

**MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF
SOUTHLAND COLLEGE PREP CHARTER SCHOOL, INC.
November 16, 2015**

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: November 16, 2015

Time: 6:30 p.m.

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

Directors Present:

Ronald Bean, President
Kevin Murphy, Secretary
Dr. Deborah Bordelon, Assistant Secretary
Dr. Blondean Y. Davis
Dr. Vinni Hall
Dr. Barbara Radner

Director Absent:

Alicia Rodman McCray, Vice President

Also Present:

Robert Hall, attorney
Craig Englert
Zack Zayed
Ron Anderson
Robert Lane

I. Audience to Visitors

No person attending addressed the Board of Directors.

II. Election of Dr. Barbara Radner as a member of Southland's Board of Directors.

Motion made by Director Bordelon and seconded by Director Davis to elect Dr. Barbara Radner as a member of Southland's Board of Directors.

President Bean welcomed Dr. Radner back to the Board of Directors and noted that Dr. Radner had been missed. Dr. Davis commented that she has been working with Dr.

Radner, who is aware of Southland's progress. Dr. Davis said that she is extremely pleased to continue her work with Dr. Radner.

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

RESOLVED, that Dr. Barbara Radner is elected to the Southland Board of Directors.

III. Motion made by Director Murphy and seconded by Director Davis to approve Policy Regarding Student Concussions.

Attorney Robert Hall addressed this policy and explained that the policy is required by the Illinois Youth Sports Concussion Safety Act. He said that all Illinois public schools must have such a policy, which is designed to raise awareness regarding concussions, their symptoms, and appropriate precautions and procedures relating to concussions. Mr. Hall discussed the governing law and the policy being considered by the Board, including the requirements of a concussion oversight team and a school emergency athletic plan.

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

RESOLVED, that the Policy Regarding Student Concussions is approved.

IV. Motion made by Director Bordelon and seconded by Director Murphy to approve Policy Regarding Teen Dating Violence.

Mr. Hall stated that this policy is also required by Illinois law. He said that the policy under consideration by the Board parallels the procedures in place regarding any acts of bullying which might occur at Southland, with requirements of appropriate intervention, cooperation in the investigation of such matters, and an administrative resolution of allegations that such misconduct has occurred.

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

RESOLVED, that the Policy Regarding Teen Dating Violence is approved.

V. Motion made by Director Davis and seconded by Director Bordelon that the Sub-Lease Agreement between Southland and Matteson School District No. 162 be approved.

Mr. Englert said that the sub-lease before the Board provided for Southland's ongoing use of portions of District 162's facility at 4601 Sauk Trail. Regarding particular provisions of the sub-lease, Mr. Englert said that the sub-lease under consideration by the

Board eliminated a rent escalator clause that would have begun in the current, sixth year of Southland's sub-lease of District 162's facility, which elimination was necessary because the escalator clause would have caused the lease rate to increase beyond current market rates for the area. Mr. Englert stated that, pursuant to the sub-lease presented to the Board for approval, the rental rate would remain the same as it has been for the past five years (\$17 per square foot), which continues to reflect current market rates. Additionally, the sub-lease now includes language that provides more specificity regarding reimbursable expenses payable pursuant to the sub-lease, including an express provision that Southland shall contribute to the cost of the security personnel who protect Southland students and staff, which is a cost that Southland has been reimbursing to District 162, pursuant to the more general provisions of the prior sub-lease.

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

RESOLVED, that the Sub-Lease Agreement between Southland and Matteson School District No. 162 is approved.

VI. Motion made by Director Hall and seconded by Director Davis to approve the Lease Agreement between Southland and the Village of Richton Park.

Dr. Davis noted that the Board had authorized her to contact a realtor who would help Southland to identify facilities in the area that the school could use for athletic and other extracurricular activities. Dr. Davis said that, before Southland's entry into an agreement with a realtor, the mayor of Richton Park contacted Southland and offered to lease to Southland the village gym, located in the Community Center right across the street from Southland. Dr. Davis said that the Village of Richton Park has agreed to make the gym available to Southland throughout its school day at a rate of \$250 per week. Dr. Davis stated that the gym is available to students beginning at 7:45 a.m. each school day, Southland has exclusive use of the gym throughout the school day, and the facility is monitored by the Richton Park police department that is located in the same building. Dr. Davis expressed her gratitude that the Village of Richton Park saw a need and reached out to assist Southland. Dr. Davis informed the Board that the Southland custodial staff cleans the gym so that it is returned to the Village in its original condition each day by 6:00 p.m. Dr. Davis said that, due to the wonderful relationship between the Village of Richton Park and Southland, there is no need for the services of a realtor at this time.

