

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF
SOUTHLAND COLLEGE PREP CHARTER SCHOOL, INC.
March 20, 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: March 20, 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
Mr. Kevin Murphy, Secretary
Dr. Blondean Y. Davis
Dr. Vinni Hall
Dr. Barbara Meyer
Mr. Jeffrey Johnson

Also Present:

Mr. Robert Hall, Attorney
Mr. Craig Englert, Chief Financial Officer
Dr. Herald "Chip" Johnson, Chief of Staff to the Chief Executive Officer
Mr. Robert Lane, Director of College Admissions and Academic Affairs
Dr. Corey Levy, Director, Day to Day Operations, Southland
Mrs. Monica Fountain, Director of Communications
Mr. Eric Lites, Assistant Director of Technology
Mrs. Denise Faris, Board Secretary

I. Audience to Visitors.

No person attending the meeting wished to address the Board.

II. Motion made by Director Hall and seconded by Director Murphy to approve amended Anti-Bullying Policy.

Robert Hall, attorney, said there were two minor changes in the policy. One revision indicates that the policy is not intended to infringe upon any constitutional right to exercise free expression. An additional change provides for the expansion of what equates to cyberbullying to capture anything that can be done electronically, given

continuously developing technology. Mr. Hall advised the Board that the policy is reviewed every two years.

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

RESOLVED, the amended Anti-Bullying Policy was approved.

III. Motion made by Director Johnson and seconded by Director Meyer to approve Southland's School Calendar for the 2023-2024 school year.

Dr. Davis said that Southland worked closely with District 227 and the feeder districts to ensure that its calendar aligns with these districts' calendars. Craig Englert reviewed the important calendar dates and noted that the Winter and Spring Breaks align with District 227's and the feeder districts' calendars. Dr. Davis noted the staff development days that include teachers from the surrounding school districts and the staff development for secretaries and custodians.

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

RESOLVED, Southland's School Calendar for the 2023-2024 school year was approved.

IV. Motion made by Director Murphy and seconded by Director Simpkins to approve the contract with Positive Connections, Inc. to provide student transportation services during the 2022-2023 school year.

President Bean pointed out that there is a change in the transportation provider from the District's long-time provider, Kickert.

Dr. Davis said that Southland has been struggling for three years with transportation issues and this action provides that Positive Connections will service additional student bus routes that Kickert could not cover. Dr. Davis added that this action is an attempt to stabilize the transportation system and to ensure on time performance, safety, and field trips via use of the additional buses provided by Positive Connections.

Director Hall asked if there would be an adjustment to the Kickert agreement and Dr. Davis responded that Kickert was paying for the additional cost of the Positive Connection buses.

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

RESOLVED, the contract with Positive Connections, Inc. to provide student transportation services during the 2022-2023 school year was approved.

V. Motion made by Director Hall and seconded by Director Johnson to approve the following Personnel Matters:

- a. Approval of at-will employment of Mr. Mark Simon as a teacher during the 2022-2023 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. Ashirah Simpson as a teacher during the 2022-2023 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. Donnie Collins as a cadre substitute teacher during the 2022-2023 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. Cheryl Frazier as a Group Interpretation Director during the 2022-2023 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 as a Group Interpretation Director during the 2022-2023 school year, pursuant to the terms of an employment agreement to be entered on behalf of the parties.
- f. Acknowledgement of resignation of Ms. Meghan Michals, instructional coordinator, without the notice required by the governing employment contract and Southland policy, effective February 24, 2023, with liquidated damages to be paid in the amount of 4% of the employee's 2022-2023 contracted salary or the amount available to be withheld from the employee's final 2022-2023 paycheck, whichever is less.

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

RESOLVED, the Personnel Matters were approved.

VI. Motion made by Director Johnson and seconded by Director Meyer to approve the minutes of the regular meeting on January 23, 2023, and of the executive session portion of the regular meeting on January 23, 2023, and declare that these minutes shall remain closed.

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

RESOLVED, minutes of the regular meeting on January 23, 2023, and of the executive session portion of the regular meeting on January 23, 2023, and declare that these minutes shall remain closed were approved.

