

**MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF
SOUTHLAND COLLEGE PREP CHARTER SCHOOL, INC.
December 4, 2023**

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: December 4, 2023

Time: 6:30 p.m.

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

Directors Present:

Mr. Ronald Bean, President
Mr. Felix Simpkins, Vice President (via Zoom)
Mr. Jeffrey Johnson, Secretary
Dr. Blondean Y. Davis
Dr. Vinni Hall
Dr. Barbara Meyer

Also Present:

Mr. Robert Hall, Attorney
Mr. Craig Englert, Chief Financial Officer
Dr. Herald "Chip" Johnson, Chief of Staff
Mrs. Monica Fountain, Director of Communications
Mr. Eric Lites, Assistant Director of Technology
Mrs. Denise Faris, Board Secretary
Mandy Pitman, Senior Director RSM
Nicki Bazer, Attorney

I. Audience to Visitors.

No person attending the meeting wished to address the Board.

II. Motion made by Director Meyer and seconded by Director Johnson to accept audit and compliance reports for the 2022-2023 fiscal year.

Mr. Englert reviewed the reports compiled by RSM and called members' attention to the audit in the second tab of their packets. Mr. Englert briefly reviewed Southland's financial position. The school's total current assets in 2023 are \$5,887,768, up from the 2022 total of \$5,775,863. Mr. Englert noted that Southland's revenue increased to \$16,836,132 in 2023 from \$15,237,358 in 2022.

Mandy Pitman, senior director at RSM, discussed the audit process and related that preliminary field work was involved prior to beginning the audit. Ms. Pitman said that Southland received a clean opinion from the auditors. Ms. Pitman said there were no audit adjustments and she thanked Mr. Englert and his team for their assistance. Ms. Pitman said that RSM issues a compliance report and there were no findings or issues with the Grant Programs. Ms. Pitman said there was one issue of non-compliance, in that a tornado drill was not conducted during the school year.

Dr. Davis said the administration installed steel barriers at the entrance and at the windows of the Commons, which can withstand tornado winds up to 50 miles per hour. Dr. Davis said the decision was made not to congregate all the students together for a tornado drill due to the danger of COVID exposure. Dr. Davis said that staff and students are aware that the Commons and the Performing Arts Center are the areas for shelter during a tornado.

President Bean asked Ms. Pitman if she would like to discuss anything with the Board outside the presence of Southland's administration and she responded no.

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

RESOLVED, the audit and compliance reports for the 2022-2023 fiscal year were accepted.

III. Motion made by Director Hall and seconded by Director Simpkins to accept the tax return for the 2022-2023 fiscal year.

Mr. Englert said Southland submits Form 990 to the IRS each year regarding Southland's finances in order to maintain its tax-exempt status. Mr. Englert said that RMS prepares the return and it is filed electronically.

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

RESOLVED, tax return for the 2022-2023 fiscal year was accepted.

IV. Motion made by Director Hall 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 granted authority to sign the documents required for the renewal of the line of credit on behalf of Southland.

Mr. Englert related that Southland has never used this line of credit during its years of operation, but it is good to have access to the line of credit in cases of emergency. There are no costs associated with the line of credit until it is utilized. The line of credit requires an annual renewal.

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

RESOLVED, the renewal of a line of credit with Wintrust Bank in the amount of \$1,000,000.00, with Southland's Chief Executive Officer granted authority to sign the documents required for the renewal of the line of credit on behalf of Southland was approved.

V. Motion made by Director Meyer and seconded by Director Hall to approve the Resolution and Policy regarding Remote Educational Program.

Dr. Davis explained that the policy enables Southland to provide remote education to students who are suffering from a contagious disease for up to ten days during a school year, and to record the students as present. The policy applies to COVID and other contagious diseases. Dr. Davis noted that the policy does not change the District's provision of educational services for homebound students, who may require such services for longer than ten days.

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

RESOLVED, the Resolution and Policy regarding Remote Educational Program was approved.

