

The Charter Institute at Erskine
Board Meeting Minutes
April 8, 2020

The Board meeting of the Charter Institute at Erskine was held online at 11:00 AM. Dr. Rob Gustafson called the meeting to order and gave the Invocation. Board members in attendance were Dr. Rob Gustafson, Mr. Stu Rodman, Mr. Martin O'Connor, Rev. Tony Foster, and Dr. Tom Hellams (arrived at 11:09 AM). Attendees from the Charter Institute at Erskine included Mr. Cameron Runyan; Mr. Vamshi Rudrapati; Mrs. Kristen Stolpa; Mr. Johnley Li; Mr. Allen Ray; Mrs. Celina Patton; Mrs. Christy Junkins; Ms. Elizabeth Riberdy; Mr. Derek Phillips; Mrs. Ciera Bing; Mrs. Ashley Sturkie; Ms. Haley Perez; Ms. Kusuma Buddhiraju; Sarah Timmons, Attorney at Law; and Mrs. Paula Gray.

The roll was taken by Mrs. Gray and a quorum was present.

Mr. Rodman made a motion to approve the agenda for the April 8, 2020, meeting, and adopt the minutes of the March 11, 2020, meeting as presented. Rev. Foster seconded the motion, which carried unanimously

Public Comments:

There were no public comments for this meeting.

Action Items – New Charter School Application Hearings:

Dr. Gustafson announced the protocol for the hearings and advised attendees on the procedures for any technical difficulties prior to each hearing.

a) **Quill School of South Carolina**

Heidi Clower, Committee Chair, introduced the committee members and others in attendance and shared a video presentation on behalf of Quill School of South Carolina.

The presentation was followed by questions from the Board members and a recommendation from the Institute, which was presented by Mrs. Stolpa, to deny the charter for Quill School of South Carolina, with encouragement to work on revisions to identified areas of deficiency, with help from the Institute's staff, and apply again in the 2020-2021 application cycle. Mr. Runyan added that the model for the school has great merit and just needs more work to be sustainable and successful. The Institute is willing to work the committee on the necessary revisions.

Rev. Foster moved that the Board deny the charter application for Quill School of South Carolina. The motion was seconded by Mr. O'Connor and carried. Dr. Gustafson stated that he hopes Quill School of South Carolina will work with the staff at the Institute and apply again next year.

b) Palmetto Achievement Center for Excellence

The committee for the Palmetto Achievement Center for Excellence withdrew their application prior to the beginning of the board meeting.

c) Gates School

Ms. Stephanie Sams, Committee Chair, introduced the committee members and presented on behalf of Gates School. Ms. Sams, along with other committee members, answered questions from Board members.

Mrs. Stolpa reported on the Institute's findings and presented the recommendation from the Institute that the Board conditionally approve the charter for the Gates School and direct Institute staff to work with the school to revise the identified sections of the application in order to meet all state and Institute expectations prior to executing the final contract and initiating any pre-opening work.

Mr. O'Connor moved that the Board conditionally approve the charter application for the Gates School and directed the committee to work with the Institute staff and return for a full charter. The motion was seconded by Rev. Foster and carried.

d) SC Preparatory Academy

Ms. Tracey Williams, Committee Chair, introduced the committee members and presented the application on behalf of SC Preparatory Academy. Ms. Williams, along with other committee members, answered questions from Board members.

Mrs. Stolpa reported on the Institute's findings and presented the recommendation from the Institute that the Board conditionally approve the charter for the SC Preparatory Academy and direct Institute staff to work with the school to revise the identified sections of the application in order to meet all state and Institute expectations prior to executing the final contract and initiating any pre-opening work.

Mr. O'Connor moved that the Board conditionally approve the charter application for the SC Preparatory Academy and directed the committee to work with the Institute staff and return for full approval. The motion was seconded by Rev. Foster and carried.

Adjournment

As there was no further business, a motion was made to adjourn by Rev. Foster and seconded by Mr. Rodman. The meeting was adjourned by acclamation.