

**MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF
SOUTHLAND COLLEGE PREP CHARTER HIGH SCHOOL, INC.
November 16, 2020**

The meeting of the Board of Directors of Southland College Prep Charter High 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: November 16, 2020
Time: 6:32 p.m.
Place: Matteson School District 162
4601 Sauk Trail
Richton Park, Illinois 60471

President Bean called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m., and noted that there was a quorum. Director Hall was not present at the meeting due to a conflicting meeting. Mr. Murphy was not present due to illness. President Bean 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. Barbara Meyer
Mr. Felix Simpkins (arrived at 6:35 p.m., after the roll call)

Directors Absent:

Mr. Kevin Murphy, Secretary; Dr. Vinni Hall

Also Present:

Mr. Craig Englert, chief school business official
Mr. Zack Zayed, business manager
Dr. Corey Levy, director of day-to-day operations
Mr. Eric Lites, assistant director of technology
Mr. Robert Lane, director of college admissions and alumni relations
Mr. John George, auditor, RSM
Mrs. Jessica Washington, Board secretary

President Bean read the following statement:

Statement of Board President Ronald Bean that an In-person Meeting is Not Prudent or Practical.

Pursuant to the requirements of the Illinois Open Meetings Act, I have determined that an in-person meeting of the Southland College Prep Charter High School Board of Directors is not

prudent or practical at this time in light of Governor Pritzker's October 16, 2020 Executive Order again declaring all counties of the State of Illinois as a disaster area, due to the continuing spread of COVID-19 and the ongoing health impacts that will continue to be felt by people across the State. Accordingly, the meeting of the Southland College Prep Charter High School Board of Directors 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 Radner, seconded by Director Meyer, to accept the audit for the 2019–2020 fiscal year.

Mr. Englert said that Southland's cash on hand at the end of the school year increased to \$3.1 million. He noted that this reflects the fact that Southland is in a good financial position.

Mr. George, a partner with RSM, discussed Southland's history with RSM. He noted that RSM, the fifth largest auditing firm in the United States, specializes in public sector, non-profit and government entities. He noted that the firm works with several other south suburban school districts. Mr. George stated that the auditing firm issued Southland an unqualified audit, which is the highest level of assurance possible. Mr. George noted that the fact that there were no negative findings is due to the quality and consistency of Southland's financial reporting.

Mr. Bean asked Mr. George if there was anything he wished to discuss with the Board of Directors outside the presence of Southland's administration. Mr. George responded that there were no issues that he needed to bring to the Board's attention.

Director Davis thanked Mr. Englert and Mr. Zayed for a successful, unqualified audit.

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

RESOLVED, the audit for the 2019–2020 fiscal year was unanimously approved.

III. Motion made by Director Simpkins, seconded by Director Meyer, to accept the compliance examination report for the 2019–2020 fiscal year.

Mr. George reported that the compliance examination comprised a review of 12 statutes that include compliance requirements that apply to Southland. He said the auditing firm issued a clean compliance report with no negative findings, which speaks to the quality of Southland's administrative team.

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

RESOLVED, the compliance examination report for the 2019–2020 fiscal year was unanimously approved.

IV. Motion made by Director Radner, seconded by Director Simpkins, to accept the tax return for the 2019–2020 fiscal year.

Mr. Englert noted that the IRS requires Southland to file a tax return as a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit corporation.

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

RESOLVED, the tax return for the 2019–2020 fiscal year was unanimously approved.

V. Motion made by Director Radner, seconded by Director Davis, to approve Items a. through m. under Personnel Matters.

Approval of the at-will employment of Ms. Tara Sconza as a bookkeeper, pursuant to the terms of an employment agreement to be entered on behalf of the parties.

Approval of the at-will employment of Mr. Max Gee to serve as a full-time substitute teacher during the second semester of the 2020–2021 school year, pursuant to a memorandum outlining the parties' agreement regarding this position.

Approval of the part-time, at-will employment of Ms. Cheryl Frazier as head speech coach during the 2020–2021 school year, pursuant to the terms of an employment agreement to be entered on behalf of the parties.

Approval of the part-time, at-will employment of Mr. Malik Bibbie as an assistant speech coach during the 2020–2021 school year, pursuant to the terms of an employment agreement to be entered on behalf of the parties.

Approval of the part-time, at-will employment of Ms. Stephanie Drozd as an assistant speech coach during the 2020–2021 school year, pursuant to the terms of an employment agreement to be entered on behalf of the parties.

Approval of the part-time, at-will employment of Mr. Jacob Goldman as an assistant speech coach during the 2020–2021 school year, pursuant to the terms of an employment agreement to be entered on behalf of the parties.

Approval of the part-time, at-will employment of Mr. Terrence Mayfield as an assistant speech coach during the 2020–2021 school year, pursuant to the terms of an employment agreement to be entered on behalf of the parties.

