

SOUTHEASTERN EARLY COLLEGE AND CAREER ACADEMY, INC.
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES
April 15, 2021

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Michele Johnson, Business Representative
Melissa Barrow, Parent Representative, Montgomery County
Don Betts, Business Representative
Bruce Asberry, Board Representative, Vidalia City Schools BOE
Debbie Evans, Business Representative
Chris Hartley, Business Representative

MEMBERS UNABLE TO ATTEND:

Tommy Smith, Parent Representative, Toombs County Schools
Clint Williams, Board Representative, Toombs County
Allen Rice, Business Representative
Kelly Tippett, Parent Representative, Vidalia City Schools
Ronald Baker, Parent Representative, Treutlen County
Andy Kimbell, STC Board Representative
Henry Price, Board Representative, Montgomery County
Fred Godbee, Business Representative
Josh Kelly, Board Representative, Treutlen County

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Shelly Smith, CEO, SECCA
David Avery, High School Director, SECCA
Tim Smith, Advisor
Sabrina Campbell, Special Programs Coordinator, SECCA
Barry Dotson, STC Vice President
Scott Barrow, MCHS Principal
Lash Clemens, SECCA Healthcare Instructor
Rebecca Hong, Healthcare Student
Zaire Nobles, Healthcare Student
Brooks Nobles, Parent
John Sharpe, VHS Principal
Jameson Travick, Assistant Superintendent, Treutlen Co.

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. Barry Dotson offered an invocation, and the board reviewed the school vision and goals. On a motion by Michele Johnson and second by Debbie Evans, the board approved the agenda and the minutes from March 2021.

SECCA Healthcare Services Instructor Lash Clemens shared program goals and priorities. The classes emphasize work ethics and the myriad careers in the medical field which are open to SECCA students. Ms. Clemens then introduced two of her students, Rebecca Hong and Zaire Nobles. The students explained their enjoyment of the healthcare courses and their usefulness in their career aspirations. Rebecca hopes to be a

neurologist and Zaire hopes to be an obstetrician. Both are honors students at Montgomery County High School. Both students acknowledged the increased rigor in the study of human anatomy but expressed their appreciation for the quality instruction they receive at SECCA. Zaire's mother attended the meeting as well, explaining her medical technician job at Meadows Regional Hospital and the need for more healthcare workers.

Appling Healthcare staff delivered backpacks with first aid supplies and information to be distributed by SECCA healthcare students on April 16 during a mock health fair. Students with disabilities in grades K-12 will attend the fair and get health screenings, coaching, and wellness information from SECCA healthcare students. The board thanked the students, Mrs. Clemens, and the Appling Healthcare staff for their presentation and leadership. Board member Melissa Barrow suggested that SECCA and STC work to offer additional healthcare service courses during first block, either virtually or face-to-face so that students who begin coursework in ninth or tenth grade can extend their studies into the junior year.

David Avery and Shelly Smith explained the continuation of all current pathways in the 2021-22 school year. They noted that there are 132 students enrolled in Work-Based Learning from Vidalia High and Treutlen High, and another 38 students enrolled in Teaching as a Profession. The work load for the instructor, Donna Collins, has increased over time, and SECCA administrators will seek a part-time TAP instructor for next year so that Ms. Collins can focus on further expanding the Work-Based Learning Program. The two systems participating in the WBL program through SECCA currently recoup all costs associated with SECCA participation through DOE reimbursement for WBL.

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, Robins Builders, and Trane 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 Greater Vidalia Area 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 interview a group of eight SECCA students on Tuesday, April 27th, in preparation for the Chamber session Wednesday, April 28.

On a motion by Melissa Barrow and second by Bruce Asberry, the meeting was adjourned at 7:00 pm.

NEXT BOARD MEETING

The next meeting will be held face-to-face on May 20, 2021, at 6:00 pm.

Don Betts, Chair

Shelly Smith, Secretary