is for the ninth grade teacher team to become an even more integral component of the program. Director Davis commented that staff training during the summer could assist in meeting this goal.

Director Hall said she appreciated knowing the students are in good hands.

Regional Speech Competition

Dr. Davis said that Southland was the host for the Regional Speech competition on Saturday, February 2, 2019 in the Performing Arts Center. There were 15 schools and 402 students in attendance. She said it was a very diverse group of students and the day went very well. Southland tied for first place. The speech team will attend the sectional competition on Saturday, February 9, 2019 in District 205.

Joint Choral Performance

Dr. Davis announced that District 227 Superintendent Dr. Thomas has requested that Southland, District 227, and the feeder elementary school districts present a joint choral performance for the community. The inaugural program will be held at Governors State University on February 7 and will include the choirs of Southland, District 227, and feeder districts 159, 160, 162, and 163. Dr. Davis invited the Directors and all present to attend this event.

Tougaloo College

Dr. Davis shared that Dr. Beverly Wade Hogan, president of Tougaloo College, would be at Southland on February 10 for a day of recruitment. Dr. Davis said she has invited the south suburban community to the event.

Class of 2019

Mr. Lane reported on the status of college acceptances for Southland's Class of 2019. He said that as of February, 99 percent of the seniors have applied to colleges. Additionally, as of February 1:

- 93 percent have been accepted to a college. Only nine students are still awaiting their first college acceptance.
- More than 800 college acceptances have been received.
- Nine students each have been offered at least \$1 million in merit-based scholarships.
- 26 students have received at least one full tuition scholarship.
- More than \$15 million in scholarships have been offered to students.
- There are two Gates Millennium Scholar semi-finalists (this scholarship covers students' costs through the doctoral level; one of the semi-finalists is considering a career in medicine and the other is considering a career in law).
- There are six QuestBridge finalists; one student has been matched and five are under review at multiple institutions.
- Early action admittance has been granted to three students by some of the nation's top 50 universities and colleges.
- Twenty-six students have been admitted to the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.
- One student, who achieved a perfect math score on the SAT, was admitted to Yale, and the student continues to anticipate additional acceptances.
- Another student has been admitted to the University of Chicago and received a \$300,000 scholarship.

Mr. Lane said that more than 30 interviews have been scheduled with such elite colleges as Princeton, MIT, Stanford, Harvard, Northwestern and Cornell.

Ron Anderson scholarship

Dr. Davis said that Southland's Senior Class is raising money to fund a scholarship in

Ron Anderson's name. They plan to award this scholarship at graduation.

Supporting students

Dr. Davis shared that the Southland staff is providing support for several students who are homeless. She noted that one student, who does not have parents, is a freshman in college, with a full scholarship. Southland administrators and teachers maintain contact with her and invite her to their homes when she returns from college.


A homeless senior is in a stable group home, thanks to Ms. Blissett, Dr. Davis said, and this student just received his acceptance to attend DePaul University. Another student and his family are homeless and Southland has placed them in a neighboring hotel. The student is doing well. "Everyone is very generous; I am proud of our staff," Dr. Davis said. "We have to provide support for those students who are most vulnerable."

University of Baltimore study

Dr. Davis said Southland is included in a study undertaken by the University of Baltimore regarding schools with predominantly African-American student bodies. She said the university believes the Southland culture reflects the educational opportunities provided at a long line of schools serving African-American students created post-Civil War. The university will make a presentation regarding this study during the first week of March in New Orleans.

VII. Director Radner adjourned the meeting at 7:37 p.m.

Dated this 18th day of March 2019.


Secretary/Assistant Secretary
Southland College Prep Charter School, Inc.