

**MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF  
SOUTHLAND COLLEGE PREP CHARTER SCHOOL, INC.  
January 24, 2022**

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

**Date:** January 24, 2022

**Time:** 5:08 p.m.

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

**Directors Present:**

Mr. Ronald Bean, President (entered after Roll Call)  
Mr. Kevin Murphy, Secretary  
Dr. Blondean Y. Davis  
Dr. Vinni Hall  
Dr. Barbara Meyer  
Mr. Felix Simpkins

**Also Present:**

Mr. Robert Hall, Attorney  
Mr. Robert Lane, Director of College Admissions and Alumni Relations  
Dr. Carl Cogar, Director of Fine Arts  
Dr. Corey Levy, Southland Director of Day-to-Day Operations  
Ms. Cheryl Frazier, Head Speech Coach  
Mr. Eric Lites, Technology  
Mrs. Denise Faris, Board Secretary

- I. Director Simpkins called the meeting to order and directed a roll call regarding attendance.**
  
- II. Director Davis read the following notice from the published agenda for this meeting: Southland's Chief Executive Officer is physically present at the above-listed location of the meeting of the Board of Directors of Southland College Prep Charter School, Inc. and members of the public are welcome to attend the meeting in-person at this location. In addition, the meeting will be available via livestream at [www.scphs.org](http://www.scphs.org). Members of the public who do not attend the meeting in-person may submit public comments in writing by Monday, January 24, 2022, at 12:00 p.m., via email to [Board@scphs.org](mailto:Board@scphs.org).**

**III. Audience to Visitors**

No one wished to address the Board at this time.

**IV. Motion made by Director Hall and seconded by Director Murphy to approve the Revised Southland Wellness Policy.**

Dr. Davis explained that the revision of the Wellness Policy is the result of a comprehensive review of the policy. Dr. Davis noted that input was sought from parents and staff and the policy addresses such areas as health, exercise, and healthy eating habits.

The policy also notes changes in food service during the COVID pandemic. Dr. Davis stated that, due to COVID-19, food is no longer cooked on the premises, but is delivered pre-packaged, and the salad bar has been discontinued. Additionally, water fountains are turned off, but bottled water is available for students. Dr. Davis said that healthy snacks also are provided for students. Dr. Davis noted that the policy also indicates that unused food is now available as part of the free and reduced lunch program for all students, parents, and community members. Dr. Davis stated that reaching out to the community and sharing the food is a good thing.

Dr. Davis also commended the school's security members who keep a watchful eye on the parking lot and take note of children wandering around the area. They bring the children into the building where it is warm and provide them with food.

**Upon the motion duly made and seconded and carried by a voice vote of 6 YEAS and 0 NAYS,**

**RESOLVED, the Revised Southland Wellness Policy was approved.**

**V. Motion made by Director Simpkins and seconded by Director Meyer to approve the following Personnel Matters:**

- a. Approval of at-will employment of Dr. Robyn Jackson as a teacher during the 2021-2022 school year, pursuant to the terms of an employment agreement to be entered on behalf of the Parties.
- b. Approval of a stipend for teacher Ms. Kimberly Adamczyk for teaching extra classes during the 2021-2022 school year, pursuant to the terms of a stipend agreement to be entered on behalf of the Parties.
- c. Approval of a stipend for teacher Mr. Brian Wales for teaching extra classes during the 2021-2022 school year, pursuant to the terms of a stipend agreement to be entered on behalf of the Parties.
- d. Approval of part-time, at-will employment of Ms. Hope Haliburton to serve as Assistant Coach for Girls Volleyball during the 2021-2022 school year, pursuant to the terms of an employment agreement to be entered on behalf of the parties.

Regarding the personnel matters, Dr. Davis related that a math teacher is extremely ill

and not expected to return to school very soon. As a result, Dr. Jackson, Mr. Wales, and Ms. Adamczyk have taken on extra classes.

