

SOUTHEASTERN EARLY COLLEGE AND CAREER ACADEMY, INC.
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES
November 19, 2020

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Garrett Wilcox, Superintendent, Vidalia City Schools
Barry Waller, Superintendent, Toombs County Schools

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Andy Kimbell, STC Board Representative
Don Betts, Business Representative
Bruce Asberry, Board Representative, Vidalia City Schools BOE
Debbie Evans, Business Representative
Michele Johnson, Business Representative
Henry Price, Board Representative, Montgomery County
Chris Hartley, Business Representative

MEMBERS UNABLE TO ATTEND:

Tommy Smith, Parent Representative, Toombs County Schools
Clint Williams, Board Representative, Toombs County
Josh Kelly, Board Representative, Treutlen County
Allen Rice, Business Representative
Fred Godbee, Business Representative
Melissa Barrow, Parent Representative, Montgomery County
Kelly Tippet, Parent Representative, Vidalia City Schools
Ronald Baker, Parent Representative, Treutlen County

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Shelly Smith, CEO, SECCA
David Avery, High School Director, SECCA
Tim Smith, Advisor
Sabrina Campbell, Special Programs Coordinator
Holly Durrence, Evans County High School

Chair Don Betts called the meeting of the Southeastern Early College and Career Academy, Inc. (SECCA) Board of Directors to order at 6:00 pm. Henry Price offered an invocation, and the board reviewed the school vision and goals. On a motion by Henry Price and second by Bruce Asberry, the board approved the agenda as amended.

Shelly Smith presented the revised budget for FY 21 which includes staffing changes. The budget has increased due to the addition of a drone instructor and a second block of Healthcare Services, increases in State health employer costs, and increases in janitorial services. The per segment cost to participating systems by application of rent totaling \$55,000 from Coastal Academy to the operational costs at SECCA for FY 21. On a motion by Henry Price and second by Michele Johnson, the revised budget was approved.

Shelly Smith shared a proposal for administrative appointments for FY 22. Because the hiring of a full time CEO and high school director will significantly increase costs, Shelly Smith and David Avery agreed to remain in those shared positions for FY 22. Sabrina Campbell will share daily school supervisory duties with David Avery to allow him more flexibility in his schedule. On a motion by Henry Price and second by Chris Hartley, the board unanimously approved the proposal.

The board discussed a proposal for jumpstarting the Make It – Move It course. Instead of beginning with a 3-course pathway, the program would begin with a one semester course taught by representatives from area manufacturers and logistics companies. Students would apply to participate and would be interviewed at the close of the course for possible employment with participating companies. The board expressed support for the plan especially with the shortened time frame which will help meet employer needs more rapidly. The course should begin in fall 2021.

Board members were urged to register for and participate in the December 1st Lt. Governor’s Summit for Georgia career academies and supporting industries. Those who participate will receive three hours of required training credit.

David Avery shared current enrollment data. As of November 6, 2020, SECCA student enrollment was 422. Recruiting for second semester and fall 2021 will begin next month with SECCA instructors visiting member schools to explain their programs. The per segment cost for first semester is \$676 with systems receiving \$547 per segment reimbursement from the State of Georgia. Mr. Avery also shared a wide array of activities undertaken by students and staff during first semester including speaking engagements at ceremonies such as 9-11 and Veteran’s Day. Energy students in the third course have become OSHA certified, and December activities will include social media events and celebrations. Kia has offered a car for the use of the Automotive Technology classes at SECCA, and the contribution should be made soon.

Michele Johnson, board member and Toombs-Montgomery Chamber Executive, shared local investment in a workforce development planning process led by the Carl Vinson Institute. Employers are funding the initiative and will participate in all aspects. According to Ms. Johnson, the time is right for collaboration between schools such as SECCA and the business community. Ms. Smith will assist in the effort.

The virtual meeting was adjourned at 6:45.

NEXT BOARD MEETING

The next meeting will be held March 18, 2021, at 6:00 pm.

Don Betts, Chair

Shelly Smith, Secretary