

The Charter Institute at Erskine
Board Meeting Minutes
October 16, 2019

The Board meeting of the Charter Institute at Erskine was held on October 16, 2019, at 11:00 A.M. at Erskine College. President Dr. Rob Gustafson called the meeting to order. Board members in attendance were Dr. Rob Gustafson, Mrs. Marjorie (Beth) Gustafson, Dr. Tom Hellams, Mr. Stu Rodman, and Rev. Tony Foster. Mr. Martin O'Connor attended via conference call. Attendees from the Charter Institute at Erskine included Mr. Cameron Runyan, Mr. Vamshi Rudrapati, Mr. Johnley Li, Mr. Allen Ray, Mrs. Kristen Stolpa, and Mrs. Paula Gray.

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

Dr. Gustafson called for approval of the agenda for the October 16, 2019, meeting. Mr. Rodman moved to approve the agenda for October 16, 2019. The motion was seconded by Dr. Hellams and carried unanimously.

Dr. Gustafson called for approval of the minutes of the August 14, 2019, meeting. Mr. Rodman moved for approval of the minutes for August 14, 2019. The motion was seconded by Dr. Hellams and carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Dr. Hellams to go into Executive Session for the discussion of contractual matters. Mrs. Gustafson seconded the motion which carried unanimously. No votes were taken during Executive Session and the Board returned to Open Session at 12:14 P.M.

Action Items:

Dr. Gustafson explained that each school requesting a transfer to the Charter Institute at Erskine would have ten minutes to present their report.

a) South Carolina Connections Academy Transfer Request

Mr. Josh Kitchens, Executive Director, South Carolina Connections Academy, presented the request for a transfer on behalf of the school via Skype, and outlined their successes and reasons for requesting the transfer. Mr. Kitchens also introduced his administrative staff and Board Chair, Gary Prince.

The report was followed by questions from the Board members and a recommendation from the Institute, which was presented by Mrs. Stolpa, to approve the transfer.

Mrs. Gustafson moved to affirm the readiness of the Charter Institute at Erskine to receive South Carolina Connections Academy into its portfolio of schools with a determination that the school

meets or exceeds all readiness criteria after having reviewed the academic, financial, and operational performance of the school, as well as considered the impact to students and families, and the readiness of the Institute to provide the necessary support and oversight that would ensure the promulgation of a high quality charter school in fulfillment of the school and Institute missions. The motion was seconded by Dr. Hellams and carried unanimously.

b) Lowcountry Leadership Charter School Transfer Request

Brianne Hudak, School Leader/Principal; Chryse Jackson, PowerSchool and Admissions Administrator; and Julianne Lang, Leader of Student Interaction/Assistant Principal, presented the request and report on behalf of Lowcountry Leadership Charter School.

The report was followed by questions from the Board members and a recommendation from the Institute, which was presented by Mrs. Stolpa, to approve the transfer.

Dr. Hellams moved to affirm the readiness of the Charter Institute at Erskine to receive Lowcountry Leadership Charter School into its portfolio of schools with a determination that the school meets or exceeds all readiness criteria after having reviewed the academic, financial, and operational performance of the school, as well as considered the impact to students and families, and the readiness of the Institute to provide the necessary support and oversight that would ensure the promotion of a high quality charter school in fulfillment of the school and Institute missions. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Gustafson and carried unanimously.

c) Horse Creek Charter School Transfer Request

Dr. Anne Marie Taylor, Principal, presented the request and report on behalf of Horse Creek Charter School and introduced Kevin Murray, Board President.

The report was followed by questions from the Board members and a recommendation from the Institute, which was presented by Mrs. Stolpa, to approve the transfer.

Rev. Foster moved to affirm the readiness of the Charter Institute at Erskine to receive Horse Creek Charter School into its portfolio of schools with a determination that the school meets or exceeds all readiness criteria after having reviewed the academic, financial, and operational performance of the school, as well as considered the impact to students and families, and the readiness of the Institute to provide the necessary support and oversight that would ensure the promulgation of a high quality charter school in fulfillment of the school and Institute missions. The motion was seconded by Mr. Rodman and carried unanimously.

Mr. Runyan added for the record, that the Institute wanted to thank the groups that were presenters today, some of them having to travel from great distances. Some of the boards were not able to attend in person, so although this was not a call-in meeting, per board bylaws, an allowance was made for them to Skype-in as there is no public call-in for this meeting. He

expressed his thanks to Lowcountry Leadership Charter School's, Connections Academy's, and Horse Creek Charter School's Boards of Directors, who were on the call only for the purpose of their presentations.

d) Midlands Arts Conservatory Transfer Request

Bradford Tillman, Principal, presented the request and report on behalf of Midlands Arts Conservatory and introduced Rosemarie Craig, Board Chair, and David Turner, Board Member.

