

The Charter Institute at Erskine
Board Meeting Minutes
April 10, 2019

The Board meeting of the Charter Institute at Erskine was held in the Chestnut Room on the Erskine College campus at 9:30 AM. President Dr. Rob Gustafson called the meeting to order and gave the Invocation. Board members in attendance were Dr. Rob Gustafson, Dr. Tom Hellams, Mr. Stu Rodman, and Mrs. Marjorie (Beth) Gustafson (arrived at 11:05 AM). Attendees from the Charter Institute at Erskine included Mr. Cameron Runyan, Mr. Vamshi Rudrapati, Mr. Johnley Li, Mrs. Mary Green Thomasson, Mrs. Laura Merrick, Mrs. Celina Patton, Ms. Per'Chea Nunally, and Mrs. Paula Gray.

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

Dr. Gustafson announced that Item 10, Public Comments, has been moved up in the agenda and called for approval of the agenda as amended for the April 10, 2019, meeting and the minutes for February 13, 2019. Dr. Hellams moved for approval of the amended agenda for the April 10, 2019, meeting and the minutes for February 13, 2019. The motion was seconded by Mr. Rodman and carried unanimously.

Executive Session:

Dr. Hellams moved to go into Executive Session for discussion of contractual matters. The motion was seconded by Mr. Rodman and approved.

Return to Open Session:

The Board returned to Open Session at 10:38 AM. No action was taken.

Public Comments:

There were no public comments for this meeting.

Action Items – New Charter School Application Hearings:

- a) Indian Land Preparatory Academy

Anthony Rodriguez shared a PowerPoint presentation on behalf of Indian Land Preparatory Academy and, along with other committee members, answered questions from Board members.

Mr. Rudrapati reviewed the application process and explained the training and capacity meetings that were held for the applicants. He added that two external reviewers were used to review the applications.

Ms. Nunally reported that Ms. Laura Blackmore, one of the external reviewers, does not recommend approval of this charter. She also stated that the additional external reviewer, Mrs. Melinda Tavernier, does recommend approval of the charter. Ms. Nunally stated that the Charter Institute at Erskine team recommends that this application not be approved by the Board.

Dr. Hellams moved that the Board not approve the charter application for Indian Land Preparatory Academy at this time. The motion was seconded by Mr. Rodman and carried.

b) Leadership Technology Charter School

Samuel Hiott shared a PowerPoint presentation on behalf of Leadership Technology Charter School and answered questions from Board members.

Ms. Nunally reported that Ms. Laura Blackmore does not recommend approval of this charter. Mrs. Melinda Tavernier also does not recommend approval of the charter. Ms. Nunally stated that the Charter Institute at Erskine team recommends that this application not be approved by the Board.

Dr. Hellams moved that the Board not approve the charter application for Leadership Technology Charter School. The motion was seconded by Mr. Rodman and carried.

c) Rock Hill Preparatory Academy

Dr. Stewart Weinberg and Mr. Vernon Grier shared a PowerPoint presentation on behalf of Rock Hill Preparatory Academy and along with other committee members answered questions from Board members.

Ms. Nunally reported that Ms. Laura Blackmore recommends approval of this charter. Mrs. Melinda Tavernier recommends conditional approval of the charter. Ms. Nunally stated that the Charter Institute at Erskine team recommends that this application be approved by the Board.

Mr. Rodman moved that the Board approve the charter application for Rock Hill Preparatory Academy. The motion was seconded by Dr. Hellams and carried.

d) Team CFA Cherokee

Tony Helton shared a PowerPoint presentation on behalf of Team CFA Cherokee and along with other committee members answered questions from Board members.

Ms. Nunally reported that Ms. Laura Blackmore does not recommend approval of this charter. Mrs. Melinda Tavernier recommends approval of the charter. Ms. Nunally stated that the Charter Institute at Erskine team recommends that this application be approved by the Board.

Dr. Hellams moved that the Board approve the charter application for Team CFA Cherokee. The motion was seconded by Mr. Rodman and carried.

Information Items:

a) Finance and Enrollment

Mr. Li presented this item for information and answered questions. Discussion was held regarding the fluctuation of enrollment.

Mr. Li announced that a RFP for audit purposes was sent out and he will present this item at the May meeting. He also reported that the Institute's 501(c)(3) was received.

b) Student Success Profile

Mr. Rudrapati distributed copies of the Student Success Profile for information and Board review and stated that this will be an action item at the next Board meeting.

Institute Updates:

Mr. Rudrapati discussed the Institute Insights item that goes out to all constituents every week and reported that the awards banquet being held on May 3, 2019, has been completely paid for by sponsors.

Mr. Runyan applauded the Institute team for their work and the relationships that have been built with the schools. Their dedication is having a real impact. Mr. Rudrapati gave a special shout-out to Ms. Nunally for all her work with the new school applications and added that she has also worked hard to track racial compositions. Mr. Runyan added that the legislators are taking the racial composition of the schools very seriously.

Adjournment

As there was no further business, a motion was made to adjourn by Dr Hellams. The meeting was adjourned by acclamation.