

SOUTHEASTERN EARLY COLLEGE AND CAREER ACADEMY, INC.
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES
March 25, 2021

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Michele Johnson, Business Representative
Josh Kelly, Board Representative, Treutlen County
Fred Godbee, Business Representative

MEMBERS UNABLE TO ATTEND:

Tommy Smith, Parent Representative, Toombs County Schools
Clint Williams, Board Representative, Toombs County
Allen Rice, Business Representative
Melissa Barrow, Parent Representative, Montgomery County
Kelly Tippett, Parent Representative, Vidalia City Schools
Ronald Baker, Parent Representative, Treutlen County
Andy Kimbell, STC Board Representative
Don Betts, Business Representative
Bruce Asberry, Board Representative, Vidalia City Schools BOE
Debbie Evans, Business Representative
Henry Price, Board Representative, Montgomery County
Chris Hartley, Business Representative

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Shelly Smith, CEO, SECCA
David Avery, High School Director, SECCA
Tim Smith, Advisor
Sabrina Campbell, Special Programs Coordinator
Barry Dotson, STC

Shelly Smith called the meeting of the Southeastern Early College and Career Academy, Inc. (SECCA) Board of Directors to order at 6:00 pm. David Avery offered an invocation, and the board reviewed the school vision and goals. On a motion by Fred Godbee and second by Michele Johnson, the board approved the agenda and the minutes from November 2020.

SECCA staff members David Avery, Sabrina Campbell, and Shelly Smith presented recent accomplishments of the academy: an 80 percent pass rate on the Energy Pathway certification test which is higher than the industry average; the acquisition of a car from Kia Motors as a donation to the automotive tech program; the creation of career cards featuring SECCA students along with local employment opportunities including benefits and earnings; the nomination of a SECCA student for state recognition; and, most importantly, having completed nearly two-thirds of the school year in face-to-face instruction without interruption.

David Avery shared current enrollment data. As of March 2021, SECCA student enrollment for second semester was 340. Second semester enrollment is always less than in the fall semester because block scheduling allows students to take a third and final pathway course in the fall. The per segment cost for second

semester will be \$750 as compared to \$676 during fall semester. The home schools will earn \$547 per segment from the State of Georgia.

Mr. Avery noted there were 132 students enrolled in Work-Based Learning from Vidalia High and Treutlen High, and another 38 students enrolled in Teaching as a Profession. As these programs grow, additional staff will be necessary in the coming school year. SECCA currently serves a total of 472 students during second semester.

Shelly Smith gave an update on the Make It Move It initiative. The course will focus on seniors without firm after graduation plans for school or employment. Dot Foods, Truax, Oxford Distribution, and Robins Builders have all committed to teach a segment of the course in the fall. Additionally, Ray McCullough from Savannah will provide the 10-hour OSHA training for all those enrolled. Donna Collins will coach students in the preparation of e-portfolios, resumes, and applications. Chick fil-A will join Ms. Collins in teaching work ethics and employability skills. At the close of the course, students will participate in mock interviews and then in authentic interviews for possible employment with businesses who have taught portions of the course.

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. Barry Dotson, Tim Smith, and Shelly Smith are among many members of the steering committee that meets March 31. The Carl Vinson team will tour SECCA on March 30 and interview staff.

The virtual meeting was adjourned at 6:45.

NEXT BOARD MEETING

The next meeting will be held face-to-face on April 15, 2021, at 6:00 pm.

Don Betts, Chair

Shelly Smith, Secretary