

**SOWEGA STEM CHARTER SCHOOL**  
**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**  
**FEBRUARY 23, 2017 @ 5:30 PM**

The Sowega STEM Charter School Board of Education held its regular meeting on February 23, 2017 at 5:30 p.m. Mr. Paul Langford, Mr. Ottis Griggs, Mr. Tim Thompson, and Mr. Marc Simpkins were present. Absent was Ms. Amy Foster, School Director/Principal.

Visitors: Mary Alice Hilton, Jessica Snipes and Ajay Galott with SWG Health Center, Elias Falco with Georgia Charter School Association, Margie Everett, Jenifer Renee Gill, Cindy Carlson-teacher representative, Elizabeth Pearce

Mr. Paul Langford called the meeting to order at 5:33 p.m.

Mr. Paul Langford led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The agenda was approved with the following amended changes: deletion of #6 – Executive Session; # 9 – Administrative Reports; and, #10 – Personnel Recommendations by a motion made by Mr. Tim Thompson, seconded by Mr. Ottis Griggs. The motion was approved unanimously.

The January 19, 2017 regular Board meeting, February 02, 2017 Special Called Board meeting, and February 13, 2017 Special Called Board meeting minutes were approved by a motion made by Mr. Ottis Griggs, seconded by Mr. Marc Simpkins. The motion was approved unanimously.

Mr. Paul Langford recognized guests: Mrs. Mary Alice Hilton, Ms. Elisa Falco of the State Charter School Association, Dr. Ajay Gelhot, CEO and Mrs. Jessica Snipes, CFO of Southwest Georgia Health Care, Mrs. Renee Gill, Mrs. Cindy Carlson, Ms. Elizabeth Pearce, and Mrs. Margie Everett.

Dr. Ajay Gehlot and Jessica Snipes with Southwest Georgia Healthcare addressed the Board regarding the possibility of adding a school-based clinic to the Sowega STEM Charter school campus. The Board requested additional information and responded that they will consider the request.

**Consensus Items:**

- a. There were no Executive Board recommendations given at this meeting.
- b. Motion made by Mr. Tim Thompson, seconded by Mr. Ottis Griggs to approve the amended December 28, 2016 regular Board meeting minutes to show vote accepting the resignation of Joyce Blanton effective December 31, 2016. The motion was approved unanimously.
- c. Motion made by Mr. Marc Simpkins, seconded by Mr. Ottis Griggs, to accept the resignation of Mr. Kenneth Hubbard from the Board. The motion was approved unanimously.
- d. The Board approved the election of Board Officers for the upcoming year: Mr. Paul Langford – Chairman; Mr. Ottis Griggs – Vice-Chairman. Other

Officer seats will stay open at this time until the Board expands.

- e. Motion was made by Mr. Marc Simpkins, seconded by Mr. Ottis Griggs, to approve the proposed 2017-2018 School Calendar. The motion was approved unanimously.

**Financial Reports:**

- a. Ms. Elisa Falco reported that the Cash Flow report has been received and will be discussed at the March Work Session.
- b. There was no Financial Report given at this meeting.
- c. The amended FY17 Budget will be discussed at the next board meeting.

**Informational Items:**

- a. Ms. Elisa Falco made the recommendation that the *Finance Committee Meeting of a Whole Board* Work Session be held on March 23, 2017 at 3:00 p.m. with the regular Board meeting at 5:30 p.m.
- b. Ms. Elisa Falco reported that Ms. Amy Foster is working on a written response to the State letter to be discussed and signed at the March 23, 2017 work session.
- c. For Enrollment:
  - 1. Mrs. Mary Alice Hilton reported that several people have requested and returned enrollment packets for the 2017-2018 school term.
- d. For Academic Update:
  - 1. Mrs. Mary Alice Hilton reported that SRI testing has been administered to students.
  - 2. Mrs. Mary Alice Hilton reported that Benchmark grade level ELA tests have been administered to students in grades 1-5.
  - 3. Ms. Elizabeth Pearce reported on the progress of the school garden and new greenhouse.
  - 4. Ms. Elizabeth Pearce reported that the *I-Excel* program is being used as a diagnostic benchmark for grade 3-5.

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

Time of Adjournment: 6:22 p.m.

Minutes Prepared by: Margie D. Everett

Minutes Approved: \_\_\_\_\_