

Charter Institute at Erskine Meeting Minutes

April 21, 2021 | time 11:00 a.m. | Meeting location *Via Zoom conference call*

Chair Dr. Rob Gustafson

Members in Attendance

Stu Rodman
Rev. Tony Foster
Dr. Tom Hellams
Martin O'Connor
Gordon Query
Mrs. Beth Gustafson (11:15 AM)

Attendees from Charter Institute at Erskine

Cameron Runyan (Superintendent/CEO)
Vamshi Rudrapati (Director)
Sarah Timmons

Other attendees from the Charter Institute at Erskine included: Mr. John Li, Ms. Haley Perez, Mrs. Christy Junkins, Mrs. Paula Gray, Mrs. Ciera Bing, Ms. Sarah Shealy, Mr. Robbie Anderson, Ms. Grace Rubenzer, Dr. Sherri Herbst, Mrs. Laura Merrick, Ms. Charity Glasgow, Ms. Elizabeth Riberdy, Mrs. Kathryn Griffin, Ms. Ashley Epperson, Mrs. Ashley Sturkie, Ms. Kirby Jerry, Mrs. Patti Rubenzer, Ms. Kusuma Buddhiraju, and Mr. Jason Jones.

Dr. Gustafson called the meeting to order at 11:01 AM.

The invocation was delivered by Dr. Gustafson.

Mrs. Paula Gray called the roll and a quorum was present.

Adoption of the Agenda for the April 21, 2021, Meeting

Mr. Rodman moved to approve the agenda for April 21, 2021, as presented.

Dr. Hellams seconded, and the motion was approved unanimously.

Approval of Minutes for 03/17/2021 and 03/29/2021, Meetings

Dr. Hellams moved to approve the minutes of the March 17, 2021, meeting and March 29, 2021, sub-committee meeting as presented.

Mr. Query seconded, and the motion was approved unanimously.

Executive Session for discussion of negotiations incident to proposed contractual arrangements

No Executive Session was needed.

Action Items

Virtus Academy of SC Charter Amendment	Presenter: Christy Junkins
<p>Mrs. Junkins presented the Virtus Academy of SC Charter Amendments and reviewed the requested changes. Mrs. Junkins added that staff recommendation is for approval of the amendments.</p> <p>Mr. Thomas Ducey, Board Chair, Virtus Academy of SC, explained the reason for the amendment.</p> <p>Mr. Rodman moved to approve the Virtus Academy of SC charter amendment with the condition of evidence of the need to fill each grade of high school the school is seeking to open at an accelerated pace beginning with the 2023-2024 school year. The motion was seconded by Mr. O'Connor and carried unanimously by roll call vote.</p>	

