

Charter Institute at Erskine Meeting Minutes

November 18, 2020 | 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 Mrs. Beth Gustafson (11:06 AM) Martin O'Connor (11:10 AM)

Attendees from Charter Institute at Erskine
Vamshi Rudrapati (Director)
Cameron Runyan (CEO)
Sarah Timmons

Other attendees from the Charter Institute at Erskine included: Mr. John Li, Ms. Haley Perez, Mrs. Christy Junkins, Mrs. Ashley Sturkie, Mrs. Paula Gray, Mrs. Ciera Bing, Ms. Emma Shealy, Ms. Sarah Shealy, Mr. Robbie Anderson, Ms. Ashley Epperson, Mrs. Celina Patton, Dr. Sherri Herbst, and Mr. Jason Jones.

Dr. Gustafson called the meeting to order at 11:00 AM and opened with a prayer.

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

Adoption of the Agenda for the November 18, 2020, Meeting

Dr. Hellams moved to approve the agenda for November 18, 2020, as presented.

Mr. Rodman seconded, and the motion was approved unanimously by roll call vote.

Approval of the Minutes of September 16, 2020

Mr. Rodman moved to approve the minutes of the September 16, 2020, meeting, as presented.

Rev. Foster seconded, and the motion was approved unanimously by roll call vote.

Executive Session for discussion of negotiations incident to proposed contractual arrangements

Mr. Rodman moved to go into Executive Session for discussion of negotiations incident to proposed contractual arrangements. The motion was seconded by Dr. Hellams and the Board went into Executive Session at 11:05 AM.

The Board returned to Open Session at 11:41 AM. No action was taken during the Executive Session.

Action Items

Attorney Sarah Timmons reported that the items for Belton Preparatory Academy, Summit Classical School, and The South Carolina Preparatory Academy are to request amendments to add an Education Management Organization (EMO). Dr. Gustafson added that the waiver requests state that the EMO hires the principal, which is against the Charter Institute at Erskine's policy.

Attorney Timmons stated that she has worked extensively with the schools and the EMO contracts give the schools' boards the authority and ability to act regarding the Principal position even though the EMO hires the

principal. This was built in to add due process elements to protect the Boards, which is why the Institute can support the waiver request.

Mr. Runyan added that the staff is now comfortable with the due process and timelines in these specific waivers.

Dr. Gustafson expressed his concerns but does appreciate the work put into the waivers. He stated he was uncomfortable with the general waiver request. Mr. Rodman agreed and asked that it be excluded.

Mr. Rodman moved to grant the waiver requests for Belton Preparatory Academy, Summit Classical School, and The South Carolina Preparatory Academy to allow the EMO to employ the principal, with the removal of the general waiver language "but not limited to" from the approved waiver.

The motion was seconded by Dr. Hellams and approved unanimously by roll call vote.

Belton Preparatory Academy Amendment	Presenter: Sarah Timmons
<p>Attorney Timmons presented the draft management agreement and stated that she thinks it would be good for Belton Preparatory Academy to enter into an agreement with the EMO (Reason and Republic). The Institute supports the contract but there are still some non-material elements that are outstanding and need to be worked out prior to finalization.</p> <p>After discussion, which included a statement from Belton Preparatory Academy Board member, Angie King, Dr. Hellams moved to accept the request from Belton Preparatory Academy with the previously approved waiver that the EMO can employ the principal and the condition that the School will work with the Institute to resolve the outstanding non-material provisions in the agreement.</p> <p>Rev. Foster seconded the motion.</p> <p>The motion was passed unanimously by roll call vote.</p>	
Summit Classical School Amendment	Presenter: Sarah Timmons
<p>Attorney Timmons presented this item for approval.</p> <p>After discussion, which included a statement from Summit Classical School Board Chair, Jeremy Sparks, and the Principal, Mrs. Terrie Hall, Mr. Rodman moved to accept the request from Summit Classical School with the previous approved waiver that the EMO can employ the principal and the condition that the School will work with the Institute to resolve the outstanding non-material provisions in the agreement.</p> <p>Rev. Foster seconded the motion.</p> <p>The motion was passed unanimously by roll call vote.</p>	
The South Carolina Preparatory Academy Amendment	Presenter: Sarah Timmons
<p>Attorney Timmons presented this item for approval.</p> <p>After discussion, which included a statement from the South Carolina Preparatory Academy Board Chair, Grant Weatherford and member Tracey Williams, Dr. Hellams moved to accept the request from the South Carolina Preparatory Academy with the previous approved waiver that the EMO can employ the principal and the condition that the School will work with the Institute to work out the outstanding non-material provisions in the agreement.</p> <p>Mr. Rodman seconded the motion.</p> <p>The motion was passed unanimously by roll call vote.</p>	
Imagine Learning Contract	Presenter: Haley Perez
<p>Ms. Haley Perez presented this item and explained the Imagine Learning Contract. Eight of thirteen Title I schools would participate in this partnership to provide programs to over 5,000 students. This program</p>	

includes research-based intervention in ELA and mathematics for grades K-8 and Imagine Learning is the sole source provider.

Mr. Rodman moved to approve the contract with Imagine Learning.

The motion was seconded by Rev. Foster.

The motion was passed unanimously by roll call vote.

Information Items

Budget Report	Presenter: John Li
Mr. Li presented the Statement of Revenues and Balance Sheet reports and the current student enrollment report and reviewed both for the Board.	

Public Comments

No public comments were submitted for this meeting.

Superintendent's Report

Mr. Runyan stated his appreciation to all of the Board members for everything they have done to impact the lives of the children at the Institute.

Mr. Runyan reported that the joint resolution with the SC Public Charter School District (SCPCSD) has fundamentally changed the landscape of schools in South Carolina. Lines of communication are now open and the two districts are jointly hosting trainings that expand to all districts in the state. The real issue for this year will be funding and the two districts testified jointly at the Education Oversight Committee meeting last week, which was a historical dynamic and currently are working on other collaborative ventures such as joint shared services.

Mr. Runyan announced that Kusuma Buddhiraju and Rich Melzer are holding data meetings with each school. They have centralized the data for all schools and are able to begin in real time to analyze data showing strengths and weaknesses.

Mr. Runyan stated that he, along with other members of the staff, will be traveling early in December to visit the schools.

Mr. Runyan reported that the next time the Board meets the legislative session will probably be underway and the big goal is funding and getting permanent funding for charter schools. Charter schools have proven their value.

Mr. Runyan said that this have been an interesting year and hats-off to the team for weathering the ups and downs through it all. He added that as a result of COVID-19 and the influx of students, Special Ed has doubled this year and thanked Celina Patton and her team for they are doing to support the schools. He is blessed and thankful to have all staff.

Mr. Rudrapati introduced Jason Jones, our new team member, and stated that he is the only person in the state with both state and school-level PowerSchool knowledge.

Dr. Gustafson added that this has been a challenging last few months and thanked all staff for all they do and expressed his hope that everyone's holidays are good.

Adjournment

As there was no further business, Rev. Foster moved for adjournment.

Dr. Hellams seconded the motion and the meeting adjourned.

The meeting adjourned at 12:50 PM.