

Charter Institute at Erskine Meeting Minutes

October 20, 2021 | time 11:00 a.m. | Meeting location *Via Zoom conference call*

Chair Dr. Tom Hellams

Members in Attendance Mr. Stu Rodman
Mr. Martin O'Connor
Dr. Gordon Query (11:07 AM)
Dr. Noel Brownlee
Mr. Todd Carnes

Members Absent Dr. Tony Foster

Attendees from Charter Institute at Erskine

Mr. Cameron Runyan (Superintendent/CEO)
Mr. Vamshi Rudrapati (Director)
Ms. Sarah Timmons (Counsel)

Chairman Hellams called the meeting to order at 11:01 AM.

The invocation was delivered by Chairman Hellams.

Ms. Celina Patton called the roll, and a quorum of the board was present.

Adoption of the Agenda for the October 20, 2021 Meeting

Mr. Rodman moved to approve the agenda for October 20, 2021, deferring items 8C-Teacher of the Year Recognition and 8G-Math Professional Development Services.

Mr. O'Connor seconded, and the motion was approved unanimously.

Approval of Minutes for the August 11, 2021 Meeting

Mr. Carnes moved to approve the minutes of the August 11, 2021, meeting.

Mr. Rodman seconded, and the motion was approved unanimously.

Executive Session

Mr. Carnes moved to enter executive session for board to receive legal advice.

Mr. O'Connor seconded, and the motion was passed unanimously.

The board entered executive session at 11:08 AM.

The board resumed open session at 11:41 AM.

Action Items

Lowcountry Leadership Charter School Amendment Request	Presenter: Ms. Christy Junkins
Mrs. Junkins presented the Lowcountry Leadership Charter School Amendments and reviewed the requested changes to the bylaws. Mrs. Junkins added that staff recommendation is for approval of the amendments.	
Mr. Rodman moved to approve the South Carolina Virtual Charter School amendments as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Carnes and carried unanimously by roll call vote.	

Comprehensive School Snapshot	Presenter: Ms. Christy Junkins
<p>Ms. Junkins presented the proposed new Comprehensive School Snapshot. This was developed with school input to be issued quarterly instead of yearly, which will enable schools shift more frequently to improve outcomes.</p> <p>Superintendent Runyan stated that this will give greater opportunity to improve outcomes.</p> <p>Dr. Query moved to approve the Comprehensive School Snapshot as presented. The motion was seconded by Dr. Brownlee and was carried unanimously by roll call vote.</p>	
Grants Compliance Review Continuation	Presenter: Ms. Haley Perez
<p>Ms. Perez presented a request to approve the continuation of the grants compliance review. The law firm has completed its review and is working on reviewing our policies and procedures for the oversight and monitoring of schools to provide us feedback.</p> <p>Mr. O'Connor commended the staff for their work on this to ensure The Institute is in full compliance.</p> <p>Superintendent Runyan congratulated the Federal Programs and Finance staff for doing a great job on staying compliant.</p> <p>Mr. Carnes moved to approve the Grants Compliance Review Continuation as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. O'Connor and was carried unanimously by a roll call vote.</p>	

Information Items

Superintendent Runyan gave a brief introduction on the Recognition of South Carolina Virtual Charter School and Belton Preparatory Academy on their outstanding academic results.

Recognition of South Carolina Virtual Charter School	Presenter: Ms. Christy Junkins
<p>Ms. Junkins recognized South Carolina Virtual Charter School for their outstanding academic achievement. They are the highest performing virtual charter school in ELA and Math. They also increased their graduation rate by 12.3%.</p> <p>Chairman Hellams called on everyone in the meeting to applaud.</p> <p>Dr. Cherry Daniel, Chief Executive Director of South Carolina Virtual Charter School, commended her leadership team and thanked The Institute for their support, professional development, and follow-up with her school.</p>	
Recognition of Belton Preparatory Academy	Presenter: Ms. Christy Junkins
<p>Ms. Junkins recognized Belton Preparatory Academy for their outstanding academic achievement. They are ranked very highly statewide as the Highest Performing Title I School in ELA and Math and #6 of 666 elementary schools in Math.</p> <p>Deirdre McCullough, Executive Director of Belton Preparatory Academy, started to thank everyone but was cut short due to technical difficulties on her end.</p> <p>Superintendent Runyan commended them on their achievement and noted that they are making results despite being in an old church building and modular units.</p> <p>Chairman Hellams applauded the school's leadership and accomplishments.</p>	
Transfer Requests	Presenter: Ms. Celina Patton
<p>Superintendent Runyan informed the board that two schools have submitted requests to transfer to the Limestone Charter Association, a newly formed statewide charter school authorizer.</p> <p>Ms. Patton first presented on Coastal Leadership Academy, which has been noncompliant in several areas over several years. Ms. Junkins reported that the school has poor academic results and has had their enrollment frozen twice in three years.</p>	

Ms. Patton then presented on Gates School, a school that just opened for this school year. They are noncompliant in several areas and submitted their transfer request in response their notice of noncompliance.

Ms. Timmons noted that both schools submitted their requests well past the September 1 deadline established in The Institute's Board adopted School Transfer Policy.

Financial Report

Presenter: Mr. John Li

Mr. Li presented the Balance Sheet and Statement of Revenue and Expenditure reports and the current student enrollment report and reviewed both for the Board, which were included in the board packet. Mr. Lee stated that The Institute is 27% ahead of revenue, on target with expenses, and has exceeded expectations on reserves. He noted that student enrollment is still increasing.

Chairman Hellams commended staff on the great work.

ESOL Consultant Services

Presenter: Ms. Celina Patton

Ms. Patton presented the English Speakers of Other Languages "ESOL" Consultant Informational Item, which was included in the board packet.

There were no questions or comments from the board.

Classroom Culture Professional Development

Presenter: Ms. Haley Perez

Ms. Perez presented the Classroom Culture Professional Development Services for Schools Informational Item, which was included in the board packet.

There were no questions or comments from the board.

Kids First Conference

Presenter: Mr. Cameron Runyan

Superintendent Runyan presented on the First Annual Kids First Conference that was held at the end of September. A highlight video of the conference was shown and Superintendent Runyan informed the board that everyone has received great feedback on the conference.

Chairman Hellams commended staff for their work on the conference.

Ms. Deirdre McCullough, Executive Director of Belton Preparatory Academy, at this time had resolved her technical issues and addressed the board. She said that she was thankful for the recognition. She also echoed the feedback presented on the Kids First Conference by saying it was one of the best conferences she has attended. Ms. McCullough thanked the Institute for support and for the focus on accountability and excellence in all areas. She commended her school staff and said she couldn't ask for a better team that gives everything to produce results.

Public Comments

No public comments were submitted for this meeting.

Adjournment

Chairman Hellams thanked everyone and being that there was no further business, entertained a motion to adjourn.

Dr. Query made the motion to adjourn.

Mr. Carnes seconded the motion, passed unanimously, and the meeting adjourned at 12:58 PM.