VII. Report from the Chief Executive Officer

Lottery

Dr. Davis reported on Southland's student enrollment lottery that was held March 15 and noted that there were 370 applicants, the largest number in Southland's history.

There are 135 graduates in this year's senior class, Dr. Davis noted. Of the available seats, 35 were filled by siblings of current Southland students pursuant to the statutory sibling rule; 100 seats were filled via the lottery. There are 10 students on the waiting list. The lottery was broadcast live and there were 600 people on the stream, including representatives of the State Board of Education. Dr. Davis said that it is a benefit to the students that Southland is a small school and that the administration and the staff know the students and their families. The enrollment capacity of the building is 600, Dr. Davis said.

Group Interpretation Competition

Dr. Herald "Chip" Johnson discussed the group interpretation "Hidden Figures" performance. The students placed second in the Sectionals and advanced to the state competition on March 24th and 25th. Dr. Johnson noted that the students looked very professional and gave a great performance.

Dr. Davis added that Southland alumni who had performed "Hidden Figures" seven years ago came to Southland last week in order to tutor the current students.

August Wilson Monologue Competition

Dr. Davis related that eight students competed in the August Wilson Monologue Semi-Final Competition today. The competition tonight will determine who is the finalist for the New York competition.

Track and Field

Dr. Davis said that the girls' track and field team ended the last indoor team meet with a second place win in a field of 13 teams at the Lemont Invitational 2023. Dr. Davis said that the team is awaiting announcement of its qualifying participation for the Illinois Top Times Championship Track and Field Meet at Illinois Wesleyan University on Saturday, March 25, in Bloomington, Illinois.

Ron Edmonds Scholarship Gala

Dr. Davis noted that the Ron Edmonds Scholarship and Board Recognition Gala would occur on Wednesday, April 5, 2023, at 6 p.m. at the Tinley Park Convention Center.

Senior Class Update

Robert Lane, Director of College Admissions and Academic Affairs, displayed “The Book,” which former Director of College Admissions Ron Anderson had initiated. Mr. Lane said a book is assigned to each graduating class and it is signed by the students as they are accepted at colleges. Mr. Lane said that the Book is a wonderful historical artifact and all the books are kept in his office.

Mr. Lane said that between now and May 1, one-on-one meetings are held with the seniors to determine the ranking of the colleges to which they are accepted and to identify the college that each student selects for attendance.

Mr. Lane reported that the University of Alabama is focusing on diversifying its enrollment and reaching out to students of under-represented groups and out-of-state residents. He said that 12 Southland students received College Board national recognition and three of them applied to the University of Alabama.

The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign increased its applicant base by 45,000 this year, Mr. Lane said. Southland had 63 applicants and 42 were admitted under Early Admission. A total of 57 Southland seniors have been admitted to the university.

Full-ride scholarships at Tougaloo were offered to four Southland students, and additional students were accepted to attend Tougaloo, Mr. Lane said.

Mr. Lane said that a Southland senior received an early decision acceptance at New York University and another Southland senior received early acceptance at Vanderbilt. Cal Berkeley has awarded an \$80,000 research grant to a Southland senior, and another Southland senior has interviewed for a full scholarship at the school. Additionally, Southland’s class valedictorian has been accepted to the University of Chicago. Another Southland senior was accepted to the California Institute of Technology. Mr. Lane said that Southland students have now been accepted to all of the top 50 universities in the United States.

Director Johnson asked for clarification of Early Decision. Mr. Lane said early decision is a binding commitment by students that they will attend a particular college if the student is accepted there. Sixteen students were involved in the early decision process and eight students were accepted early decision, Mr. Lane said.

Dr. Davis acknowledged administrators Dr. Harris, Dr. Levy, Mr. Lane, Mr. Englert, Dr. Johnson, and Mr. Hall. She said that everyone takes ownership of the children and their future. "I want to publicly thank them," she said.

Graduation

Dr. Davis announced that families would each receive eight tickets to graduation, which will be held at the Harris Theater in Chicago, on May 27 at 4 p.m. Congresswoman Robin Kelly is the commencement speaker.

VIII. President Bean adjourned the meeting at 7:38 p.m.

Dated this 15th day of May 2023



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