

**Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday, December 13, 2023**

The South Carolina Governor's School for the Arts and Humanities Board of Directors meeting was held Wednesday, December 13, 2023, at 10:00 a.m. via Microsoft Teams meeting software.

Board Members in Attendance (via Microsoft Teams)

Chad Prosser, Chairman; Irving (Irv) T. Welling, III, Vice Chairman; Dr. Jo Anne Anderson, South Carolina Education Oversight Committee designee; Rev. LeShawn Goodwin; Terry Grayson-Caprio, Board Chair of the Governor's School for the Arts and Humanities Foundation; Robert Horger; Dr. Harriet Jaworowski; Dr. Rusty Monhollon, South Carolina Commission on Higher Education; and Roger Simpson as delegate for Ellen Weaver, SC Superintendent of Education.

Faculty and Staff in Attendance (via Microsoft Teams)

Dr. Cedric Adderley, President; Betsy Beam, VP of Finance and Administration; Dr. Matthew Burns, VP for Student Development; Dr. Jennifer Thomas, Dean, and VP of Arts and Academics; Amanda Herlihy, Executive Director of the Governor's School for the Arts and Humanities Foundation; Charnise Mangle, Faculty Council Chair; Megan Hueble, Staff Council Chair; LaTomya Doctor, Director of Human Resources; Richard Jones, Information Technology Manager; and Jamie Sherrill, Executive Assistant to the President and Board Secretary.

Welcome

Chairman Prosser called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m. and welcomed all guests in attendance. He shared that it had already been an eventful year with lots of good things happening. He also shared the Board of Directors meeting schedule for 2024.

- March 13, 2024
- June 12, 2024
- September 18, 2024
- December 11, 2024

Notice of Meeting

Chairman Prosser stated notice of this meeting had been provided to all persons, organizations, and news media that have requested notification, as required by Section 30-4-80(e) of the SC Code of Laws.

Approval of Minutes (Exhibit 1)

Chairman Prosser called for a motion to approve the Minutes of the Board of Directors meeting held on Wednesday, September 13, 2023. A motion to approve the minutes was brought forward by Dr. Anderson, seconded by Bob Horger, and approved by unanimous vote.

President's Report (Exhibit 2)

Dr. Cedric Adderley, President, reviewed the President's Report, which was distributed by email prior to the meeting. President Adderley reported that it had been an eventful and positive school year of exceptional work. The performance season ended with more people able to watch performances via livestream.

Dr. Adderley advised that the Accrediting Commission for Community and Pre-collegiate Art Schools (ACCPAS) Visitors' Report was received last month, which stated that the school is in compliance with all accreditation standards. The evaluators determined that the school has done all of the required work, has the expected level of resources, met all requirements, and that the new film program is well-designed. Follow-up reports for the film program will most likely be required as this is a new program. The next steps include an Optional Response to the Visitors' Report that is due prior to the Commission meeting in February 2024. Instructions include correcting any statements of fact and any issues that may have been reported incorrectly by the visiting team. Dr. Adderley noted four items to be addressed in the Response which have no bearing on compliance with the standards. They include:

1. Twelve music faculty were inadvertently labeled as academic faculty. A clean and corrected copy was provided in the Response.
2. A leak in the roof of the visual arts gallery was incorrectly reported. This leak was repaired in 2020.
3. The modern dance track was unintentionally listed as a new program on our website, which was corrected.
4. It was suggested that we create an even more robust and uniform documentation of student exhibitions, completed works, and/or performances. We currently defer to a process that differs by discipline and works well for discipline-specific processes leading to collegiate study and/or external evaluation. Modifying such documents at this time may not be in the best interest of our students.

The Response has been delivered to the Commission for review by the final committee in February. Dr. Adderley added that the entire Governor's School community has been part of this process and thanked everyone for their role in supporting the reaffirmation of accreditation.

Dr. Adderley reported on the annual research and evaluation of the *Spark* program, which shows very promising data. This program grew into an arts-integrated program that uses drama to increase literacy and is a groundbreaking academic accomplishment. Research data demonstrated both statistically and descriptively significant gains. Highlights of the data include:

1. Students in rural counties saw the greatest gain,
2. 75% of teacher respondents noticed their students were more engaged with drama-based learning than other modes of learning,
3. 75% noted that their students were more engaged with reading, and

4. 50% observed that students were more engaged with writing.

