

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF
SOUTHLAND COLLEGE PREP CHARTER SCHOOL, INC.
January 25, 2021**

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 as follows:

Date: January 25, 2021

Time: 5:00 p.m.

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

President Bean called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m., and noted that there was a quorum. He directed the secretary to call the roll.

Directors Present (via ZOOM conferencing):

Mr. Ronald Bean, President
Dr. Barbara Radner, Vice President
Dr. Blondean Y. Davis
Dr. Vinni Hall
Dr. Barbara Meyer
Mr. Kevin Murphy, Secretary
Mr. Felix Simpkins

Also Present:

Mr. Craig Englert, chief school business official
Mr. Robert Hall, attorney
Mr. Eric Lites, assistant director of technology
Mrs. Denise Faris, Board secretary
George Faris Jr.

President Bean made the following statement:

Pursuant to the requirements of the Illinois Open Meetings Act, because Governor Pritzker's declaration remains in effect finding that all counties of the State of Illinois are a disaster area due to concerns relating to COVID-19, the meeting of the Board of Directors of Southland College Prep Charter School, Inc. this evening will be conducted with Board members attending the meeting via audio or video conference rather than being present in-person. Our Chief Executive Officer, Dr. Blondean Y. Davis, is physically present at our regular meeting place in our Board Room at 4601 Sauk Trail, Richton Park, Illinois.

I. Audience to Visitors

No one wished to address the Board at this time.

II. Motion made by Director Murphy and seconded by Director Hall to approve the lease with Matteson School District 162.

Attorney Hall said there were two notable changes in the lease: The lease provides that Southland is now leasing the newly constructed fieldhouse in addition to the space formerly utilized by Southland, which adds approximately 37,000 square feet to the space leased by Southland; and, by agreement, both District 162 and Southland determined that another market value analysis would be completed this year in order to confirm that the current rental rate of \$17 per square foot should continue in the lease. Director Davis added that Southland and District 162 were represented by separate outside law firms regarding the lease agreement being considered by the Board, in order to ensure that both parties' legal interests were reflected in the lease.

Upon the motion duly made, seconded, and carried by voice vote of 7 YEAS and 0 NAYS:

RESOLVED, the lease with Matteson School District 162 was approved.

III. Motion made by Director Meyer and seconded by Director Simpkins 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 related that, since its inception, Southland has had an open line of credit in place, in case of emergency. Southland has never used this line of credit, but it is renewed annually in order to ensure that the line of credit remains available. Mr. Englert explained that there are no fees associated with the renewal of the line of credit, and the current interest rate would be 3.5 percent for any funds utilized by Southland pursuant to the line of credit.

Upon the motion duly made, seconded, and carried by voice vote of 7 YEAS and 0 NAYS:

RESOLVED, the 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.

IV. Motion made by Director Radner and seconded by Director Meyer to approve Board member training via the Illinois Network of Charter Schools.

Attorney Hall reviewed that legislation was passed last year requiring Board members to complete four hours of training in 2020 and thanked the Board members for complying with this statutory requirement. Mr. Hall stated that, going forward, each Board member is required to complete two hours of annual training. Mr. Hall noted that the recommended training provided by the Illinois Network of Charter Schools is available online, which provides the opportunity for Board members to complete the training pursuant to their own schedules. Attorney Hall stated that the cost of the training would be less than \$1,000 for the entire Board. Director Radner thanked Attorney Hall for the follow-up he provided regarding the training during 2020.

Upon the motion duly made, seconded, and carried by voice vote of 7 YEAS and 0 NAYS:

RESOLVED, the Board member training via the Illinois Network of Charter Schools was approved.

V. Motion made by Director Hall and seconded by Director Simpkins to approve the at-will employment of Dr. Edward Davis IV as a teacher, pursuant to the terms of an employment agreement to be entered on behalf of the Parties.

