

MINUTES

South Carolina Public Charter School District Board of Trustees Meeting

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March 13, 2025
10:00 a.m.

APPROVED
DATE: Apr. 10, 2025
BY: [Signature]

I. Call to Order and Introductions

Chair Cyndi C Mosteller called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

II. Invocation

Trustee Kip Miller led the Invocation.

III. Pledge of Allegiance

Trustee Stephen Gilchrist led the Pledge of Allegiance.

IV. Position and Mission Statement

Trustee Dr. Billy Strickland read the Position and Mission Statements.

I. Roll Call

Secretary Dexter WJ Davis recorded Roll Call.

Board Members in attendance were Chair Cyndi Mosteller, Secretary Dexter WJ Davis, Trustee Dr. Teresa Pope, Trustee Jonathan Butcher, Trustee Billy Strickland, Trustees Kip Miller, and Trustee Stephen Gilchrist. A quorum was present.

Staff present were Mr. Chris Neeley, Mrs. Emalee Baker, Mrs. Emily Paul, Mr. Nick Michael, Mr. Brad Henry, Mr. Erik Norton, Mrs. Amanda Freeman, Mrs. Nicole Templar, Mrs. Becky Huggins, Mrs. Ariel Eaves, Mrs. Dee Drayton, Mrs. Betty Freeman, Mrs. Jackie Snell, Mrs. Kristin Farmer, Mrs. Sarah Boria, Ms. Chi-Chi Abando, Mrs. Marlene Sellars, Mr. Chad Higgins, Ms. Crystal Dennis, and Mrs. Teresa Etheredge.

The guests present were Mr. Nathan Railey, IAP; Mr. Reginald Pitts, Cantey; Josh Trahan and Donna Leopard, Fox Creek High School; Tara Jordan, Aeris Jordan and John Jordan, Palmetto Scholars Academy; Michelle McDonald, Kelli Carlisle, and Kendall Jones, Liberty STEAM Charter School, and M. Sparkman, Richland County Sheriff Department.

VI. Consent Agenda

A) Approval of the Agenda for the March 13, 2025, meeting.

Trustee Dr. Teresa Pope a motion to approve the Agenda for March 13, 2025. Trustee Kip Miller seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

B) Approval of the Minutes for the February 13, 2025, meeting.

Trustee Kip Miller a motion to approve the Minutes, February 13, 2025. Trustee Stephen Gilchrist seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

VII. Public Comments

The official meeting of the Board is by law a public meeting and the Board values citizen input; however, in order to protect the integrity of the adopted agenda, public dialogue will be restricted to the 'Public Comments' section of the agenda or as directed by the Board chairman.

- Each speaker has two minutes.
- Speakers may not ask questions of Board Members.
- Board Members may not engage speakers in discussion.
- Disruptive behavior is not permitted.
- Personal attacks aimed at students or staff are not permitted.
- Scurrilous, obscene, or recklessly defamatory language aimed at any Board Member is not permitted.

VIII. Informational Items

- A) Eagle Scout RecognitionChris Neeley
Superintendent
- B) National Board Certified Teacher Recognition Emalee Baker
Deputy Superintendent, Support & Implementation

IX. Executive Session

- A) Superintendent's Performance Evaluation Cyndi C Mosteller
Board Chair
- B) School Compliance Legal Update Erik T. Norton
Harrell Martin & Peace, PA

X. Action Items

- A) Action on Executive Session ItemCyndi C Mosteller
Board Chair

Secretary Dexter WJ Davis offered a motion to approve the evaluation of Superintendent Chris G. Neeley. Trustee Dr. Teresa Pope seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Secretary Dexter WJ Davis offered a motion to amend the salary of Superintendent Chris G. Neeley. Trustee Dr. Teresa Pope seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

- B) Greenville Tech Charter High School Goal Amendment Kristin Farmer
Chief of Authorization and Development

Trustee Dr. Billy Strickland offered a motion to approve the Greenville Tech Charter High School Goal Amendment as recommended by the staff. Trustee Stephen Gilchrist seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

- C) Midlands Acceleration Academy Charter Application Kristin Farmer
Chief of Authorization and Development

Trustee Jonathan Butcher offered a motion to accept the withdrawal of the Midlands Acceleration Academy Application as recommended by the staff. Trustee Dr. Teresa Pope seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

- D) Pee Dee Hall Charter Voluntary Termination Kristin Farmer
Chief of Authorization and Development

Trustee Kip Miller offered a motion to accept the voluntary termination of the Pee Dee Hall Charter as recommended by the staff. Trustee Jonathan Butcher seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

- E) Watson Middle School Charter Application Kristin Farmer
Chief of Authorization and Development

Trustee Dr. Teresa Pope offered a motion to deny Watson Middle School's application for the 2025 application cycle as recommended by the staff. Trustee Stephen Gilchrist seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

- F) January 2025 Financial Report..... Nick Michael
Deputy Superintendent of Financial Services

Trustee Kip Miller offered a motion to approve the January 2025 Financial Report as recommended by the staff. Trustee Stephen Gilchrist seconded the motion. Motion was carried unanimously

XI. Superintendent's Report

- A) Sponsor Performance Update John R. Payne
Deputy Superintendent, Sponsor Performance
- B) Support and Implementation Update Emalee Baker
Deputy Superintendent, Support & Implementation
- C) External Affairs Update Brad Henry
Executive Director, External Affairs
- D) Strategic Plan Update Emily Paul
Chief Deputy Superintendent
- E) Superintendent's Comments Chris G. Neeley
Superintendent

F) Employee Core Value Award Chris G. Neeley
Superintendent

XII. Adjournment

Trustee Kip Miller offered a motion to adjourn the meeting. Trustee Stephen Gilchrist seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 12:20 p.m.