Royal Holloway Academy Charter Application Hearing	Presenter: Kirby Jerry
<p>Mr. Jamez Dudley, Planning Committee Member, gave the presentation for Royal Holloway Academy Charter application. Ms. Jerry reported on the Institute's review of the application including the strengths and weaknesses of the application. Mr. John Li reviewed the proposed budget for Royal Holloway Academy. Ms. Jerry presented the Institute recommendation to deny the application.</p> <p>After a question and answer period, Mr. Rodman moved to accept the staff recommendation to deny the application of Royal Holloway Academy. Dr. Hellams seconded the motion.</p> <p>The motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.</p> <p>Dr. Gustafson requested that the Royal Holloway Academy Planning Committee not give up on their idea for this school because it has merit. The Institute staff will work with them to improve their application.</p>	
American Leadership Academy Charter Application Hearing	Presenter: Kirby Jerry and Grace Rubenzer
<p>Planning Committee members, Reese McCurdy, Amy Cofield, Micah Rea, Joan Jordan, and Dave Wilson gave the presentation for the American Leadership Academy Charter application. Ms. Jerry reported on the Institute's review of the application including the strengths and weaknesses of the application. Mr. John Li reviewed the proposed budget for American Leadership Academy. Ms. Grace Rubenzer presented the Institute recommendation for conditional approval of the application with the condition that they work with Institute staff to rectify and submit proper documentation.</p> <p>Following a question and answer period, Mr. Query moved to grant conditional approval for the American Leadership Academy Charter as presented. The motion was seconded by Reverend Foster.</p> <p>The motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.</p>	
Greenwood Charter Academy Charter Application Hearing	Presenter: Kirby Jerry and Grace Rubenzer
<p>Mr. Tony Helton presented the application on behalf of Greenwood Charter Academy. Ms. Jerry reported on the Institute's review of the application including the strengths and weaknesses of the application. Mr. John Li reviewed the proposed budget for Greenwood Charter Academy. Ms. Rubenzer presented the Institute recommendation for conditional approval of the application with the condition that they work with Institute staff to rectify and submit proper documentation.</p> <p>Following a question and answer period, Mr. O'Connor moved to grant conditional approval for the Greenwood Charter Academy Charter as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Query.</p> <p>The motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.</p>	
Superintendent Evaluation Committee Report	Presenter: Dr. Gustafson
<p>The Superintendent Evaluation Committee consisted of Dr. Gustafson, Mr. O'Connor, and Mr. Rodman. Dr. Gustafson reported that the committee met with Superintendent Runyan and reviewed the evaluation. Dr. Gustafson stated that Mr. Runyan has done a great job as Superintendent of the Charter Institute at Erskine.</p> <p>Dr. Hellams moved to accept the Superintendent Evaluation as presented by the committee and further that the board commend Mr. Runyan on his stellar job performance. Mr. O'Connor seconded the motion which carried unanimously by roll call vote.</p> <p>Mr. Runyan thanked the Board and added that nothing would have been accomplished without the staff making it possible.</p>	

Superintendent Contract	Presenter: Dr. Gustafson
<p>Dr. Gustafson stated that the Superintendent Contract for Mr. Runyan would run from July 1, 2021, through June 30, 2024. Mr. Query moved to approve the Superintendent Contract. The motion was seconded by Rev. Foster.</p> <p>The motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.</p>	
2021-2022 Institute Budget, Second Reading	Presenter: John Li
<p>Mr. Li presented the 2021-2022 proposed Institute budget for second reading and thanked Mr. O'Connor for his help making the presentation more innovative and user friendly.</p> <p>After a question and answer period, Mr. O'Connor moved to approve the 2021-2022 Institute Budget for second and final reading. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Gustafson.</p> <p>The motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.</p>	
Cash Reserve Policy	Presenter: Sarah Timmons
<p>Attorney Timmons presented this item and explained the need for a Cash Reserve Policy and stated the purpose today is to authorize Mr. O'Connor as Treasurer of the Board and for Mr. O'Connor to work with Institute staff to create a Cash Reserve Policy.</p> <p>Dr. Gustafson stated that the Board is directing Institute staff to work with Mr. O'Connor as Treasurer of the Board to develop a Cash Reserve Policy.</p>	

Information Items

Organizational Chart	Presenter: Mr. Vamshi Rudrapati
<p>Mr. Rudrapati shared and reviewed the proposed Organizational Chart with the Board members. A final Organizational Chart will be presented at the next Board meeting.</p>	
Financial Report	Presenter: Mr. John Li
<p>Mr. Li presented the Statement of Revenues and Balance Sheet reports and the current student enrollment report and reviewed both for the Board.</p>	

Public Comments

No public comments were submitted for this meeting.

Superintendent's Report

Mr. Runyan reported that Governor McMaster signed a bill to provide \$9,000,000 to charter schools to cover a gap in funding out of his own discretionary funds and the charter schools cannot thank him enough. He and Superintendent Neeley worked together with the Governor to obtain the funding. He added that had both Boards not signed their Resolutions this would not have been possible.

Mr. Rudrapati gave a shout-out to Ms. Kirby Jerry and Ms. Grace Rubenzer for their work with new school applications. This was the first time either had worked in this capacity. He added that Mrs. Christy Junkins was instrumental in this process.

Adjournment

As there was no further business, Dr. Hellams moved for adjournment.

Mr. O'Connor seconded the motion and the meeting adjourned by acclamation.