

SOWEGA STEM CHARTER SCHOOL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
April 20, 2017 @ 5:30 PM

The Sowega STEM Charter School Board of Education held its regular meeting on April 20, 2017 at 5:30 p.m. Mr. Paul Langford, Mr. Ottis Griggs, Mr. Tim Thompson, Mr. Marc Simpkins, and Ms. Amy Foster were present.

Mr. Paul Langford called the meeting to order at 5:40 p.m.

Mr. Paul Langford led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Paul Langford recognized guests: Ms. Elisa Falco of the State Charter School Association; Mrs. Dawn Jones, Sowega STEM Charter School CFO; Mr. Bambo Sonaixe of the State Charter Commission Auditing Department; Mrs. Cindy Carlson, Teacher Representative; Mrs. Renee Gill; Ms. Elizabeth Pearce; Mrs. Amy Cadenhead; and, Mrs. Margie Everett.

A motion was made by Mr. Tim Thompson to approve the April 20, 2017 Board Meeting Agenda, seconded by Mr. Marc Simpkins. The motion was approved unanimously.

A motion was made by Mr. Ottis Griggs to approve the March 23, 2017 Regular Board Meeting Minutes, seconded by Mr. Marc Simpkins. The motion was approved unanimously.

A motion was made by Mr. Marc Simpkins to approve the March 2017 Financial Report, which was presented by Mrs. Dawn Jones, CFO, and seconded by Mr. Ottis Griggs. The motion was approved unanimously.

A motion was made to approve the *Certified Personnel Hiring Guidelines* policy, seconded by Mr. Tim Thompkins. The motion was approved unanimously.

A motion was made to approve entering into an agreement with Southwest Georgia Healthcare, for the purpose of opening and operating a school-based health clinic on school grounds beginning in August 2017, pending legal counsel advisement. The Board members also stipulated that the school's legal name, South West Georgia S.T.E.M Charter School, Inc., be used on the contract. Mr. Marc Simpkins seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

A motion was made to approve the Principal's recommendation to submit a Pre-K application to Georgia DECAL "Bright from the Start" Pre-K program for the 2017-2018 school term by Mr. Ottis Griggs, seconded by Mr. Tim Thompson. The motion was approved unanimously.

A motion was made by Mr. Tim Thompson to approve the Principal's recommendation for hosting a Vendor's Fair with the purpose of different providers presenting their companies' Supplemental Insurance packages to school employees. It was stated that the cost of these benefits are paid solely by each employee. The motion was seconded by Mr. Ottis Griggs and was approved unanimously.

A motion was made to approve the Principal's recommendation to begin deducting the Social Security portion of FICA from school employees' monthly salaries by Mr. Tim Thompson, seconded by Mr. Ottis Griggs. The motion was approved unanimously.

Principal's Report:

- a. Ms. Amy Foster reported that the Georgia Milestones State Testing is currently being administered to students with third and fourth grade students testing April 17-20 and fifth grade students testing April 17-24. Make-up tests will be administered on April 25. All students are using the pencil and paper version of the test.
- b. Ms. Amy Foster reported a student enrollment increase for the 2017-2018 school term.
- c. Ms. Amy Foster reported that the State Charter Commission has approved the addition of the seventh grade for the 2017-2018 school term pending an adequate enrollment number of students for this grade.

A motion was made by Mr. Marc Simpkins, seconded by Mr. Tim Thompson to enter into Executive Session. The motion was approved unanimously.

Upon the exit from Executive Session at 7:16 p.m. the Board approved the following Principal Recommendations:

- a. **Non-Renewal of Teacher Contracts for the 2017-2018 School Term:** A motion was made by Mr. Marc Simpkins, seconded by Mr. Tim Thompson, and unanimously approved.
- b. **Renewal of Teacher Contracts for the 2017-2018 School Term:** A motion was made by Mr. Marc Simpkins, seconded by Mr. Ottis Griggs, and unanimously approved.
- c. **New Hires for the 2017-2018 School Term:** A motion was made by Mr. Marc Simpkins, seconded by Mr. Tim Thompson, and unanimously approved.
- d. **Contracted Services:** A motion was made by Mr. Tim Thompson, seconded by Mr. Marc Simpkins, and unanimously approved.
- e. **Temporary Employee Hires:** A motion was made by Mr. Tim Thompson, seconded by Mr. Marc Simpkins, and unanimously approved.
- f. **Lease Agreement:** A motion was made by Mr. Ottis Griggs, seconded by Mr. Tim Thompson with the stipulation of all state operational guidelines being met before entering into the lease agreement. The motion was unanimously approved.

With no further business, a motion was made by Mr. Marc Simpkins, seconded by Mr. Ottis Griggs, for the adjournment of the meeting. The motion was approved unanimously.

Time of Adjournment: 7:21 p.m.

Minutes Prepared by: Margie D. Everett