

# Southeastern Academy Charter School

## Minutes

### Board of Directors Meeting

DATE: Wednesday, November 5, 2014

LOCATION: Southeastern Academy Charter School Gymnasium

Board Members Present: Alvin Ivey, Chairman  
John Taylor, Treasurer  
Brooks Oliver  
Gail McLean  
Sara Benson  
Dave Allen  
Jay Britt  
Lori Blackley  
Caroline Jolicoeur

Board Members Absent: Brian English  
Tim Locklear  
Tiffany Powers

Also Present: Kristen Stone, Head of School  
Lisa Ard, Secretary  
Chris Zeigler, Finance

- I. **Call to order:** 6:30 p.m. by Chairman Alvin Ivey
- II. **Roll Call:** Made by Alvin Ivey, recorded by Lisa Ard. Those present represent a quorum of the board. Alvin welcomed everyone in attendance.
- III. **Agenda:** Reviewed and adopted for open session

**IV. Finances:**

Chris Zeigler updated on finances; everything same as previous meeting. Working on information for audit for the state with Buddy McLean, everything looks good.

**V. Information Items:**

Kristen made a recent visit to Magellan Charter School in Raleigh; school was opened in 1997 and has presently 400 students attending. School does not offer any resources, no PE. Very similar to what we are doing here as far as curriculum, Common Core is used.

Proud to announce that we raised \$2,744.00 for "Pennies for the Cure", very good to put back into the community. Thank you Libby Davis for all your hard work.

Sara Benson reviewed Board Expectations and Code of Conduct, should be signed by every board member (see attached for details). Expressed how important boundaries/bylaws/credibility of board/efficiency of board.....successful board means successful school. School expects high expectations of board should also expect high expectations of board.

Need to approve this evening, Dave Allen made a motion; Alvin Ivey seconded, all in favor. All board members need to sign and give to Lisa Ard to keep a copy on file. Still need Conflict of Interest Policy signed by several board members.

John Taylor updated the board regarding insurance. Application needs to be completed. Alvin stated insurance is not only to protect the board members but also teachers and volunteers.

**VI. Old Business/Parent Concerns:**

Alvin asked Jason Spangler to speak on behalf of the Parent Organization. \*\*See attached letter that was read by Jason Spangler. Discussion of Parent Teacher Organization Bylaws (attached) also discussed in great length. The following is concerns/questions/changes that the board or parents would like to see made:

Article III (section 1) should read "The principal and any full time employee....."

Article XI- Which meeting?? Full members.

Article IV g. Liaisons need to be appointed immediately by principal. Ms. Stone appointed Jenn Whitley & Stacey Walters. Jason Spangler will act as liaison between the school board and the parent organization board. All in favor.

Alvin opened up discussion concerning the name of the Parent Organization. My family has been a parent of SeA for the past 11 years, have been through the difficult times when OPTS would earmark money for a particular purchase (bus), then have to put money raised back into the school to make ends meet. OPTS has always been a part of SeA, parents and staff have worked very hard throughout the years fundraising and providing to the school in any way that was necessary to keep the doors open. During the last year of SeA private school (2012-2013) the school came up \$30K short to close out the school year. Several joined together to help meet the deficit. I personally understand the connection several past and present board members have to want to keep the name OPTS.

Parent made a comment about the way funds from the fall fundraiser was handled. Money handed off to a third party without being counted. Several commented on following standard rules for collecting money. Refer to policy in Parent Support Organization for handling of funds. Don't want an incident like Tanglewood had a few years ago. Another parent made a comment that we should not have to worry about what to call the organization as much as how to handle the organization especially where money is concerned. Name should not matter. Several comments made as in previous board meeting about what the name should be one or the other. Parent asked if the board has the right to say how fundraising money is spent. Board does not want to control money that is raised. Money needs to be earmarked prior to fundraising so parents/staff know what they are raising money for. Board member brought up incident with playground equipment from last year, miscommunication; important to have everyone agree on what money is being raised for ahead of time. Set goals for classroom/school needs should always be a priority. Parent question about who is responsible for the auction this year? Most would like to see Parent Organization in charge of auction; again money should be earmarked to go towards something specific. As long as policies and procedures are in place everything will run smoothly. Parent stated that he doesn't like how it sounds that the school is divided when it comes to school name and

running of Parent Organization. Does not understand the big concern about the name. Another parent stated that it does not look good in the community that the school seems to be divided; need to all get along as one. Michaela Thompson, President of Parent Organization, made a motion to all present members at the board meeting to approve the name remaining "OPTS", all members present were in favor. Name for the Parent Organization will remain "OPTS".

Kristen stated that showing a unity of the school is a major success. Work together as one unity. Want to see everyone get together as one. Chris Zeigler will need to check with Buddy McLean and LB&A on how else to handle Dowless Catering money.

John Taylor had a question regarding Article 13, section 5 regarding compensation do not understand statement. No one should be compensated. No profit to be made by a board member of OPTS a member can not be compensated in any way.

Alvin Ivey would like to see Article VII (Committees) reworded, consolidate some of the committees.

Auction should be a joint decision of how funds will be spent. What percentage of auction money will go where and how? Need a goal for auction in order to solicit money. Make changes to few areas of bylaws before they will be approved. Next year percentage of money being raised should be set prior to budget being made for next school year. Capital building fund will also need to be started if we want to continue to show growth. Also going to further check into separate Federal ID for future years, long process not going to happen this year. Bylaw changes to be made and emailed to Alvin.

**Adjournment:** The next meeting of the Board of Directors of Southeastern Academy Charter School is scheduled for Tuesday, December 16, 2014 @ 6:30 p.m. at the school.