**Upon the motion duly made and seconded and carried by a voice vote of 6 YEAS and 0 NAYS,**

**RESOLVED, the Personnel Matters were approved.**

- VI. Motion made by Director Murphy and seconded by Director Meyer to approve the minutes of the Board's meeting on November 15, 2021, and acknowledge review of minutes of executive session portions of prior meetings and declare that these minutes shall remain closed.**

**Upon the motion duly made and seconded and carried by a voice vote of 6 YEAS and 0 NAYS,**

**RESOLVED, the minutes and the acknowledgement of the review of minutes of executive session portions of prior meetings and declaring that these minutes shall remain closed were approved.**

- VII. Report from the Chief Executive Officer.**

Dr. Davis acknowledged the people present at the meeting and noted Cook County Board Commissioner Donna Miller's presence via zoom.

**COVID Update**

Dr. Davis thanked the Board members for the purchase they approved that permitted Southland to acquire more COVID test kits. Dr. Davis said that Southland students and employees participated in a second testing event on January 17. This testing determined five positive results among Southland students and three positive results among Southland staff members.

Dr. Davis commended our parents, students, and the Southland staff for their 100 percent cooperation regarding COVID testing. Dr. Davis noted that, while the CDC has modified the amount of time a person with a positive test result must stay out of school from 10 days to 5 days, Southland has modified this guidance to allow an individual to return after five days, provided that the person also has a negative COVID test result.

Dr. Davis said that COVID testing of all Southland students and employees will continue to occur every two weeks for as long as Southland is able to obtain testing kits. Dr. Davis said that this testing program provides data that allows Southland to know what is happening in its environment from week to week.

Dr. Davis also noted that there will be another COVID clinic on February 4 for students and the community to receive the vaccine or booster shots. Also, every Wednesday, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., nurses are available at Southland to administer the vaccine. Dr. Davis thanked Dr. Richard Watson for his partnership and his visits to Southland.

### **Lottery and COVID**

Dr. Davis reported that Southland's student enrollment lottery will occur via zoom on March 16, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. To date, 156 applications have been submitted for Southland's next ninth grade class, and applications may be submitted until March 4, 2022. Dr. Davis said that Southland intends to accept approximately 123 students and 10 will be placed on a waiting list.

Dr. Davis acknowledged Commissioner Miller and related that Commissioner Miller introduced the administration to Dr. Watson, whom she believes has made it possible for Southland to perform COVID testing of all Southland students and employees twice a month. Dr. Davis said that Dr. Watson provides advice and support regarding issues relating to COVID.

Commissioner Miller responded that Southland is far ahead of other school districts in getting staff and students tested for COVID.

Commissioner Miller said that she was unable to be present at the celebration of Ms. Cheryl Frazier when Ms. Frazier received a lifetime achievement award for her work with students in forensics, but she wanted to extend her congratulations to Ms. Frazier now for preparing Southland speech students to be champions at the state level and the national level. Commissioner Miller said that she always brags about Southland students and their accomplishments. Commissioner Miller said that she has a formal resolution for Ms. Frazier which will be sent to her. Commissioner Miller said that the students are able to excel because of Southland's work and the resources it provides for students.

Ms. Frazier thanked Commissioner Miller and noted that she was overwhelmed by the celebration. She thanked Dr. Davis for the honor because she noted, "Without your passion for the fine arts, we would not be able to do what we have done. You have always been supportive of the students and encouraged them to know their history and to tell their story."

Dr. Davis said that speech was the only IHSA sanctioned event in which Southland is currently participating, although basketball games were played earlier in the season. Dr. Davis said that Southland's basketball season was suspended after several basketball coaches and students contracted COVID after attending basketball games at other schools.

Dr. Davis noted that students are also currently participating in mock trial, and Southland is looking forward to outdoor track.

