

The Charter Institute at Erskine
Board Meeting Minutes
November 13, 2019

The Board meeting of the Charter Institute at Erskine was held on November 13, 2019, at 11:00 A.M. via conference call. President Dr. Rob Gustafson called the meeting to order and Reverend Tony Foster gave the invocation. Board members in attendance were Dr. Rob Gustafson, Dr. Tom Hellams, Mr. Martin O'Connor, Mr. Stu Rodman, and Rev. Tony Foster. Mrs. Marjorie (Beth) Gustafson joined the meeting after the invocation. Attendees from the Charter Institute at Erskine included Mr. Cameron Runyan; Mr. Vamshi Rudrapati; Mr. Johnley Li; Mr. Allen Ray; Mrs. Kristen Stolpa; Sarah Timmons, Attorney at Law; and Mrs. Paula Gray.

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

Dr. Gustafson called for a motion to amend the agenda for the November 13, 2019, meeting, to defer the item for the transfer of Renaissance Collegiate Academy and the item for consideration of the charter amendment for Summit Classical School. Rev. Foster moved to amend the agenda deferring the transfer item for Renaissance Collegiate Academy. The motion was seconded by Dr. Hellams and carried unanimously. Mr. O'Connor moved to amend the agenda deferring the consideration of the charter amendment for Summit Classical School. The motion was seconded by Mr. Rodman and carried unanimously. Dr. Hellams moved to accept the agenda for the November 13, 2019, meeting, as amended. Mrs. Gustafson seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

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

Action Items:

Dr. Gustafson requested one motion regarding the transfers of South Carolina Connections Academy, Lowcountry Leadership Charter School, Horse Creek Charter School, and Midlands Arts Conservatory.

Mr. Rudrapati stated that the Institute is recommending that the Board accept the transfers for these schools and added that the Institute is looking at student-level data, finances of the schools, and making sure they close strong and open even stronger with the Institute.

Attorney Timmons reported that the process for the transfers is following the same precedents set last year for the transfers.

Dr. Hellams moved to accept the transfer of South Carolina Connections Academy, Lowcountry Leadership Charter School, Horse Creek Charter School, and Midlands Arts Conservatory as requested. The motion was seconded by Mr. O'Connor and carried unanimously.

Informational Items:

a) Finance Update

Mr. Li presented this item, reviewed the budget, and answered questions with input from Mr. Runyan.

Mr. Rodman questioned the Accounts Payable line item on the Balance Sheet under Assets. Mr. Li explained those funds are accounts payable to the schools. Mr. Rodman requested that a corresponding liability for those funds be listed under Liabilities to offset those funds. Mr. Li will provide this information.

b) Enrollment Update

Mr. Li presented the enrollment as of November 5, 2019, and the 45-day count enrollment for information.

Institute Updates:

Mr. Runyan reported that the SC Public Charter School District is meeting on November 14, 2019, to take up the transfer requests. Three of the schools, SC Connections Academy, Midlands Arts Conservatory, and Lowcountry Leadership Charter School have received communications from the superintendent of the SC Public Charter School District that he intends to support their request for transfer and said that he wants to make sure the process was as smooth and friendly as possible. Based on this information, Mr. Runyan stated that he anticipates that the district's staff recommendation to their Board on November 14, 2019, will be to approve the transfer requests. He will be present for that meeting and report the outcomes and the ultimate decision on the transfers to the Board by that afternoon.

Mr. Runyan stated that the Institute staff is having their annual Thanksgiving luncheon on November 19, 2019, at 11:30 AM, and bringing their families. He invited all Board members to join the staff, if possible.

Mr. Rudrapati reported that the data team is working diligently and going to schools and having meetings with teachers to show how to "Move the Needle". Information will soon be shared with Board members regarding the ways the schools are being held accountable. The Institute is seeing great results and staff are often visiting schools and board meetings. Mr. Rudrapati added that he is thankful for the Board and would love for all members to attend the Thanksgiving luncheon.

Dr. Gustafson stated his appreciation of the invitation and added that he has looked back over the year and is amazed at the progress that has been made. He expressed his deep appreciation for the staff and the leadership of Mr. Runyan and Mr. Rudrapati.

Public Comments:

There were no public comments for this meeting.

Adjournment

As there was no further business, a motion was made to adjourn by Mr. Rodman at 11:29 A.M. and seconded by Dr. Hellams. The meeting was adjourned.