

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

The Board meeting of the Charter Institute at Erskine was held on January 8, 2020, at 11:00 A.M. via conference call with Dr. Tom Hellams presiding. Dr. Hellams called the meeting to order and gave the invocation. Board members in attendance were Dr. Tom Hellams, Mr. Martin O'Connor, Mr. Stu Rodman, and Rev. Tony Foster. Mrs. Marjorie (Beth) Gustafson joined the meeting at 11:14 AM. Attendees from the Charter Institute at Erskine included Mr. Cameron Runyan, Mr. Vamshi Rudrapati, Mr. Johnley Li, Mr. Allen Ray, Mrs. Christy Junkins, Mr. Derek Phillips, and Mrs. Paula Gray.

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

Dr. Hellams called for a motion to approve the agenda for the January 8, 2020, meeting. Mr. O'Connor moved to approve the agenda for the January 8, 2020, meeting. Mr. Rodman seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Dr. Hellams called for approval of the minutes of the November 13, 2019, meeting. Mr. Rodman moved to approve the minutes of the November 13, 2019, meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. O'Connor and carried unanimously.

Action Items:

a) 2020 Meeting Schedule

Dr. Hellams reported that the 2020 meeting schedule was prepared like the previous schedule, with meetings set for the second Wednesday in each month. The only exception is in November and that date is for the third Wednesday due to the Veterans' Day holiday.

Mr. O'Connor moved to adopt the 2020 meeting schedule as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Rodman. Mr. O'Connor asked if any of the meeting dates were predesignated as important for attendance and Dr. Hellams asked which dates were foreseen as being face-to-face. Mr. Runyan reported that the February meeting will have a full agenda and will be face-to-face and since the application cycle is currently underway; hearings for the applications should be in April or May. The meetings for the hearings will also be face-to-face. Mr. Rudrapati added that there will also be several

amendments coming before the Board, but those are being combined to be presented only once or twice during the year. The motion carried unanimously.

b) Request for Waiver from Royal Live Oaks Academy

Mrs. Junkins explained that Royal Live Oaks Academy was closed four days because of the Governor's mandatory evacuation of the area during Hurricane Dorian. Three of the days have been included as make-up days on the school's calendar and Royal Live Oaks Academy has requested a waiver for the fourth day.

Mr. Rodman moved to approve the request for a waiver of one day missed due to the Governor's mandatory evacuation of the area during Hurricane Dorian for Royal Live Oaks Academy. The motion was seconded by Mr. O'Connor.

Mr. O'Connor asked if there is any impact, financial or otherwise, with granting this waiver. Mr. Rudrapati stated that there would be no impact.

The motion carried unanimously.

Informational Items:

a) Finance Update

Mr. Li presented this item, reviewed the budget, and answered questions with input from Mr. Runyan, who explained that the revenues are derived from the head count of students at the 5th, 45th, and 135th day counts.

b) Enrollment Update

Mr. Li presented the enrollment as of January 6, 2020, for information.

Superintendent Updates:

Mr. Runyan reported that the House Education Ad Hoc Committee that was formed to look at charter schools ended with the committee seeking to put forward a report to recommend changes to the Charter Schools Act. The Institute is currently waiting on the draft report that will go to the full House Education Committee. At that point, it will be up to them to determine if a bill will be filed. The Institute will watch closely to see what happens. Mr. Runyan added that the legislative session begins next Tuesday for the second half of a two-year session. The Institute budget has been presented, and he will testify before the House

next Wednesday. The Institute is not asking for a per pupil increase but anticipates that the SC Public Charter School District will ask for an increase. The Governor's office identified a significant carryover of monies that were over appropriated for last year. Mr. Runyan stated that the Institute returned their over-appropriated amount received last year, and the money was used to fund police in schools.

Mr. Runyan also reported that there are currently four schools transferring into the Institute, and the staff is working hard to ensure effective and efficient transfers. He added that the draft audit is expected next Friday, and the Institute is using the same auditors as the SC Public Charter School District. He hopes to see a good, clean audit. Mr. Runyan noted that the Institute's departments are working on their budgets for 2020-2021 and hopes to have a presentation for the Board in April.

Mr. Runyan announced that Royal Live Oaks Academy is moving into their new facility and that the ribbon cutting ceremony is January 24, 2020. Dr. Gustafson plans to attend, and all other Board members are invited. He will send emails to all Board members soon regarding additional school visits and try to set those up for all interested parties.

Mr. O'Connor conveyed his appreciation for the Institute staff and said they are "knocking it out of the park." Dr. Hellams stated his agreement with that statement.

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. O'Connor at 11:45 A.M. and seconded by Mrs. Gustafson. The meeting was adjourned.