The report was followed by questions from the Board members.

Mr. Rodman moved to affirm the readiness of the Charter Institute at Erskine to receive Midlands Arts Conservatory into its portfolio of schools with a determination that the school meets or exceeds all readiness criteria after having reviewed the academic, financial, and operational performance of the school, as well as considered the impact to students and families, and the readiness of the Institute to provide the necessary support and oversight that would ensure the promulgation of a high quality charter school in fulfillment of the school and Institute missions. The motion was seconded by Dr. Hellams and carried unanimously.

e) Renaissance Collegiate Academy Transfer Request

Hugh Harmon, Executive Director; Fran Boyd, Director of Operations; and Stephen Gilchrist, Board Chairman, presented the request and report on behalf of Renaissance Collegiate Academy.

The report was followed by questions from the Board members and a recommendation from the Institute, which was presented by Mrs. Stolpa, to approve the transfer.

Mr. Runyan stated that he and Mr. Rudrapati visited this school. Mr. Runyan explained that this school is somewhat unique because this school was an incubator project of another authorizer. Significant resources were put into this school. It was a pleasant surprise to receive a call from Renaissance Collegiate Academy and to learn about their desire to transfer to the Institute. Mr. Runyan added that this is not something the Institute has encountered before, but he thinks, as the Board has heard from the testimony today, it really speaks to the reputation that the Institute has developed over the past couple of years that members of a school can attend a joint meeting of 250 people representing two charter-school authorizers, and can see the cultural differences between one authorizer and another. Mr. Runyan stated that he is very proud the Institute's team and that he is thankful for what has been accomplished at the Institute. He believes that the transfer request of Renaissance Collegiate Academy, in particular, confirms the quality of what has been built over the past couple of years by the Charter Institute at Erskine.

Dr. Gustafson stated that the Board of the Institute is proud of what has been done and how amazing it is. He told the representatives from Renaissance Collegiate Academy that if the

Board decides to approve the transfer, he thinks the Institute can help them and wants to help them.

Dr. Hellams moved to affirm the readiness of the Charter Institute at Erskine to receive Renaissance Collegiate Academy into its portfolio of schools with a determination that the school meets or exceeds all eligible criteria after having reviewed the academic, financial, and operational performance of the school, as well as considered the impact to students and families, and the readiness of the Institute to provide the necessary support and oversight that would ensure the promotion of a high quality charter school in fulfillment of the school and Institute missions. The motion was seconded by Rev. Foster and carried unanimously.

f) Team CFA Request for Amendments

Tony Helton and Angela Dawn Vinesett presented the request for amendments to the charter for Team CFA and asked to change the school name to Cherokee Charter Academy and change the management organization from Team CFA to Tutelage Education Solutions, LLC.

The request was followed by questions from the Board members.

Mr. Rodman moved to approve the amendment to change the school name to Cherokee Charter Academy and to allow the planning committee to contract with Tutelage Education Solutions, LLC, as their new Charter Management Organization. The motion was seconded by Dr. Hellams and carried unanimously.

g) Odyssey Online Learning Request for Amendments

Tom Scott, Board Chair; Eric Childers, Principal; Tracey Stuckey, Board Member; and Andrea Amburn, Operations Manager, presented the request for an amendment to the charter of Odyssey Online Learning to be designated as an Alternative Education Campus.

The request was followed by questions from the Board members.

Mr. Rudrapati stated that those on the Board for Odyssey Online Learning are constantly making changes and are risk-takers who seem to have found the missing piece. Mr. Rudrapati reported that the Charter Institute at Erskine feels very strongly about the positive changes with this amendment.

Dr. Hellams moved to approve the Odyssey Online Learning to be designated as an Alternative Education Campus and requested the Institute to monitor the student population to ensure the school is meeting the numbers needed to meet the Alternative Education Campus qualifications to operate as an Alternative Education Campus for the 2020 school year and every three years. The motion was seconded by Rev. Foster and carried unanimously.

Public Comments:

There were no public comments for this meeting.

Adjournment

As there was no further business, a motion was made to adjourn by Dr. Hellams at 4:42 P.M. and seconded by Rev. Foster. The meeting was adjourned.

10/24/2019 3:04 PM