Approval of the part-time, at-will employment of Mr. Armanti Reed as an assistant speech coach during the 2020–2021 school year, pursuant to the terms of an employment agreement to be entered on behalf of the parties.

Approval of the part-time, at-will employment of Mr. Frank Rice as an assistant speech coach during the 2020–2021 school year, pursuant to the terms of an employment agreement to be entered on behalf of the parties.

Approval of the part-time, at-will employment of Ms. Kara Trojan as an assistant speech coach during the 2020–2021 school year, pursuant to the terms of an employment agreement to be entered on behalf of the parties.

Approval of the part-time, at-will employment of Ms. Deiarah Wright as an assistant speech coach during the 2020–2021 school year, pursuant to the terms of an employment agreement to be entered on behalf of the parties.

Approval of the termination of employment of Ms. Denise Walton-Collins, research information specialist, effective October 8, 2020.

Approval of the resignation of Mr. Jason Christian, teacher, effective October 9, 2020.

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

RESOLVED, Items a. through m. under Personnel Matters were unanimously approved.

VI. Motion made by Director Simpkins, seconded by Director Davis, to approve the minutes of the Board of Directors meeting on October 19, 2020.

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

RESOLVED, the minutes of the Board of Directors meeting on October 19, 2020 were unanimously approved.

VII. Report from the Chief Executive Officer.

Remote/Hybrid Instruction

Director Davis stated that she and her administrative team intend to reopen on a hybrid basis once the COVID-19 positivity rate in the region is low enough. Dr. Davis said there is an excellent reopening plan in place. However, she said, for now it

is best to continue with remote instruction due to the high COVID-19 positivity rate in the area. Director Davis noted that Southland's teachers are being creative in how they deliver remote instruction to the students. She noted that a small number of students currently come into the building for in-person dance, band and chorus rehearsals. Dr. Davis noted that the instructional staff will work from home during the week that classes resume after Thanksgiving Break.

Attendance

Director Davis said she is pleased with the daily remote instruction attendance rate of Southland students. Dr. Davis stated that all classes are reporting at least 90 percent student attendance. Dr. Davis said that Southland's counselors are contacting families of students with high rates of absenteeism.

Holiday Program

Director Davis announced that Southland's traditional holiday program at Governors State University has been canceled this year due to COVID-19. Dr. Davis said the school will present a virtual concert instead.

Meal Distribution

Dr. Davis stated that Southland will continue to distribute food throughout the holidays. She said Southland's food service staff are packing boxes of food to feed families for a five-day period during Thanksgiving Break. She noted that teachers and administrative staff have been asked to identify families who would benefit from the food boxes.

College Acceptance Process

Director Davis stated that the only way for Southland to meet its typically high college acceptance and scholarship rates is to gauge what seniors are thinking and experiencing during this unprecedented time.

Mr. Robert Lane addressed the Board of Directors about Southland's college admissions process. He reported that the students in Southland's Class of 2021 have amassed acceptances to 50 colleges and universities and have received more than four million dollars in scholarships to date. Mr. Lane said students are motivated by the success of other students. Mr. Lane stated that early data show that college and FAFSA applications are down this year. Mr. Lane stated that Southland's college counseling staff are working with students virtually. Mr. Lane said seniors meet for Senior Family Meeting every morning, during which they celebrate their classmates' college acceptances. Mr. Lane said that despite the difficulties posed by COVID-19 restrictions, he does not anticipate falling short of the college acceptance and scholarship goals set for Southland's Class of 2021.

Director Radner asked if colleges and universities have been contacting the college counseling department regarding the lower number of applications being filed by Southland students. Mr. Lane responded yes. He said colleges and universities are asking college counselors to encourage students to apply.

Mr. Simpkins asked if the decrease in college application submissions might give students a better opportunity to attain acceptance at certain colleges and universities. Mr. Lane responded yes, noting that given the current environment with the COVID-19 pandemic, schools may be more flexible with their acceptance criteria. He noted that many colleges and universities have become test optional. Mr. Lane said that Southland students take both the ACT and SAT, which benefits their applications at schools that are not test optional.

Summer Programming

Director Davis stated that Southland will offer a robust summer program to help close some of the learning and mastery gaps that have developed during the period when students have not been present in school due to COVID-19.


Board of Directors Meeting Time

Director Davis requested that Southland Board of Directors meetings be rescheduled to 5:00 p.m. beginning in January, during the period when the Board members are conducting meetings virtually. Mr. Bean asked the Board members to contact him with their opinions on Director Davis' proposal. However, he said that he did not anticipate that there would be a problem with moving to a 5:00 p.m. start time.

VIII. Adjournment

President Bean adjourned the meeting at 7:21 p.m.

Dated this 25th day of January 2021.


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