VI. Motion made by Director Meyer and seconded by Dr. Davis to approve the contract with Academic Approach for tutoring services during the 2023-2024 school year, pursuant to a request for proposals for academic support services.

Dr. Davis noted that this is the eighth year that Academic Approach has been with Southland and its responsibilities have changed over time. ACT and SAT test preparation classes were offered on Saturdays and during the summer. Tutoring also was available. This year there are two teachers who work with 10 students providing tutoring in math for the SAT. Academic Approach also is providing term paper tutoring for the seniors. Representatives of Academic Approach visit classes and make recommendations to teachers. Dr. Davis said that Academic Approach is helping to narrow the gap that was caused by COVID and the loss of time in school.

Director Hall expressed concerns about AI and asked if its use could be detected. Dr. Davis responded that two years ago the focus was on plagiarism and Southland has computer programs and software that assist in detecting if a paper is not a student's work. This review now also focuses on students' use of AI.

Director Hall asked about attendance in the classes overseen by Academic Approach. Dr. Davis responded that there is 100 percent attendance at classes held during the school day and 80 percent attendance at Saturday classes.

Director Johnson asked about training for the new online, adaptive SAT. Dr. Davis said that staff development was provided this summer addressing this issue. Dr. Davis noted that students are taking the practice SAT as it is available. Dr. Davis said that online, adaptive tests have been given to elementary school-aged children for the past several years so they are used to such exams.

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

RESOLVED, the contract with Academic Approach for tutoring services during the 2023-2024 school year, pursuant to a request for proposals for academic support services was approved.

VII. Motion made by Director Hall and seconded by Director Meyer to approve Personnel Matters A through W:

- a. Approval of change of position of at-will employment of Tara Sconza to serve as Business Office Coordinator effective December 1, 2023 and for the remainder of the 2023-2024 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 Mr. John Anderson as a full-time substitute teacher during the 2023-2024 school year beginning November 6, 2023, 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 Ms. Cheryl Frazier to serve as Speech Director during the 2023-2024 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 Ms. Cara Aljoe to serve as Speech Coach during the 2023-2024 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. Malik Bibbie to serve as an Assistant Speech Coach during the 2023-2024 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 Ms. Stephanie Drozd to serve as an Assistant Speech Coach during the 2023-2024 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. Kisia Coleman to serve as an Assistant Speech Coach during the 2023-2024 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 Mr. Terrence Mayfield to serve as an Assistant Speech Coach during the 2023-2024 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. Donovan Hill-Bush to serve as an Assistant Speech Coach during the 2023-2024 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. Terri Arain to serve as an Assistant Speech Coach during the 2023-2024 school year, pursuant to the terms of an employment agreement to be entered on behalf of the parties.
- k. Approval of part time, at-will employment of Mr. Christopher Arnold to serve as an Assistant Speech Coach during the 2023-2024 school year, pursuant to the terms of an employment agreement to be entered on behalf of the parties.
- l. Approval of part time, at-will employment of Ms. Cheryl Frazier to serve as Group Interpretation Coach during the 2023-2024 school year, pursuant to the terms of an employment agreement to be entered on behalf of the parties.
- m. Approval of part time, at-will employment of Mr. Malik Bibbie to serve as Group Interpretation Coach during the 2023-2024 school year, pursuant to the terms of an employment agreement to be entered on behalf of the parties.
- n. Approval of part-time, at-will employment of Mr. Edward McKinnie, Jr. to serve as Boys and Girls Cross-Country Head Coach during the 2023-2024 school year, pursuant to the terms of an employment agreement to be entered on behalf of the Parties.
- o. Approval of part-time, at-will employment of Ms. Tamara Somerville to serve as Assistant Varsity Volleyball Coach during the 2023-2024 school year, pursuant to the terms of an employment agreement to be entered on behalf of the Parties.

