

SOUTHEASTERN EARLY COLLEGE AND CAREER ACADEMY, INC.
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES
August 19, 2025

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Larry Calhoun, President, Southeastern Technical College
Debbie Evans, Greater Vidalia Chamber
Holt Barwick, Business Representative
Dr. Rhonda Hightower, Superintendent, Montgomery County Schools
Michele Johnson, SECCA Board Chair, Greater Vidalia Chamber
Andy Kimbell, STC Board Representative; Business Representative
Dr. Tim Smith, Community Representative
Dr. Sandi Reid, Superintendent, Vidalia City Schools
Dr. Susan Stone, Superintendent, Treutlen County Schools
Kelly Tippet, Parent Representative, Vidalia City Schools
Henry Price, Board Representative, Montgomery County Schools
Barry Waller, Superintendent, Toombs County Schools

MEMBERS UNABLE TO ATTEND:

Bruce Asberry, Community Member
Ronald Baker, Parent Representative, Treutlen County
Andy Blount, Vidalia Board Representative
Fred Godbee, Business Representative
Chris Hartley, Business Representative
Andy Woodruff, Toombs County Parent Representative
Ashley Thornton, Montgomery County Parent Representative
Clint Williams, Board Representative, Toombs County Schools

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Amy Gillies, SECCA CEO, Director of High School Programs
Anna Helms, WBL Coordinator
John O'Conner, Montgomery County Schools
Amy Moore, Cosmetology Instructor
Sabrina Campbell, SECCA Marketing Coordinator
Ellis Strogbridge, Principal Vidalia High School

Michelle Johnson, SECCA Board Chair, called the meeting of the Southeastern Early College and Career Academy, Inc. (SECCA) Board of Directors to order. Invocation was given by Toombs County Schools Superintendent, Barry Waller. On a motion by Henry Price second by Dr. Tim Smith, to approve the agenda and the minutes. Motion was approved. The Vision and Goals were reviewed.

Mrs. Gillies gave the Director's Report. The report opened with a 2025–2026 budget correction. It was noted that the original correction was simply a typo. Chromebook carts and docking stations came in at 24% over the original projection, but SECCA is positioned well financially, and the additional cost can be absorbed without issue.

Updates were provided on the automotive curriculum, with adjustments underway to ensure alignment with industry standards and student skill development. Captain Ware was recognized for successfully completing Post Test Interpretation, an achievement that strengthens the JROTC program and instructional capacity. Cosmetology and Work-Based Learning (WBL) pathways were highlighted by reviewing recent student accomplishments, credentialing opportunities, and business partnerships. Instructors expressed appreciation for the strong industry connections being developed.

SECCA's recent community outreach was also noted. Staff delivered donuts to every school and board office, and SECCA participated in the Southeastern Technical College Back to School Bash. Both events were successful in raising awareness of SECCA and strengthening community connections.

Discussion turned to professional learning. New teachers will engage in ongoing training through CTEARN, the only resource network of its kind. Mrs. Gillies noted that SECCA is fortunate to have access to CTEARN, which will also be a key support in shaping the new weekly professional development plans aligned with TKES. Several new policies were reviewed. The new car policy was shared in writing, clarifying student driver guidelines and safety expectations. Enrollment numbers were then discussed. Enrollment is down slightly, and SECCA will continue engaging in community outreach to help strengthen numbers. Mrs. Gillies is reviewing enrollment trends across all schools to determine if the decline is regional. She is also analyzing male-to-female ratios within each pathway.

Board member confirmation was discussed, and Mrs. Gillies asked all members to review the list of names and provide any needed corrections. Mrs. Campbell gave a marketing update, sharing recent efforts and strategies to continue promoting SECCA's programs and pathways across the region. On a motion by Andy Kimbell and a second by Dr. Tim Smith, the meeting was adjourned.

NEXT BOARD MEETING

The next Board meeting will be September, 16 2025.

Michele Johnson, Chair

Amy Gillies, Secretary