

**MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF  
SOUTHLAND COLLEGE PREP CHARTER SCHOOL, INC.  
June 12, 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:** June 12, 2023

**Time:** 6:30 p.m.

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

**Directors Present:**

Mr. Ronald Bean, President  
Mr. Felix Simpkins, Vice President (entered at 6:40 pm)  
Dr. Blondean Y. Davis  
Dr. Vinni Hall  
Mr. Jeffrey Johnson

**Directors Absent**

Mr. Kevin Murphy, Secretary  
Dr. Barbara Meyer

**Also Present:**

Mr. Robert Hall, Attorney  
Mr. Craig Englert, Chief Financial Officer  
Mr. Zack Zayed, Southland Business Manager  
Dr. Herald "Chip" Johnson, Chief of Staff  
Mr. Robert Lane, Director of College Admissions and Academic Affairs  
Dr. Corey Levy, Director of Day-to-Day Operations  
Dr. Iyuna Harris, Director of Special Education/Student Support Services  
Justin Johnson  
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 Simpkins and seconded by Director Johnson to approve the budget for the 2023-2024 fiscal year.**

Mr. Englert referred to Tab 2 in the members' packets and reviewed the budget highlights.

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

**RESOLVED, the budget for the 2023-2024 fiscal year was approved.**

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

Dr. Davis pointed out that Southland had discussions with the Rich Township superintendent as well as the superintendents of the elementary school districts that feed into District 227 and the calendar reflects these conversations.

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

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

**IV. Motion made by Director Simpkins and seconded by Director Davis to approve revised Policy regarding Abused and Neglected Child Reporting.**

Attorney Robert Hall said the initial policy was brief when written in 2010 and there have been new laws since then as well as new best practices. Mr. Hall said the revised policy includes telephone numbers and email addresses for reporting incidents. Mr. Hall noted that, as required by Illinois Faith's Law provisions that take effect on July 1, 2023, the policy provides that Southland will notify the affected Southland student and his/her parents when a Southland employee, contractor, or agent is alleged to have engaged in sexual misconduct. The policy also incorporates the legal requirement of immediate reports to law enforcement if pornography is found. Mr. Hall said the policy includes additional legal requirements, such as if board members become aware of potential abuse during discussions in open or closed sessions, Board members are required to ensure that the correct reporting occurs.

Dr. Davis said she was pleased that the policy reflects that incidents shall be reported to DCFS as well as to law enforcement as appropriate.

**Upon the motion duly made and seconded and carried by a voice vote of 5**

**YEAS and 0 NAYS,**

**RESOLVED, revised Policy regarding Abused and Neglected Child Reporting was approved.**

**V. Motion made by Director Hall and seconded by Director Johnson to approve the student transportation contract for the 2023-2024 School Year.**

Mr. Englert directed the members to the proposed contract between Southland and Safeway in their packets. Mr. Englert explained that there had been several discussions with Kickert about transportation issues. One concern was the transportation for sports teams that conflicts with the regular end of the school day. Mr. Englert said that Kickert could not guarantee that it was able to cover those routes. In contrast, Safeway has assured Southland that it can handle these extra routes, he said. Safeway's cost is the same as the Kickert cost, as Kickert's contract would have increased its price by five percent this year.

Dr. Davis said that Southland and District 162 struggled for at least three years with transportation services provided by Kickert. Now, District 162 has entered an agreement to use Safeway. Dr. Davis said that it was her initial intention to stay with Kickert for Southland, but this changed when Kickert could not guarantee that it would be able to provide transportation for Southland's sports teams.

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

**RESOLVED, the student transportation contract for the 2023-2024 School Year was approved.**

**VI. Motion made by Director Davis and seconded by Director Hall to approve Personnel Matters "a" through "n":**

- a. Approval of employment of Ms. Neeru Jain as a teacher during 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 Ms. Erica Bartley as Department Chairperson for Physical Education, Health and Driver Education during the 2023-2024 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 Ms. Gloria Chatman as Department Chairperson for Fine Arts 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 at-will employment of Mr. Ahmed Gaghamin as Department Chairperson for Technology 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 at-will employment of Ms. Danielle Epson as Department Chairperson for English 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 at-will employment of Mr. Brian Cheesman as Department Chairperson for Social Studies 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 at-will employment of Ms. Anne Oiler as Department Chairperson for Science 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 at-will employment of Ms. Megan Stokes as Department Chairperson for Special Education 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 at-will employment of Ms. Arlene Mojica as Department Chairperson for Foreign Language 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 at-will employment of Mr. Brian Wales as Department Chairperson for Math 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 at-will employment of Mr. Ken Wilcoxon as Grade Level Chairperson for Tenth Grade 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 at-will employment of Mr. Arthur Amaker as Grade Level Chairperson for Eleventh Grade 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 at-will employment of Ms. Eman Assad as Grade Level Chairperson for Twelfth Grade 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 at-will employment of Dr. Edward Davis as AP Coordinator during the 2023-2024 school year, pursuant to the terms of an employment agreement to be entered on behalf of the Parties.

