

SOUTHEASTERN EARLY COLLEGE AND CAREER ACADEMY, INC.
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES
February 17, 2026

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Dr. Tim Smith, Community Representative
Dr. Rhonda Hightower, Superintendent, Montgomery County Schools
Dr. Sandy Reid, Superintendent, Vidalia City Schools
Dr. Susan Stone, Superintendent, Treutlen County Schools
Andy Blount, Vidalia Board Representative
Fred Godbee, Business Representative
Barry Waller, Superintendent, Toombs County Schools
Larry Calhoun, President, Southeastern Technical College
Debbie Evans, Greater Vidalia Chamber
Andy Woodruff, Toombs County Parent Representative
Henry Price, Board Representative, Montgomery County Schools

MEMBERS UNABLE TO ATTEND:

Bruce Asberry, Community Member
Ronald Baker, Parent Representative, Treutlen County
Holt Barwick, Business Representative
Michele Johnson, SECCA Board Chair, Greater Vidalia Chamber
Andy Kimbell, STC Board Representative; Business Representative
Chris Hartley, Business Representative
Ashley Thornton, Montgomery County Parent Representative
Clint Williams, Board Representative, Toombs County Schools
Ellis Strobridge, Vidalia High School Principal
Joshua White, Treutlen County High School Principal
Tracey McNeal, Montgomery County High School Principal
Marissa Morris, Toombs County High School Principal
Kelly Tippet, Parent Representative, Vidalia City Schools

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Amy Gillies, SECCA CEO, Director of High School Programs
Sabrina Campbell, SECCA Marketing Coordinator
Betsy Avellaneda, SECCA Instructor
Anna Helms, WBL Instructor
Shelly Smith, Former SECCA CEO

Call to Order

Michele Johnson, called the meeting of the Southeastern Early College and Career Academy, Inc. (SECCA) Board of Directors to order.

Invocation

The invocation was given by Mr. Henry Price.

Approval of Agenda and Minutes

On a motion by Mr. Fred Godbee, seconded by Dr. Tim Smith, the agenda and the minutes from the previous meeting were approved unanimously.

Vision and Goals

Michele Johnson reviewed the SECCA Vision and Goals with the Board.

Director's Report

Mrs. Gillies welcomed Micah Williams to the Board. The Automotive Pathway was highlighted by instructor, Betsy Avellaneda. She discussed ASE Certification and students that have gone to work in field. A student from Montgomery County talked about his job and how the program prepared him to enter the workforce.

Shelly Smith provided a brief history of SECCA and emphasized the importance of the strong collaboration among the four participating school systems. She highlighted how the partnership continues to create valuable opportunities for students and strengthen workforce development efforts across the region.

Mrs. Gillies reported that Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) continue to meet consistently across all pathways and remain productive and collaborative. She highlighted the value of incorporating literacy in all pathways. The strong teamwork among instructors and the ongoing commitment to student success and pathway alignment.

Discussion was held regarding school safety and the associated cost of a School Resource Officer. Mrs. Gillies reminded the board that SECCA donates a portion of Coastal Plains back to STC.

Mrs. Gillies reviewed upcoming Board Training scheduled for March 17, 2026 and Board Meeting scheduled for May 19, 2026.

Adjournment

On a motion by Mr. Fred Godbee, seconded by Mr. Andy Woodruff, the meeting was adjourned.

NEXT BOARD MEETING

The next Board meeting will be May 19, 2026.



Michele Johnson, Chair



Amy Gillies, Secretary