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

RESOLVED, that the Lease Agreement between Southland and the Village of Richton Park is approved.

VII. Motion made by Director Bordelon and seconded by Director Murphy to approve the continuation of line of credit in the amount of \$500,000.00 with First Midwest Bank.

Mr. Englert explained that Southland has had a line of credit with First Midwest Bank for several years, that this line of credit has never been used, and that it was his recommendation that the line of credit be continued, to be utilized in case of an emergency. Mr. Englert advised the Board that the current rate of interest that would apply, if the line of credit were ever utilized, is 4.5 percent.

President Bean said that he has an interest in First Midwest Bank and that he therefore abstains from discussing or voting regarding this matter.

Upon the motion duly made, seconded, and carried by a voice vote of 5 YEAS, 0 NAYS, and 1 ABSTENTION:

RESOLVED, that the continuation of a line of credit in the amount of \$500,000.00 with First Midwest Bank is approved.

VIII. Motion made by Director Radner and seconded by Director Davis to accept the tax return for the prior fiscal year.

Mr. Englert said that, as a 501(c)(3) organization, Southland must file Form 990.

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

RESOLVED, that the tax return for the prior fiscal year is accepted.

IX. Motion made by Director Davis and seconded by Director Radner to approve the following personnel matters.

- a. Approval of at-will employment of Ms. Bridget Lowery as a teacher during the 2015-2016 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. Tamara Smith as a teacher during the 2015-2016 school year, pursuant to the terms of an employment agreement to be entered on behalf of the Parties.
- c. Approval of at-will employment of Mr. Carlton Young as a teacher during the 2015-2016 school year, pursuant to the terms of an employment agreement to be entered on behalf of the Parties.
- d. Approval of resignation of Ms. Meghan Leggero, teacher, effective October 15, 2015.

- e. Approval of resignation of Mr. Brian Oyler, teacher, effective October 8, 2015.

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

RESOLVED, that the personnel matters are approved.

- X. **Motion made by Director Hall and seconded by Director Davis to approve the minutes of the meeting on September 21, 2015.**

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

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the meeting on September 21, 2015 are approved.

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

Dr. Davis reported that there were a number of upcoming activities scheduled to which the Board members are invited. She thanked Dr. Bordelon for the access to Governors State University where many of the events would occur.

Dr. Davis advised the Board that Southland will host the Illinois State Charter School Commission tomorrow, when the Commission would hold its regularly scheduled meeting at Southland. Dr. Davis noted that there would be tours of Southland for Commission members beginning at 2:00 p.m. Dr. Davis also shared that Students representing each of Southland's four classes would make public remarks welcoming the Commission at the start of the meeting, and Ron Anderson, Southland's College Counselor, would make a presentation discussing our Students' phenomenal success regarding college acceptances.

Dr. Davis updated the Board regarding the negotiations with Lincoln Way High School District 210 in connection with the potential lease of portions of the current Lincoln Way North building. Dr. Davis noted that the Board had authorized her to investigate the possibility of renting the facilities of Lincoln Way North High School after its scheduled closure at the conclusion of the current school year, and Southland had therefore communicated to District 210 its interest in leasing the Lincoln Way North facility's fine arts wing, and potentially portions of its physical education wing. Dr. Davis related that District 210's Superintendent has indicated to her that District 210 Board of Education members appear to believe that the best way to handle potential usage of the Lincoln Way North building is to lease portions of the facility on an event-by-event basis, which would not allow Southland to rely on such leased facilities in a programmatic way. Dr. Davis stated that she is not optimistic that Southland and District 210 will be able to come to terms on a mutually beneficial lease.

