

**MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF
SOUTHLAND COLLEGE PREP CHARTER SCHOOL, INC.
September 19, 2016**

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: September 19, 2016

Time: 6:00 p.m.

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

Directors Present:

Ronald Bean, President
Alicia Rodman McCray, Vice President (entered after Roll Call)
Kevin Murphy, Secretary (entered after Roll Call)
Dr. Blondean Y. Davis
Dr. Vinni Hall
Dr. Barbara Radner

Directors Absent:

Dr. Deborah Bordelon, Assistant Secretary

Also Present:

Robert Hall, Attorney
Craig Englert, Chief Financial Officer
Zack Zayed
Ron Anderson
Robert Lane
Dr. Bryan Hale
Southland faculty and staff members

I. Audience to Visitors

At the request of Dr. Davis, the various team leaders introduced the faculty and staff members of the Humanities, Math and Science, Special Education and Pupil Support, Technology, Physical Education, Foreign Language, Athletic, Dance, and Choral Departments. Dr. Davis introduced the Southland administration and the administration's support team.

President Bean said that the Board appreciated the presence of the administrators, faculty and staff members, and thanked them for what they do. "You make us look good," he said. "You demonstrate that with appropriate commitment and support, students can be educated at the highest standard."

II. Motion made by Director Hall and seconded by Director Rodman McCray to approve a line of credit in the amount of \$750,000.00 with First Midwest Bank.

Craig Englert, Chief Financial Officer, explained that Southland has had an open line of credit of \$500,000.00 for several years. This year, the bank offered to increase the line to \$750,000.00. Mr. Englert said that he did not expect that Southland would have a need to utilize these funds, but advised the Board of his recommendation that the line of credit should be available in the case of an unforeseen emergency requiring funds without delay. Mr. Englert also advised the Board that its approval of the line of credit would be required each year.

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

RESOLVED, the line of credit in the amount of \$750,000.00 with First Midwest Bank was approved.

III. Motion made by Director Murphy and seconded by Director Hall to approve the following personnel matters:

- a. At-will employment of Ms. Elizabeth Norman-Sojourner as a teacher during the 2016-2017 school year, pursuant to the terms of an employment agreement to be entered on behalf of the parties.
- b. At-will employment of Ms. Deshonda M. Wright as a teacher during the 2016-2017 school year, pursuant to the terms of an employment agreement to be entered on behalf of the parties.
- c. At-will employment of Ms. Helen West as a teacher during the 2016-2017 school year, pursuant to the terms of an employment agreement to be entered on behalf of the parties.
- d. Part time, at-will employment of Ms. Barbara Rowley as a teacher during the 2016-2017 school year, pursuant to the terms of an employment agreement to be entered on behalf of the parties.
- e. At-will employment of Mr. Ryan Brown 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.

- f. Part time, at-will employment of Mr. Daniel Hogan to serve as faculty co-sponsor for the Southland Model United Nations during the 2016-2017 school year, pursuant to the terms of an employment agreement to be entered on behalf of the parties.
- g. Part time, at-will employment of Mr. Alonzo Ruffin to serve as boys head basketball coach during the 2016-2017 school year, pursuant to the terms of an employment agreement to be entered on behalf of the parties.

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

RESOLVED, the personnel matters as listed were approved.

- IV. Motion made by Director Rodman McCray and seconded by Director Davis that the minutes of the Board's meeting on July 18, 2016, be approved.**

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

RESOLVED, the minutes of the meeting on July 18, 2016, were approved.

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

Financial Report

At the request of Dr. Davis, Mr. Englert discussed the new financial report that was in the Board members' packets. Mr. Englert stated that, on a going-forward basis, Board members would receive this report as part of the materials provided prior to each Board meeting. Mr. Englert said that the report shows, month by month, Southland's revenue, expenses and cash flow.

Mr. Englert referenced to various items in the report. He noted that Southland receives from the State of Illinois the same per capita tuition that District 227 spends on each student enrolled at District 227's schools, which is \$17,432.00 per student this year.