### **Important Events**

On February 7, the annual State Board of Education audit will occur virtually. Dr. Davis said that parent representatives are being asked to speak to the State Board at this event and she hopes that Southland and District 162 Board member Mr. Murphy and District 162 Board member Mr. Johnson will be available in their capacity of Southland parents

to discuss their experiences.

Dr. Davis announced that Golden Apple Day will occur on February 8 at 1:00 p.m. in the fieldhouse for a formal presentation of awards to the 62 Southland students who achieved straight A records in the first semester. On February 10 at 1:00 p.m. in the fieldhouse, 129 CEO scholars will be honored for achieving a 4.0 or above grade point average. Both events will be live streamed for parents. Dr. Davis asked if Commissioner Miller could be available to serve as a guest speaker at these events, and Commissioner Miller said that she would attempt to clear her schedule to make this possible.

On February 26, there will be a virtual Black History program, Dr. Davis said.

### **Academics**

Robert Lane, Director of College Admissions and Alumni Relations, provided an update. Mr. Lane related that the Class of 2022 has 116 students and 90 percent of the Class has already been accepted to four-year colleges and universities. Additionally, Mr. Lane shared:

- Six seniors were recognized nationally by the College Board as African American Scholars.
- Four seniors are Illinois State Scholars.
- A Southland senior was recognized for academic achievement by the Illinois Network of Charter Schools. This is the third consecutive year that a Southland student has been cited by the Illinois Network of Charter Schools.
- Southland seniors have submitted more than 2,500 college applications to date, and there have already been more than 1,000 college acceptances.
- To date, Southland seniors have been awarded \$15 million in scholarships (and Mr. Lane noted that a significant number of scholarships are awarded during March and April each year).

### **Educational Partnerships and Other Acknowledgments**

Mr. Lane noted that Southland has a partnership with California Polytechnic State University; the school will award a full-ride scholarship to a Southland student this year.

Southland also has a partnership with University of Dayton and 10 students are invited to attend a program in the spring at the university. In addition, Mr. Lane said that eight Southland students are under consideration for special scholarship opportunities at the University of Oregon.

Last week, Southland was recognized by the College Board for its commitment to expanding its computer science program. Mr. Lane noted that 15 of 20 students in the AP computer science class are women. Mr. Lane related that Southland had received the AP Computer Science Female Diversity Award for 2021.

### **Student News**

Mr. Lane said that two Southland students won the local VFW Voices of Democracy essay contest and advanced to the national level.

Two Southland juniors were awarded full scholarships to attend Wake Forest University's three-week summer program.

Mr. Lane also noted that Southland is in the first year of a Dual Enrollment Program course in African American Literary Arts with Loyola University, which was made possible through Southland faculty member Dr. Edward Davis. In response to a question from Mr. Jeffrey Johnson, Dr. Davis said that the Southland students receive dual credit in the Dual Enrollment program and that Southland would like to expand the Dual Enrollment Program, but Loyola requires that the staff member must have earned a master's degree be in the same area as the subject for which dual enrollment is sought. Dr. Davis noted that many of the Southland teachers hold master's degrees in educational leadership rather than in particular academic subjects that they teach.

In addition, the work of three Southland students is on display at Louisiana Museum of African American History in New Orleans.

Director Hall thanked Dr. Davis and the Southland staff for the amazing things that Southland students are accomplishing.

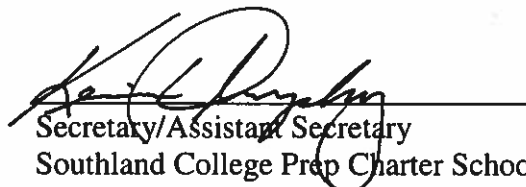
Dr. Davis responded that the Southland students remain determined and optimistic.

President Bean remarked that every time he hears Mr. Lane's presentations, he is astonished by the accomplishments of Southland students and Southland.

### **VIII. Adjournment**

**President Bean adjourned the meeting at 6:05 p.m.**

Dated this 21<sup>st</sup> day of March 2022.

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