

**MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF  
SOUTHLAND COLLEGE PREP CHARTER SCHOOL, INC.  
March 20, 2017**

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:** March 20, 2017

**Time:** 6:30 p.m.

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

**Directors Present:**

Ronald Bean, President  
Alicia Rodman McCray, Vice President  
Kevin Murphy, Secretary  
Dr. Deborah Bordelon, Assistant Secretary  
Dr. Blondean Y. Davis  
Dr. Barbara Radner

**Directors Absent:**

Dr. Vinni Hall

**Also Present:**

Robert Hall, attorney  
Craig Englert, chief financial officer  
Zack Zayed  
Ron Anderson  
Robert Lane  
Dr. Bryan Hale  
Richard Barry  
Monica Fountain  
Bridget Stratton  
Daniel Evans  
Eric Lites

**I. Audience to Visitors**

No person attending the meeting wished to address the Board.

**II. Motion made by Director Bordelon and seconded by Director Murphy to approve Resolution and Related Policies and Forms Regarding Travel Expense**

**Reimbursement.**

Robert Hall, attorney, presented background on the resolution, which conforms to the requirements of the Local Government Travel Expense Control Act, 50 ILCS 150/1, *et seq.* Mr. Hall said that all school districts in Illinois must comply by approving a resolution and related policies to regulate expenses relating to travel by Board members and employees. Mr. Hall noted that standard forms are required for such reimbursements and the forms submitted for the Board's approval were included with the documentation provided to Board members prior to this meeting.

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

**RESOLVED, the Resolution and Related Policies and Forms Regarding Travel Expense Reimbursement were approved.**

**III. Motion made by Director Murphy and seconded by Director Rodman McCray to approve the agreement with Matteson School District 162 to provide food service for Southland students.**

President Bean related that this agreement extends an existing contract. He noted that supporting information was included in the Board members' packets.

Craig Englert, Chief Financial Officer, said that, since its inception, Southland has purchased student breakfasts and lunches from School District 162. The underlying contract with Preferred Meals is in its fifth year and ends at the end of the next school year, and the contract will be put out to bid for the 2018-2019 school year. Mr. Englert noted that there is a 2.3 percent increase in meal prices over the prior year's costs.

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

**RESOLVED, the agreement with Matteson School District 162 to provide food service for Southland students was approved.**

**IV. Motion made by Director Bordelon and seconded by Director Davis that the engagement for auditing services be approved.**

Mr. Englert explained that RSM has audited Southland since the school's inception. Auditors will be at Southland in May to begin preliminary work, he said. The new retention agreement provides a 3.1 percent increase over last year's fee.

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

**RESOLVED, the engagement for auditing services was approved.**

- V. Motion made by Director Davis and seconded by Director Rodman McCray to approve Southland’s School Calendar for the 2017-2018 school year.**

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

**RESOLVED, Southland’s School Calendar for the 2017-2018 school year was approved.**

- VI. Motion made by Director Murphy and seconded by Director Bordelon to authorize Southland to participate in an E-Rate consortium entitled the “Matteson-Southland Consortium” together with Matteson School District No. 162 and to execute such forms and documents as may be required to permit the Matteson-Southland Consortium to apply for E-Rate funding for Telecommunications and Internet Access services on behalf of Southland and District 162 for E-Rate Funding Year 2017, which commences on July 1, 2017 and ends on June 30, 2018.**

President Bean noted that a consortium including Southland and District 162 for E-Rate purposes has been successfully utilized in the past.

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

**RESOLVED, Southland’s participation in an E-Rate consortium entitled the “Matteson-Southland Consortium” together with Matteson School District No. 162 and to execute such forms and documents as may be required to permit the Matteson-Southland Consortium to apply for E-Rate funding for Telecommunications and Internet Access services on behalf of Southland and District 162 for E-Rate Funding Year 2017, which commences on July 1, 2017 and ends on June 30, 2018, was authorized.**

- VII. Motion made by Director Rodman McCray and seconded by Director Davis to approve the following Personnel Matters:**