Most importantly, the students enjoyed it and the model will continue to be replicated in South Carolina for literacy in our state. Dr. Adderley commended Carol Baker, Director of Outreach and Community Engagement, for developing and redeveloping *Spark* as needed. He also thanked former Superintendent of Education, Molly Spearman, for recognizing that this program can be replicated and implemented throughout the state, as well as current Superintendent of Education, Ellen Weaver, for recognizing the significance of this program. *Spark* will continue to grow and make a difference in the lives of students.

Dr. Adderley advised that the schedule for the first of three budget hearings for fiscal year 2025 will be in Columbia on January 17, 2024 in the same session as the other two South Carolina Governor's Schools. He will make a presentation and expects legislative support. He looks forward to spending more time with elected officials and educating their return on investment with our budget requests.

With no further questions, the President's Report was received as information and will be established as a permanent component of these minutes.

Finance and Administration Report (Exhibit 3)

Betsy Beam, VP of Finance and Administration, reviewed the Finance and Administration Report, which was distributed by email prior to the meeting. Ms. Beam reported that the facilities department's new HVAC Technician position has been valuable in getting ahead of potential issues and installing new units. The Finance team has begun processing meal plan payments, previously processed by Aramark, which has proved to be beneficial. Currently, there are significantly fewer families who are in arrears on meal plan payments than when compared to this time last year due to being aware sooner. This allows us to have a better partnership with families who may get behind on payments and work on a plan together. Ms. Beam reported that the Information Technology (IT) department will upgrade the network and firewall which will allow the internet to be three times faster by the end of next school year. She commended the IT team on their forward-thinking plans. The Production team has been busy with the *Boundless* production, as well as dance and music performances. The gatehouse at the front of campus has shown to be a great resource and has added an extra layer of security. Employees and families have reported feeling safer with the gatehouse manned from 6:00 a.m. to 1:00 a.m. We also have a better record of visitors and deliveries and have deterred potential problems with food vendors. We have recently practiced safety drills, which we have learned from and will incorporate into our safety plans in the spring.

Ms. Beam announced that Aramark has signed on to be the food vendor for the next five years. We have a great working relationship with Aramark, who has worked hard to make an affordable contract with us. The first contract year will see an increase of 14%, but only a total of 6% increase over the next five years. They have offered an additional discount of 20% for residential life coordinators and continued discounts for employees. Aramark provided additional partnership with the School in the contract to provide a total capital investment of \$350,000. Over \$100,000 will be used for new kitchen equipment, and the remainder for the dining hall renovation and upgrades. With these funds, we can complete the Phase III

renovation of the roof on the outside of the dining hall to add extra outside covered seating. We are now waiting for the State to do the final sign-off.

Ms. Beam also reported on the expense update. As of October 31, 51% of the budget has been spent. Supplies are slightly over budget due to HVAC repairs, power outages that broke HVAC switches, and insurance increases. She will monitor this at the end of the month and make line item adjustments as needed, but expects to be very close to the budget. She expects the budget to be between 55-58% by the end of December, which is not of concern but good to be aware of so we can watch spending. Mr. Prosser asked what percentage we were at last December and if we are anticipating any other large fixed-cost items. Ms. Beam responded that last December we were at 48% of the budget. She has identified a \$65,000 overage in other line items and therefore expects the bottom line to remain the same. She does not expect any other large fixed items. Ms. Beam clarified that these funds are appropriation money only, and do not include any carryover money that we carry over every year. She noted that at the budget hearings, she is asked what amount of carryover money we are carrying over each year. We started the year \$200,000 “in the hole” due to meal plans that the Foundation could not financially cover and the cost of the boiler, but still expect to be on target.

Without further questions, the Finance and Administration Report was received as information and will be established as a permanent component of these minutes.

Student Development Report (Exhibit 4)

Dr. Matthew Burns, VP for Student Development, reviewed the Student Development Report, which was submitted by email prior to the meeting. Dr. Burns reported that it has been a busy, yet productive fall semester. He is grateful for the Foundation as it supports the alumni, who are a good stakeholder group. In October, the School had Founders Week to celebrate alumni who were influential in the creation of the school. We welcomed music alumnus Jordan Smith, principal of Bamberg-Ehrhardt High School in Bamberg, South Carolina, who is also currently serving in the South Carolina Army National Guard. Mr. Smith grew up in a rural part of South Carolina without privilege and an abundance of educational opportunities. He spoke to our students about how to give back to their community and how that can direct their paths in the future. Dr. Burns also shared that the Alumni Advisory Council is hosting a holiday drop-in event on December 30, 2023, to allow alumni to reconnect over the holidays and maintain a connection with the School.