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

**RESOLVED, Personnel Matters “a” through “n” were approved.**

- VII. Motion made by Director Simpkins and seconded by Director Davis to approve minutes of meeting on May 15, 2023, and approve minutes of executive session portion of regular meeting on May 15, 2023, and declare that these minutes shall remain closed.**

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

**RESOLVED, minutes of meeting on May 15, 2023, and minutes of executive session portion of regular meeting on May 15, 2023, and declare that these minutes shall remain closed were approved.**

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

Vocational-Education Center

Dr. Davis reported that she attended a meeting with Governor Pritzker on June 7 regarding the proposed Regional Vocational Education Center that involves partnership with several districts. The Center would be housed on the site of Rich East High School. Dr. Davis said that Dr. Johnny Thomas, superintendent of District 227, is proposing to raze Rich East and erect a new building. Dr. Davis said that the group has reached out to Congresswoman Robin Kelly and she secured \$1.7 million for planning. Another \$98 million is needed.

Dr. Davis related that the meeting with Governor Pritzker lasted 1.5 hours. Governor Pritzker indicated that the state has never financed an educational facility that would benefit one area of the state. Governor Pritzker said that many compromises would have to be made to secure such funding. There was discussion regarding requesting a federal match in funds through Senator Durbin.

Loss of a child

Dr. Davis said that Saturday was the funeral for the little boy who was a student in District 162 and who was fatally shot. Dr. Davis said that the person who shot and killed the child has not been apprehended. Dr. Davis said that area law enforcement agencies have recommended that Southland and District 162 increase security and they have.

#### Summer at Southland

Dr. Davis said that calculus, fine arts, basketball, and volleyball camps are in progress. There also are 26 seventh and eighth grade students involved in credit recovery.

On June 26, Southland will be the host for two cohorts for staff to earn master's degrees from Roosevelt University.

#### Homer Thomas

Dr. Davis related that Athletic Director Homer Thomas had a health challenge and is undergoing rehabilitation now. There is hope that Mr. Thomas will rejoin Southland in the fall. In the meantime, Dr. Davis said she is appointing Justin Johnson as the interim athletic director.

#### Facilities Update

The commercial kitchen project in the former skating rink is moving forward, said Dr. Davis, and will be ready to provide student meals during the 2023-2024 school year. Dr. Davis said the goal is to offer quality food and to have contracts with other districts to supply student meals, which would offset the cost of the commercial kitchen.

The Southland parking lot will be resurfaced in August.

#### Juneteenth

A Juneteenth event is planned by the United Negro College Fund at the Hyatt Regency on June 17 at 6 p.m., Dr. Davis announced. A successful UNCF event was held in February and students from several districts performed. Students were again invited to perform at the Juneteenth event and Southland singers and dancers will perform. Dr. Davis asked board members to let her know if they would like to attend.

#### Southland Freshmen and Seniors

Dr. Davis said that the incoming Southland freshmen were welcomed today at Southland's annual Freshmen Academy.

Mr. Lane discussed the summer College Advising Questionnaire that is distributed to Southland students prior to their senior year. Mr. Lane said the Class of 2024 is on deck and 116 surveys have been completed and he is preparing to meet with the students and their parents. Mr. Lane explained that an

individualized college plan is created for each student. Family meetings will begin in July and Mr. Lane said that the team will meet with 65 or more families by the time school resumes. Mr. Lane said that the college advising questionnaire has been shared with other schools.

Mr. Lane discussed community service and he related that the requirement that Southland students provide community service is returning as COVID no longer requires that students forego such interactions. Mr. Lane noted Safe Life where 12 Southland students are serving as ambassadors. Mr. Lane explained that students volunteering for Safe Life discuss safe driving with other students. Mr. Lane noted that Safe Life is a great service opportunity and participation provides eligibility for a \$2500 scholarship.

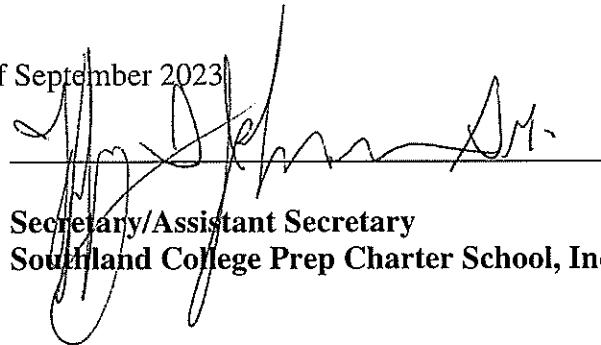
Director Simpkins said it would be helpful to offer a workshop regarding planning for college. Mr. Simpkins noted that the seed for college must be planted in the freshmen and sophomore years.

Dr. Davis discussed service and goal setting. Dr. Davis note that Allen Bryson from the University of Illinois Chicago spoke with students about these things. Mr. Bryson is extremely dynamic and held the student's attention.

## **IX. Adjournment**

**President Bean adjourned the meeting at 7:45 p.m.**

Dated this 18th day of September 2023



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