- a. Approval of at-will employment of Mr. Adolphus S. Faggins as a paraprofessional during the 2016-2017 school year, pursuant to the terms of an employment agreement to be entered on behalf of the Parties.
- b. Approval of at-will employment of Ms. Emerald J. Green as a paraprofessional during the 2016-2017 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 Mr. Enoch Benson to provide services as the Indoor Track Coordinator during the 2016-2017 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. Leroy Haynes to provide services as an Assistant Indoor Track Coach during the 2016-2017 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. Darius Leaks to provide services as an Assistant Speech Coach during the 2016-2017 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. Steven Mann to provide services as the Girls Bowling Head Coach during the 2016-2017 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 Ms. Shauntenell Morgan to provide services as an Assistant Indoor Track Coach during the 2016-2017 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 Ms. Catresea Travis to provide services as an Assistant Indoor Track Coach during the 2016-2017 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 Mr. Ken Wilcoxon to provide services as an Assistant Indoor Track Coach during the 2016-2017 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. Sharon Wingba to provide services as an Assistant Speech Coach during the 2016-2017 school year, pursuant to the terms of an employment agreement to be entered on behalf of the parties.
- k. Approval of retirement of Ms. Cheryl Frazier, Academic Advisor, effective June 30, 2017.
- l. Approval of resignation of Mr. Ryan Brown, paraprofessional, effective February 22, 2017.
- m. Approval of resignation of Ms. Cheryl Novak, teacher, effective January 25, 2017.

Dr. Radner asked how Ms. Novak's resignation affected the special education faculty and Dr. Davis responded that the duties previously performed by Ms. Novak were shifted to another person retained for this purpose. Dr. Davis also noted that, although Cheryl Frazier was retiring as Southland's Academic Adviser, Ms. Frazier would continue to provide other services, including serving as director Southland's forensics program and assisting with prom.

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

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

**VIII. Motion made by Director Radner and seconded by Director Murphy to approve the minutes of the meeting on November 21, 2016.**

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

**RESOLVED, the minutes of the November 21, 2016, meeting were approved.**

**IX. Report from the Chief Executive Officer**

**Lottery**

Dr. Davis reported that the lottery to select the students for Southland's incoming freshman class was held on March 15, 2017 and there were 317 applicants for 133 seats. Of the 133 seats, 45 were taken by siblings of current Southland students. This left 88 seats to be filled. At the lottery, 10 additional students were to be selected for the waiting list; however, Dr. Davis advised the Board that, during the lottery, the auditor did not say anything when an error occurred in calling a lottery number for the waiting list. As a result, the number that was erroneously misread for the waiting list was subsequently included on the waiting list, which therefore now includes eleven students rather than ten students.

### **SAT and ACT Examinations**

Dr. Davis advised the Board that the SAT exam would be given at Southland on April 5, 2017, and staff members are working with students to ensure that the students are well-prepared for this exam. Dr. Davis noted that Southland continues to focus on improving Student's mastery in the area of mathematics, so that students' performance on standardized tests of their mathematics skills will improve. Dr. Davis also advised the Board that Southland students will take the ACT examination on May 3, 2017. Dr. Davis said that SAT/ACT prep classes will be offered to students during the summer, and mathematics will be a primary focus in this preparation.

### **Group Interpretation**

Dr. Davis announced that Southland's Student forensics group has qualified to compete for the top state prize at the upcoming Illinois competition.

### **HIDDEN FIGURES**

Southland was involved in an all-school research project based on the subjects examined in the recent "Hidden Figures" movie, Dr. Davis said. She noted that one of the things that emerged from this project was the students' focus on having appropriate values as they seek to meet their personal goals. As a result, Southland students are involved in a kindness initiative.

### **Visit by Illinois State Board of Education Leadership**

Dr. Davis advised the Board that she had been contacted by Reverend James T. Meeks, Chairman of the Illinois State Board of Education, to arrange a visit to Southland, along with Illinois State Superintendent, Dr. Tony Smith. Specifically, Dr. Davis noted that Southland would be the site for an informational meeting of Chairman Reverend Meeks, Illinois Superintendent Dr. Smith, and area District Superintendents on Thursday, March 23, 2017 from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Dr. Davis stated that Southland's choir would greet the visitors and the number one student in the Southland Class of 2017 would offer welcoming remarks. Dr. Davis added that State Superintendent Dr. Smith had seen the recent taping that was done at Southland by the Illinois Principals Association.

### **Ron Anderson**

Mr. Anderson reported that it had been a productive year and now he and his staff were closing in on the "All In" ceremony. Specifically, Mr. Anderson advised the Board that, at this point, just two students in the Southland Class of 2017 had not yet heard from the colleges which these students had selected for attendance. Mr. Anderson indicated that he expected that these students would receive their acceptances imminently. Mr. Anderson observed that it has been a good year for meeting with parents and he will continue meeting one-on-one with them.