Dr. Burns reported that the Student Life team has offered support for a variety of needs and challenges. Mental health services are well utilized. He recognized Tiffany Prasertkul, Director of Behavioral Health and Intervention Counseling, for being proactive with events and activities, drug and alcohol challenges, and ongoing mental health support. This is a time of high stress for many youth, so having wraparound services to support them is important. This year’s sophomores, juniors, and seniors were in middle school during the Covid pandemic and were impacted by less peer interaction and academic challenges, so we have worked diligently to ensure they are well supported. There has been a new addition to the Student Life staff, Sina Sims, an evening nurse, who has been a great addition to the team.

The Admissions team has spread the word across the state about our programs and offerings. This team has been diligent about getting to schools and has visited 200 schools this fall and plans to visit another 44 schools by the end of this semester. The admissions process now has a virtual option, which allows many students to connect with us virtually. We have seen the most success in middle schools. There have been four to five virtual sessions, as well as family-based virtual sessions for families that cannot travel to campus. The *Go Govie!* Day in November was a success and brought almost 300 guests to campus to hear about our programs and collaborations across the campus. We also hosted Campus Tour & Talks, reaching 150 people since September, to spread the word about what we are doing. The Admissions team has maintained relationships with school partners around the state so that they are up to date with our programs, specifically the new film program, changes to the dance curriculum, new colleagues in music, and the work that faculty are doing. They ensure that prospective students and families feel invited to campus performances. Their theme throughout fall has been to get people to experience time spent on campus connecting with employees and students. Students, as well as colleagues, have varying backgrounds and experiences within South Carolina. Some students have experienced or are currently experiencing challenges whether they are from city or rural parts of the state. We want to be in the best position to support those students and will keep this in mind as we approach the upcoming audition season.

Without further questions, the Student Development Report was received as information and will be established as a permanent component of these minutes.

Dean's Report (Exhibit 5)

Dr. Jennifer Thomas, Dean and VP of Arts and Academics, reviewed the Dean's Report, which was submitted by email prior to the meeting. Dean Thomas reported that a candidate, Kevin Human, has accepted the position to be the new Film program chair. She shared about his educational background and experience in the industry. She will distribute his official biography after the first of the year when he will work part-time to adjudicate applicants for the Film program. She expects that he will bring expert leadership to this program.

Dr. Thomas reported on *Boundless: The Musical* and shared images from the production. *Boundless* was a contemporary play written by summer alumna, Mary Fishburne, with drama, music, and dance students performing together for the first time in the School's history. They represented their age group and portrayed real-life issues. Due to the powerful message of this play, the Care and Concern team supported students through this challenging material. Ms. Fishburne also met with students virtually helping to carry the weight of this work. The students conducted research into the Amish community to be as accurate as possible. She highlighted a picture from the finale showing an Amish student and an English student sitting together on a bench in a barn depicting unity and friendship.

Mr. Prosser asked if the set design was done internally. Dr. Thomas explained that the Production team worked with Clemson students who constructed the set on the Clemson campus, and then delivered it to our campus. She added that in the debrief with all departments, they would like to do more collaborative projects and discussed how to do it again and even better, keeping students' schedules and other responsibilities in mind. Dr. Jaworowski stated that she sang in a concert with Ms. Fishburne's mother, who expressed many compliments on how

wonderful the production turned out. Many others there also expressed their support for the musical. Dr. Thomas stated that Ms. Fishburne traveled to campus for the premiere, but instead of traveling home as planned, she stayed for the whole production run to learn from our Production and creative team. She said that it was an irreplaceable process for everyone involved. Ms. Grayson-Caprio added that she attended the opening night with invited donors and the event was a perfect example of the scale and quality of production that we can achieve by a small group of talented individuals on campus. It was a perfect way to not only tell them of the amazing things we do, but to show them as well. Mr. Prosser spoke of the collaborative nature that is showing through with all of our programs.

Dr. Thomas reported on student outcomes data from standardized test data for Advanced Placement (AP), SAT, and ACT, GPA trends, the Gallup student poll, and the numbers of National Honor Society inductees. She also shared the Five-Year AP Score Summary that shows test scores broken down by subject area. Dr. Thomas reported an 83% pass rate on AP exams, representing 58% of our students. 58% of our students take AP exams, which is a significant statistic and speaks to the rigor of what we offer and the rigor students seek. The percentage of seniors taking the SAT is 79% for our school as compared to the state percentage of 48%. Our students are trending above the state and national scores. The ACT data shows a composite score of 23.5%, which is well above the national score of 19.5%. She advised the board of what the ACT is calling the “Covid Cohort” due to this year’s seniors having missed at least three years of foundational educational experience. These students are not meeting ACT college readiness benchmarks, whereas our students are. She is appreciative that we can be attentive to this and support our students in preparation for these standardized tests.