John R Payne

From: Viresh Sinha <viresh_sinha@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 13, 2025 11:16 AM
To: Cyndi Mosteller; Dexter WJ Davis; Dexter WJ Davis; Jonathan Butcher; Jonathan Butcher; Teresa Pope; Teresa Pope; Stephen Gilchrist; Stephen Gilchrist; kmiller@scbstcharter.org; Kip Miller; Billy Strickland; Billy Strickland
Cc: Nalini Mosali; Penny Sendek; John R Payne; Chris Neeley; Emily Paul; Kristin Farmer; Bridget Cuneo
Subject: Re: Watson Middle School: "UNFAIR" handling of our Application

Respected Board Members,
SCPCSD

Based on a very limited information provided by SCPCSD, on behalf of Watson Middle, a proposed "AI & Robotics focused" Charter in St. Andrews area, please find my formal COMPLAINT against SCPCSD requesting investigation for unfair and biased handling of our Charter School Application.

1. Rejection letter dated Feb 27th, 2025, on page 2 , line 11, states that there's a conflict of interest related to the facility ownership, while on November 18th, 2024, Pre-applicant training, during my introduction, within first 30 seconds, I disclosed that I own a school building in front of 70 + people present in the training hall. This was not only heard, acknowledged BUT also commented by Ms. Bridget & Kristin, when they said, "wow, because building is the biggest hurdle charter schools face". Couple of other charter representatives talked about my building right after my introduction.
v So Why Ms. Kristin Farmer & her Team decided to waste our 4 months, and decided to make ourselves a laughing stock in front of our community where 30+ people wrote open letters in our support, 300 parents gave us their information, and several hundred other parents who talked to us and promised to enroll, just didn't give us their information because apparently another Charter, "Ascent Academy took their data, sold it to third parties and never opened the school"
2. Pivot Schools budgeted 14% of their budget towards facility Rent, while we budgeted 10% of our budget towards facility rent? Is this your conflict of interest as stated by Ms. Kristin Farmer et al?
3. We supplied building plans drafted by Licensed architect, whose number is provided on the plans, and is working, - and our building information is inaccurate as per Ms. Kristin farmer's letter?
4. Our location is 4.1 miles from nearest Lexington Richland 5 Middle school (Irmo Middle) and 3.5 miles from nearest Richland 1 middle school (St. Andrews), and our location is not suitable to increase learning opportunities? While we can serve two districts due to our placement.
5. Pivot Schools are getting ready to open a charter school in WAREHOUSE as per SCPCSD letter, and SCPCSD is ready to work with them, while our building has been home to Timmerman school, has been approved by the County and Fire Marshalls in the past for community education and has a BIG Open space in eth back.
6. Pivot School committee members & Ascent Academy members are NOT from South Carolina, while

our entire team is SC resident, and 3 out of 4 members live within 5 miles, and 2 members live within 500 ft of the proposed location where we know our community very well.

7. Pivot school proposed 200 students in first year, and 100 every year, and couldn't even get a building and offering a PAIR OF SHOES for enrollment. Ascent School couldn't get a building, they wanted to open in a basement of a church where city of Irmo didn't permit them. We projected 160 students in first year, and 80 students each subsequent year, while our current capacity is to hold about 350 students as per the capacity guidelines, and Our Projections are unrealistic?

8. We own the building, that means we can defer our rent or reduce the rent in case we run into any difficulty, this SHOWS OUR CAPACITY, and Ms. Kristin Farmer et al has concerns about our Budget?

9. I have personally taught in Richland one School District and currently teaching in Aiken School district, based on my LOCAL experience we have drafted our planning while ASCENT SCHOOL and PIVOT School, they both are NOT local committees, don't have SC experience on the GROUND, couldn't secure a BUILDING, and yet they got approved, while we were NOT even invited for questions or clarifications, rather straightaway REJECTED without following a DUE PROCESS?

On the Face the handling of our application seems discriminatory, retaliatory and biased, but after carefully analyzing the LIMITED data which SSCPCSD has provided, I strongly believe that there's a deeper FOUL GAME going on in SCPCSD.

10. COMPLAINT:

As a Licensed Educator, Parent, Charter School Applicant and as Tax Payer I request that SCPCSD Board carries out a detailed and unbiased investigation of this matter and our Application be handled in a Fair and appropriate manner.

Regards,

Viresh Sinha

"Work is Worship"

On Monday, March 10, 2025 at 08:34:58 PM GMT+5:30, Viresh Sinha <viresh_sinha@yahoo.com> wrote:

Dear Mr. John,

Thank you for providing clarification on the date.

As far as information I requested:

1. I see a list of your schools on your website, but if you please read my email, I have requested the Names & Applications of the Schools which were approved by your district, and (1) either they never opened or (2) closed down in last 5 years. I do need to inspect their application to make a comparison with our application so that I can show it your board how the "Due Process" has not been followed in handling our application, and how our application has been handled in a "discriminatory and retaliatory" fashion by your district.

2. Could you please direct me as to where I can find the Historical enrollment data for the schools which are operational