Mr. Anderson said that, within the next two to three weeks, additional highly selective colleges and universities will be notifying Southland students of acceptances. Some

highly selective institutions to which Southland students have already been accepted include Washington University in St. Louis, where four students have been accepted and one student is wait-listed. If all five students were ultimately accepted, Southland would become the first school in the university's history with five students accepted in one year. Mr. Anderson added that Washington University had 30,000 applicants, of whom approximately 17 percent are accepted for admission, and it is a testament to Southland that four of its students have already been accepted there. Mr. Anderson stated that other colleges and universities that have already accepted Southland students this year include Grinnell, Johns Hopkins, and Northwestern.

Mr. Anderson also noted that the Southland Class of 2017 has already surpassed the \$20 million mark for institutional scholarships and he believed there is a chance that the students will exceed \$25 million in scholarships.

Mr. Anderson said that he has begun to transition his focus to Southland's current junior class, and has begun meeting with these students' parents. He noted that the accomplishments of the students are a testament to what happens every day in the classroom and he gave kudos to Southland's teachers.

Mr. Anderson said that two Southland students are finalists for the Women in Leadership program that is sponsored by KPMG Consulting, Stanford University, Hoover Institute, and Condoleezza Rice. The two students are vying for spots in the summer institute at Hoover.

President Bean commented that what Mr. Anderson and his staff do is significant. "You and your team do life-changing work ensuring that these students are accepted into institutions of higher learning," said President Bean. "Most of the students here will recognize five to 10 years from now what a great experience they have had and appreciate it."

### **Communications Team**

Monica Fountain, Southland's Director of Communications, presented a written report regarding the work that the communications team had been involved in during recent months. Ms. Fountain noted that, in addition to herself, communication team members include Richard Barry, Daniel Evans, Eric Lites, Denise Faris, and Bridget Stratton of PCI. Ms. Fountain, whose daughter is a graduate of Southland and whose son is a member of the Class of 2020, said the communication team's goal is to tell the Southland story. "We want perception to match reality and to ensure that people know this is a top notch school," she said.

Richard Barry reviewed the number of stories that grew out of Southland's research project regarding the movie "Hidden Figures" and the fact that Southland student Michael Jones is the great-nephew of Catherine Johnson, one of the key individuals highlighted in "Hidden Figures." Mr. Barry noted that the "Hidden Figures" project was integrated into Southland's curriculum in areas including English/language arts, social studies, mathematics, dance, and forensics.

Bridget Stratton, a representative of PCI, related that PCI helped with the re-launch of Southland's Facebook page. She noted that the Southland's "Hidden Figures" stories

received 22 confirmed placements, including in print, on television, and online. Ms. Stratton noted, "One hundred percent of the placements spoke to the mission of Southland." Ms. Stratton said that there were local "hits" and also mentions on television stations in Virginia, New York, and Missouri.

Mrs. Fountain said that the Southland story has been far-reaching. She said that she had received a message on Facebook from an American in Paris, whose daughter wanted to send a letter to Ms. Johnson regarding the impact of the movie "Hidden Figures." Through research, the mother learned about Southland's connection to Ms. Johnson and asked how she and her daughter might communicate with Ms. Johnson.

Clips from television news shows were shown. Ms. Fountain noted that a digital scrapbook will be given to Ms. Johnson by her great-nephew, Southland student Michael Jones, along with the letters written to Ms. Johnson by Southland students.

Director Radner asked what was next. She noted that a personal connection to African American history was established and she wondered what would Southland do next to learn how important all the qualities gleaned from "Hidden Figures" are.

Mrs. Fountain noted the Southland forensics students' group interpretation work and her hope that their wonderful performance could be shared with the larger community.

Dr. Davis noted that Southland has not had one major discipline problem this year. She said the students are supportive of each other and this is due to their parents and the school. Dr. Davis remarked that Southland "has a personality and climate of its own." Dr. Davis went on to say that the administration is not wasting its time on student discipline, as parents and students have embraced Southland's mission and understand why they want the students to be here. "If this could be replicated, imagine what educators could do," Dr. Davis said.

Director Bordelon said, "When you see students researching and finding information about others, you see how empowered they are. They probably have uncovered more about "Hidden Figures" than anyone knew."

Dr. Davis noted that a particular Southland student who excels in mathematics was featured in one of the television news clips for her understanding of the mathematical equation that played an important role in the landing of astronaut John Glenn on the moon, which was initially worked out by Catherine Johnson, as depicted in the "Hidden Figures" movie. Dr. Davis said that one teacher at Southland is devoted to working one-on-one with this Southland student in a mathematics class created just for the student, in order to ensure that Southland takes the student as far as she can go in the area of mathematics.

**X. President Bean adjourned the meeting at 7:40 p.m.**

Dated this 15th day of May 2017.



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