Dr. Jaworowski asked about the reasoning for the varying AP exams that the students take and how to know which AP exams are offered. Dr. Thomas explained that some AP classes are consistent, such as AP Music History and AP Art History, whereas some do fluctuate, such as studio AP art classes, due to restructuring and whether the class still fits within the schedule, however, this will continue to be evaluated. Dr. Jaworowski congratulated the School on such excellent test scores.

Dr. Thomas reported that the Office of School Counseling tracks the GPA of students enrolling and compares this with their GPA when they graduate. Those trends track upward, which is statistically significant because they are usually only with us for the final two years of high school, so most courses are already completed. What makes this possible is that part of the arts curriculum offered are Honors Level courses, which then help to bump up the GPA. Other helpful factors are academic excellence, support services, and small class sizes. She also reported on the Gallup Poll on what represents school effectiveness, the scores that students receive on standardized tests, and how engaged and hopeful they feel about the future. The school administered this survey in October 2023. The engagement measure is 85% out of 162 students surveyed, which surpassed the 80% out of 220 students from 2019. The hope measure is 84% out of 162 students surveyed, which has also surpassed the 53% out of 218 students from 2019. Dr. Thomas believes these percentages are due to educating students on the many ways to be successful in the arts or outside of the arts, and helping them to think more creatively about the future. Lastly, Dr. Thomas reported on the National Honor Society (NHS) chapter membership, where a statistically significant number of 62 students are in the NHS.

This is yet another number to celebrate as we measure student outcomes. Irv Welling noted how great it was to see such great student outcomes in an art school. He stated that this was a great use of data and believes it will serve us well over time in the legislature.

Without further questions, the Dean's Report was received as information and will be accepted as a permanent component of these minutes.

Foundation Report (Exhibit 6)

Amanda Herlihy, Executive Director of the Governor's School for the Arts and Humanities Foundation (the Foundation), reviewed the Foundation Report, which was submitted by email prior to the meeting. Chairman Prosser advised the Board that this will be Terry Grayson-Caprio's last Board of Directors meeting with the Board as her term as the Foundation Board Chair is ending. He thanked Ms. Grayson-Caprio for her service on the Foundation Board and for all of the work that she has done. Ms. Grayson-Caprio thanked Chairman Prosser and informed the Board that she will continue to support the School. She also advised that for the March 13, 2024 Board of Directors meeting, the Foundation will conduct an in-person meeting and she would like to host a dinner where both this Board and the Foundation Board can share an evening together in Greenville. Chairman Prosser added that this allows for extra opportunities for both boards to see the campus and enjoy dinner that night.

Ms. Herlihy reported that the operating revenue is on track and individual revenue has increased from this time last year. Corporate revenue is behind, however, Jared Martin, Director of Development for the Foundation, has been working to make connections to increase these numbers. She advised that annual sponsors attended the Boundless production, and offered only compliments. She encouraged board members to attend campus events, such as the upcoming Visual Arts Senior Exhibit on May 11, 2024, and the Dance Showcase on May 14, 2024. The Foundation will host a reception, so this would be a great opportunity to bring guests. Her team will send out invitations to these events in spring.

Ms. Herlihy reported on the Songwriters in the Round event that was held in Hilton Head Island in November. They raised almost \$110,000 with \$80,000 going back into the School for the students. She encouraged the Board to attend next year's event, which will have a 25-year anniversary twist. She also reported on the end-of-year giving campaign. She is hoping to keep existing donors and add new donors. She thanked the Board for donating and reminded board members that their donation could be designated to something specific if desired.

Ms. Herlihy reported that the Foundation Board voted on the Strategic Plan for the next five years, which can be shared with the Board by Ms. Sherrill if requested. The Foundation and President Adderley will host another President's Briefing in February for anyone interested in attending. She shared that these meetings have been instrumental to the Foundation, new board members, and prospective members. Lastly, she asked for recommendations for potential new Foundation board members.

Without further questions, the Foundation Report was received as information and will be established as a permanent component of these minutes.

Faculty Council Report (Exhibit 7)

Charnise Mangle, Faculty Council Chair, reviewed the Faculty Council Report, which was submitted by email prior to the meeting. Ms. Mangle shared an overview of faculty works over the last quarter. She advised that many collaborations are still happening across campus. In addition to the Boundless musical, where drama and dance students performed on stage, music students performed live music during the play, and visual art students created the images for the programs, the creative writing and drama students are also writing plays for young artists for a non-stage production at the South Carolina Children's Theater while seated at tables.