District 227 Advisory Referendum

Dr. Davis related that she had received a text message on August 19, 2016 informing her of an advisory referendum that District 227's Board of Education was placing on the November 8, 2016 election ballot, asking voters to indicate if they oppose the funding that Southland receives in order to operate as an Illinois public charter high school. Dr. Davis stated that the District 227 Board approved the referendum at a Special Meeting on the evening of Friday, August 19, 2016 and filed it with Cook County Clerk David Orr's office for inclusion on the ballot. Prior to the approval of the referendum by District 227's Board at the Special Meeting, Southland was never served nor otherwise notified of the referendum by District 227 or its Board, she said.

Dr. Davis referenced the Illinois Appellate Court decision in 2011 which noted “The establishment of the charter high school is in the best interests of the students it was designed to serve, and, eventually, its establishment may well serve the best interests of all District 227 students to the extent the academic success of the charter school raises the educational bar for the other three high schools.” With this as background, Dr. Davis said she was amazed at District 227’s action. She related that she asked to be on the agendas of public village board meetings and the Olympia Fields Education Commission in order to alert these groups regarding the referendum and to provide educational data about Southland and area high schools. Additionally, Dr. Davis stated that she had contacted Southland parents in order to advise them of the referendum that District 227’s Board of Education had voted to place on the November ballot; approximately 600 people attended a meeting in Southland’s commons area to receive information regarding the referendum and relevant facts relating to this matter, including a comparison of Southland’s academic performance and what is being achieved at the District 227 schools, and the fact that the financial position of District 227 has significantly improved since Southland came into existence in 2010.

Dr. Davis related to the Board that she had publicly shared information (which she also distributed to the Southland Board) that District 227 students must have 22 credits to graduate, while Southland’s students must earn 30 credits in order to graduate. “It is necessary to have a rigorous academic program in order to ensure that Southland’s students are accepted into the colleges and universities selected as the best fit for each student, and that the students are able to graduate from these schools,” she said.

Dr. Davis pointed out that, when Southland’s charter was initially approved by the Illinois State Board of Education in 2010, District 227 had projected that it would be bankrupt within three years due to the funding provided to Southland under the governing Illinois Charter School Laws. Contrary to this prediction, District 227’s fund balance as of June 30, 2015, was \$44.3 million, an increase of its 2010 balance of approximately \$4 million. Additionally, District 227’s outstanding debt had decreased significantly, by approximately 25 percent, during the years of Southland’s existence.

Dr. Davis had shared this information and additional educational data at a public meeting of the Olympia Fields Education Commission earlier in September, which was attended by some members of the District 227 Board of Education. At this meeting, at the request of members of the public who were in attendance, Mr. Bass, president of District 227’s Board of Education, agreed that District 227’s Interim Superintendents and Dr. Davis should meet in an attempt to reach an accord regarding the working relationship of District 227 and Southland, as well as District 227’s proposed referendum,

and promised that District 227's Board of Education would accept the Superintendents' recommendations. The Superintendents were able to reach an accord regarding these issues, agreeing to the parameters of a working relationship going forward, as well as a consensus that the referendum should not be included on the November ballot. As promised by Mr. Bass, District 227's Board of Education accepted the Superintendents' recommendations, voting 6-0 at a public meeting on September 15, 2016 to rescind its prior action and to withdraw the referendum from consideration on the ballot at the November election. Dr. Davis said she has been working with District 227 as promised, and Southland is currently helping the district to re-build its band programs by identifying potential employees who have the necessary expertise in this area.

Dr. Davis shared with the Board that she is glad that District 227 and Southland were able to reach an accord regarding the proposed referendum, but also expressed her concern that there could be other challenges to Southland in the future. Dr. Davis shared her viewpoint that Southland must continue striving to improve the already excellent educational opportunities that are provided to Southland students. Dr. Davis also advised the Board of her conclusion that Southland must try wherever possible to raise awareness regarding the remarkable accomplishments of Southland's students, so that District 227 and all other schools will be aware of the best practices that are producing outstanding results at Southland. Dr. Davis requested that the Board members inform her of conference opportunities of which they may become aware so that Southland's story can be shared via such opportunities.

Dr. Davis thanked Southland's administration, faculty and staff members for being resolute and standing with her during this recent challenge presented by the proposed referendum. "I am grateful for everything you do for our children," Dr. Davis told the assembled team.

VI. President Bean adjourned the meeting at 6:56 p.m.

Dated this 21st day of November 2016.



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