Director Davis related Professor Davis' educational history: he has a Ph.D. from the University of California-Berkley in African American studies, an MPhil from the University of Cambridge, a master's degree from the University of California-Berkeley, and a bachelor's degree from New York University. Dr. Davis noted that Professor Davis was the valedictorian at Huth Middle School and now he has returned home. Professor Davis also is fluent in the reading, writing and speaking of French, Portuguese, and Lingala, as well as having intermediate and beginner levels of ability in a number of other languages. Director Davis said that Professor Davis has her highest recommendation. Director Radner noted that Professor Davis will be teaching at the college level at Southland and he is a major addition to the team.

Upon the motion duly made, seconded, and carried by voice vote of 7 YEAS and 0 NAYS:

RESOLVED, the at-will employment of Dr. Edward Davis IV as a teacher, pursuant to the terms of an employment agreement to be entered on behalf of the Parties was approved.

- VI. Motion made by Director Murphy and seconded by Director Simpkins to approve the minutes of the meeting on November 16, 2020, and to acknowledge review of minutes of executive session portions of prior meetings and declare that these minutes shall remain closed.**

Upon the motion duly made, seconded, and carried by voice vote of 7 YEAS and 0 NAYS:

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the meeting on November 16, 2020, were approved and acknowledge the review of minutes of executive session portions of prior meetings and declare that these minutes shall remain closed.

- VII. Report from the Chief Executive Officer**

Dr. Davis reported that Southland students returned to school in-person last week, after having been engaged in remote learning since last March. Dr. Davis said that Southland has made great strides in technology that helped to ensure that everything possible was done for Southland students via remote learning.

Dr. Davis said that Southland has been monitoring the COVID positivity rates in Southland's attendance area. Dr. Davis noted that the current positivity rate in Southland's attendance area is 7.09 percent and in District 162's attendance area is 6.32 percent. Dr. Davis noted that there did not seem to be a surge in the positivity rate after the Winter Break.

Dr. Davis also shared information about the distribution of the COVID-19 vaccine. Dr. Davis noted that Southland is partnering with surrounding school districts to attempt to make the COVID vaccine available to all employees. Dr. Davis stated that, when flu shots were made available to Southland and District 162 employees two months ago, 59 percent of the staff took advantage of the opportunity to receive the flu vaccine.

Regarding attendance of Southland students, during the first 72 school days of the current school year, the attendance rate was 97.77 percent; and, as of January 19, which is the first 88 school days of the school year, Southland had an average attendance rate of 97.6 percent. Dr. Davis noted that Southland is aggressive in calling the students' homes if any attendance issues arise.

Dr. Davis complimented the Southland teachers regarding their outstanding work in providing the best possible education opportunities to Southland students during the pandemic, including welcoming students back to in-person instruction last week. Dr. Davis suggested that the Board members might wish to send notes commending the teachers for their work on behalf of the students of Southland. Regarding emails from the Board commending teachers, Dr. Davis suggested that they be sent to her and she would forward them to staff members.

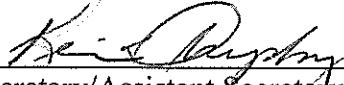
Dr. Davis asked Eric Lites, assistant director of technology, to review the technology that Southland has engaged to support remote learning and learning in the classroom.

Mr. Lites reported that, following the teachers' return after Winter Break, Southland conducted a professional development program dedicated to technology. Mr. Lites said this professional development program included training in G-Suite with Enterprise. Mr. Lites also noted that Southland's teachers are trained regarding Google Classroom. Mr. Lites said that the goal of such training is to ensure that teachers are entirely comfortable with the technological aspects of their lessons. Mr. Lites said that the teachers should be commended on how they have adapted the digital platform to their teaching. He noted that a web site has been created for the teachers so they can access the professional development program that was given after Winter Break and review what was covered. Director Radner said she was impressed with how far ahead Southland is in its use of technology. Director Hall congratulated Dr. Davis and the staff also.

Dr. Davis related that Southland students are involved virtually in speech and drama competitions and mock trials. Dr. Davis said that sports are coming back to schools in Illinois, but not very quickly because the training that usually takes place did not occur due to school closures. Dr. Davis commented that she does not believe that athletic competitions should occur at Southland now, but perhaps it will be possible later in the school year.

VIII. President Bean adjourned the meeting at 5:50 p.m.

Dated this 15th day of March 2021


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