- p. Approval of part-time, at-will employment of Mr. Connor Johnson to serve as Boys and Girls Golf Coach during the 2023-2024 school year, pursuant to the terms of an employment agreement to be entered on behalf of the Parties.
- q. Approval of part-time, at-will employment of Mr. LaVelle Meekey to serve as Tennis Head Coach during the 2023-2024 school year, pursuant to the terms of an employment agreement to be entered on behalf of the Parties.
- r. Approval of part-time, at-will employment of Dr. Robyn Jackson to serve as an Assistant Tennis Coach during the 2023-2024 school year, pursuant to the terms of an employment agreement to be entered on behalf of the Parties.
- s. Approval of part-time, at-will employment of Ms. Erica Bartley to serve as Volleyball Head Coach during the 2023-2024 school year, pursuant to the terms of an employment agreement to be entered on behalf of the Parties.
- t. Approval of part-time, at-will employment of Ms. Hope Haliburton to serve as an Assistant Volleyball Coach during the 2023-2024 school year, pursuant to the terms of an employment agreement to be entered on behalf of the Parties.
- u. Approval of part-time, at-will employment of Ms. Terara Morrow to serve as an Assistant Volleyball Coach during the 2023-2024 school year, pursuant to the terms of an employment agreement to be entered on behalf of the Parties.
- v. Approval of part-time, at-will employment of Mr. Mark Anzilotti to serve as an Assistant Volleyball Coach during the 2023-2024 school year, pursuant to the terms of an employment agreement to be entered on behalf of the Parties.
- w. Approval of termination of employment of Ms. Sherry Woolfolk, administrator, effective November 20, 2023.

Dr. Davis said that the personnel list was composed almost entirely of contracts for speech and sports; there are no teacher contracts as Southland's classrooms are fully staffed.

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

RESOLVED, the Personnel Matters A through W were approved.

VIII. Motion made by Director Davis and seconded by Director Meyer to approve the minutes of meeting on September 18, 2023.

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

RESOLVED, minutes of meeting on September 18, 2023, were approved.

IX. Report from the Chief Executive officer.

Dr. Davis discussed the National Alliance of School Administrators conference that was recently held in New Orleans. Robert Lane, Director of College Admissions and Academic Affairs, gave a presentation at the conference regarding college admissions and Dr. Carl Cogar, Director of Fine Arts, participated in a panel discussion at the conference regarding the effects of fine arts on academic achievement.

Following that conference, Mr. Lane was invited to a conference in Pasadena. Dr. Davis noted that Mr. Lane is instrumental in Southland's having one of the highest percentage rates in the country of students accepted into college. Dr. Davis said that she is anticipating that Mr. Lane will return with offers of scholarships from western universities. Dr. Davis noted that Southland has a 90 percent persistence rate, which refers to the percentage of students who enter college and remain in college. Dr. Davis complimented Mr. Lane and the staff for this accomplishment. Dr. Davis added that Southland has been awarded the Exemplary designation by the state for five consecutive years.

Sports

Justin Johnson, interim athletic director, discussed the girls' and boys' basketball season. Mr. Johnson said that Southland's boys' varsity team took 3rd Place in the 12th Annual Burney Wilkie Thanksgiving Boys Basketball Tournament hosted by Aurora Christian. The junior varsity team placed second at the tournament. Mr. Johnson noted that in the 2A Schools category, Southland is in the top 50 for basketball. In the Chicagoland basketball ranking, Southland is Number 105, up from Number 200 last year.

QuestBridge Scholars

Dr. Davis announced that Southland had four QuestBridge Scholars this year. The students' total college education costs will be funded through the program. Dr. Davis noted that one current Southland senior has received 36 college acceptances and \$3 million in scholarship offers.

Director Hall commented that fine arts and sports are beneficial. Dr. Hall said it is joyful to see how Southland's young people are developing. Dr. Hall congratulated everyone. President Bean also offered his congratulations and told Dr. Davis that the Board appreciates her leadership. Dr. Davis remarked that she appreciates the teachers.

X. Motion made by Director Hall and seconded by Director Johnson for the Board to go into Executive Session to consider pending, probable, or imminent litigation, information regarding a student discipline case or cases, the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or

dismissal of specific employees or public officials, deliberations concerning salary schedules for one or more classes of employees, the purchase or lease of real property for the use of the public body, security procedures, school building safety and security, and the use of personnel and equipment to respond to an actual, a threatened, or a reasonably potential danger to the safety of employees, students, staff, the public, or public property, or the sale or purchase of securities, investments, or investment.