Ms. Mangle reported that there has been an unparalleled dedication within the faculty, who are committed to learning and being active practitioners so that they can be informed educators and showcase talents within the institution.

Without further questions, the Faculty Council Report was received as information and will be established as a permanent component of these minutes.

Staff Council Report (Exhibit 8)

Megan Hueble, Staff Council Chair, reviewed the Staff Council Report, which was submitted by email prior to this meeting. Ms. Hueble reported that Staff Council monthly in-person meetings have been a great representation of staff and provide opportunities to share updates, concerns, and accomplishments, as well as welcome new staff, and seek ways to develop professionally and connect with the arts. She shared an overview of staff work. In 2024, Ms. Hueble is committed to improving the working climate among staff and is looking forward to presenting more accomplishments to the Board at that time.

Without further questions, the Staff Council Report was received as information and will be established as a permanent component of these minutes.

Old Business

Dr. Adderley advised the Board of the proposed Employee Handbook and Board Policy amendments. He noted that the Board Policy and Employee Handbook mirror each other for most sections, with some policies solely for the Board Policy and some policies solely for the Employee Handbook. There are eight documents in the board packet for approval. He also noted that some of these documents were previously approved by the Board, but were not updated in the appropriate documents. Also, the Student Code of Conduct will be implemented into the Student Handbook moving forward.

Chairman Prosser added the need for harmonization in the policies and handbooks, to add and update positions that did not exist, and to ensure it is up-to-date with current technology. Dr. Jaworowski suggested reviewing annually all policies and handbooks to ensure they are up-to-date and in compliance and offered to assist with this effort.

A motion to approve the proposed Board Policy and Employee Handbook amendments was brought forward by Dr. Harriet Jaworowski, seconded by Bob Horger, and approved by unanimous vote.

New Business

Dr. Burns presented the proposed 2024-2025 Academic Calendar as part of the Student Development Report, which was reviewed by the Board. He sought to approve the draft calendar and proposed to use the modified year-round calendar with an earlier start date. He has conducted meetings for parent input and response to better serve students and has received positive responses from parents, as well as in the President's Council meetings. Ms. Grayson-Caprio asked whether the other South Carolina Governor's Schools are also using the modified year-round calendar. Dr. Burns advised that they are using a modified year-round calendar with an earlier start date as well.

A motion to approve the 2024-2025 Academic Calendar was made by Irv Welling, seconded by Terry Grayson-Caprio, and approved by unanimous vote.

Dr. Adderley advised that May 2025 is the School's 25th graduating class for the residential high school. The upcoming 25th Anniversary will be a year-long celebration with everyone in the community. To accomplish this all Vice Presidents and Dr. Adderley will form a steering committee for planning. Mr. Welling volunteered to serve as the Board of Directors representative and Ms. Grayson-Caprio volunteered to serve as the Foundation Board representative. Dr. Adderley asked the Board to solicit additional volunteers to serve as well. A meeting will be held in early January and will send out a confirmed date soon.

Dr. Thomas and Dr. Burns reported on the Student National Clearinghouse data. Dr. Thomas noted that this is the second year we have received this data. She, Dr. Burns, and other colleagues attended a training session regarding this data. The average percentage of South Carolina Governor's School for the Arts and Humanities (SCGSAH) students enrolled in college the fall immediately following high school graduation is 87%, much higher than the in-state and out-of-state institutions. 73% of SCGSAH students complete a degree within six years, which is much higher than other institutions. Dr. Burns reported a much higher persistence and completion rates for the School, than for the rest of the state. He attributed this to the guidance students received and hopes to remain in touch to hear their success stories. This data gives us an idea of when and where our students are completing their schooling, how they were impacted by Covid, and how those metrics will change. He will provide more detailed information if the Board requests and will continue to use data to drive processes and outcomes.

Dr. Jo Anne Anderson asked if the Board can receive data sorted to look at the top 25% of students, which would be more comparative data for our school. Dr. Thomas responded that we do not currently have data sorted in this manner, but it can be requested. Dr. Adderley congratulated the administration, faculty, and staff on moving things in the right direction.

Adjournment

Having no request to enter an Executive Session, a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Bob Horger, seconded by Terry Grayson-Caprio, and approved by unanimous vote. The meeting was adjourned at 11:55 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jamie Sherrill
Recording Secretary to the Board of Directors