ACT Testing

Dr. Davis discussed the ACT scores for Southland's Class of 2015. The composite score for Southland was 19.3; for the state, 20.7; and for the nation, 21. Dr. Davis noted that the Rich High School District 227 scores were: 17.3 at Rich Central; 17.9 at Rich East; and 17.2 at Rich South. Dr. Davis also reviewed student demographic characteristics of Southland and the Rich schools.

Robert Lane, Southland's Administrative Assistant to the Chief Executive Officer, discussed ACT testing in connection with Southland's Class of 2016. Mr. Lane stated that the most recent composite score is 20.1. Mr. Lane also related that ACT reports the most recent score, not a student's highest score. Mr. Lane said that Southland's entire Senior Class has taken the ACT more than once, in an effort to improve student scores. Anecdotally, Mr. Lane shared that these efforts have often had the desired outcomes, providing examples including that one Student's ACT score increased from 28 to 30, and another Student had achieved a re-test score of 34. Mr. Lane acknowledged that re-taking the test does not result in an increased score for every student. Dr. Davis noted that the Student with the score of 34 is in the running for a number of scholarships at the most highly selective colleges and universities in the nation.

Director Radner observed that ACT has shifted some of its test focus, in response to PARCC and the Common Core standards. Dr. Radner asked how Southland's courses have changed to address this fact. Lee Stanton, Assistant Superintendent, responded to Dr. Radner's inquiry, outlining Southland and District 162 initiatives and strategies intended to assist students in mastering the skills measured by the PARCC and Common Core standards, emphasizing in particular professional development opportunities being made available to faculty members.

Director Hall suggested that peer coaching is a good strategy for professional development. Director Radner commented that there should be a variety of ways to teach math, and observed that math skills have to be revisited so that they are active. She said it was important for teachers to make math concrete.

Dr. Davis shared with the Board that Southland is able to track the students who have graduated in order to know how they are doing. Dr. Davis stated that no Southland graduate is on any academic watch list at his or her college. Dr. Davis congratulated Ron Anderson, Southland's College Counselor, regarding his wonderful work in matching Southland's students with the right college or university for each student.

Regarding the achievements at Southland regarding college acceptances for Southland students, Mr. Anderson reviewed that the classes of 2014 and 2015 had 100 percent college acceptance at four year colleges and universities. Mr. Anderson shared that, so far this year, Southland staff members have read 1,300 essays relating to students' college applications.

Mr. Anderson also stated that, to date, Southland's students in the Class of 2016 are accepted into 21 of Business Week's top 50 schools. Mr. Anderson also shared that, to date, Southland's current Seniors have been accepted to attend 116 colleges and universities, 84 of which are private.

Mr. Anderson said that his goal for scholarships for Southland's Class of 2016 is \$16.5 million. Mr. Anderson noted that Southland's Class of 2015 earned \$14 million in scholarships and the Class of 2014 earned \$8.5 million in scholarships. Mr. Anderson said that he hopes to be near the half way mark in scholarships by the start of Winter Break.

Mr. Anderson said that Southland's graduates are never out of touch with the school due to staff members' visits to schools, texts and phone calls. He said that the students have come to expect personal attention from Southland, and the numbers bear out that Southland keeps close contact with its graduates. Director Hall offered kudos to Mr. Anderson and to Dr. Davis for their work with Southland's current students and graduates.


Dr. Davis noted that, while Southland has done a magnificent job for the community, the ACT is on her mind. Dr. Davis observed that there is work to do in assisting Southland's students to achieve their full potentials in the areas of math and science. Dr. Davis encouraged the Board members to contact her regarding any ideas that they might have in this regard.

Director Hall suggested that partnerships with science labs and universities would help, and Dr. Davis responded that Southland is working on such partnerships. Dr. Davis stated that she would like to discuss curriculum and related educational strategies with Director Bordelon, Director Hall and Director Radner.

President Bean asked Mr. Anderson how the students with special needs are doing in their college placements. Mr. Anderson responded that they are doing well. Mr. Anderson said that no student is treated in a different manner from others, all are held to the same expectations regarding college enrollment, and the students have responded wonderfully to this environment at Southland, as evidenced by the fact that all Southland's graduates have been accepted to attend four-year colleges or universities.

- X. Director Hall moved, seconded by Director Bordelon, to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously on a voice vote and the meeting adjourned at 7:48 p.m.**

Dated this 21st day of March 2016.


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