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

RESOLVED, entering Executive Session was approved.

The Board entered Executive Session at 7:30 p.m.

The Board returned to Open Session at 9:05 p.m.

- XI. Motion made by Director Davis and seconded by Director Johnson to reconvene in Open Session.**

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

RESOLVED, reconvening in Open Session was approved.

- XII. Motion made by Director Johnson and seconded by Director Davis: Based upon the discussion during the closed session portion of the Board's meeting, I move that this Board of Directors, having considered the Hearing Officer's report relating to a hearing that occurred on November 29, 2023, regarding the recommendation of the administration of Southland that conduct in which Student A engaged should result in Student A's expulsion from Southland, and having discussed this matter in executive session, adopt the findings of fact included in the Hearing Officer's report.**

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

RESOLVED, the findings of fact included in the Hearing Officer's report were adopted.

- XIII. Motion made by Dr. Meyer and seconded by Dr. Hall that this Board of Directors vote to expel Student A for the remainder of the 2023-2024 school year, beginning December 5, 2023 through May 24, 2024, with Southland to provide Student A the opportunity to attend an alternative school for the duration of the expulsion, with Dr. Davis to provide Student A's parent a**

decision detailing the reasons for the expulsion as required by the Illinois School Code.

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

RESOLVED, the Board of Directors voted to expel Student A for the remainder of the 2023-2024 school year, beginning December 5, 2023 through May 24, 2024, with Southland to provide Student A the opportunity to attend an alternative school for the duration of the expulsion, with Dr. Davis to provide Student A's parent a decision detailing the reasons for the expulsion as required by the Illinois School Code.

- XIV. Motion made by Director Meyer and seconded by Director Johnson that based upon the Board's discussion during the closed session portion of the Board's meeting, I move that this Board of Education, having considered the Hearing Officer's report relating to a hearing that occurred on November 1, 2023 regarding the suspension of Student B as a result of Student B's misconduct in engaging in a physical altercation with another student, and having discussed this matter in executive session, adopt the findings of fact included in the hearing officer's report regarding this matter, which findings of fact are hereby adopted and approved by the Board.**

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

RESOLVED, the Board of Directors adopted and approved the findings of fact included in the hearing officer's report regarding this matter.

- XV. Motion made by Director Hall and seconded by Director Meyer that this Board of Education vote to uphold the five-day out-of-school suspension, followed by a five-day in-school suspension of Student B, which Student B has already served in connection with the misconduct at issue.**

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

RESOLVED, the Board of Education upheld the five-day out-of-school suspension, followed by a five-day in-school suspension of Student B, which Student B has already served in connection with the misconduct at issue.

- XVI. Motion made by Director Johnson and seconded by Director Hall to terminate the at-will employment of Percussion Coach Thomas Harris effective December 4, 2023.**

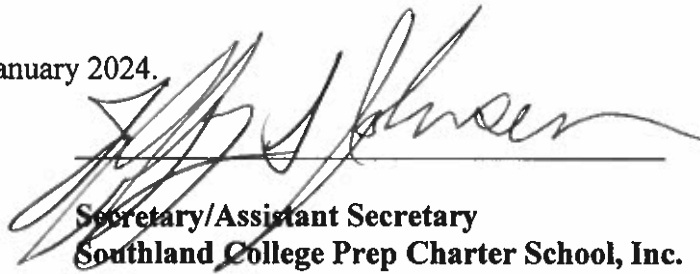
Upon the motion duly made and seconded and carried by a voice vote of 6 YEAS and 0 NAYS,

XVII. RESOLVED, the termination of the at-will employment of Percussion Coach Thomas Harris effective December 4, 2023, was approved.

XVIII. Adjournment

Mr. Bean adjourned the meeting at 9:10 p.m.

Dated this 22nd day of January 2024.



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