

SOUTHEASTERN EARLY COLLEGE AND CAREER ACADEMY, INC.
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES
May 20, 2021

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Michele Johnson, Business Representative
Don Betts, Business Representative
Debbie Evans, Business Representative
Clint Williams, Board Representative, Toombs County
Kelly Tippett, Parent Representative, Vidalia City Schools
Ronald Baker, Parent Representative, Treutlen County
Barry Waller, Superintendent, Toombs County

MEMBERS UNABLE TO ATTEND:

Tommy Smith, Parent Representative, Toombs County Schools
Allen Rice, Business Representative
Andy Kimbell, STC Board Representative
Henry Price, Board Representative, Montgomery County
Fred Godbee, Business Representative
Josh Kelly, Board Representative, Treutlen County
Melissa Barrow, Parent Representative, Montgomery County
Chris Hartley, Business Representative
Bruce Asberry, Board Representative, Vidalia City Schools BOE

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Shelly Smith, CEO, SECCA
David Avery, High School Director, SECCA
Marissa Morris, Principal Toombs County HS
Kip Hart, SECCA Instructor
Gavin Jackson, VHS Energy Student
Rome Thornton, MCHS Energy Student

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. Mr. Betts also offered an invocation, and the board reviewed the school vision and goals. On a motion by Clint Williams and second by Ron Baker, the board approved the agenda. On a motion by Clint Williams and second by Michele Johnson, the board approved minutes from April 2021.

SECCA Energy instructor, Dr. Kip Hart presented an overview of program curricula and enrollment by gender and ethnicity. He also explained the stackable certifications that students earn while in the pathway: CPR, OSHA-10, and Energy Industry Fundamentals (EIF). Snap on Tape and Rule and Multimeter Measurement certificates will be added next year. Most impressive was the EIF pass rate for the first student cohort at SECCA. 67% of students enrolled were ready to test and of those testing, 92% passed the national assessment. The national pass rate is 69% for all high schools. Finally, Dr. Hart shared next steps for growing the program: increasing enrollment especially among girls; increasing visibility, cultivating additional partnerships with energy companies, and establishing an advisory board. Two students who have passed the national assessment after taking the courses with Dr. Hart shared their appreciation for the hands-on instruction and the opportunity

to build resumes and make career choices while still in high school. The board asked many questions of the students and applauded their accomplishments. One suggestion made by students is to use pathway completers or participants to recruit others for the class.

David Avery presented the FY 22 budget for board consideration. The budget includes an additional contracted individual as instructor for the Teaching as a Profession pathway. Otherwise, the only other new costs are in teacher salaries and benefits. On a motion by Clint Williams and second by Debbie Evans, the board approved the proposed budget.

Shelly Smith reported on workforce development initiatives. The Carl Vinson Institute is leading a chamber and industry workforce development effort, and Mrs. Smith is a member of the steering committee. Two priorities for implementation are (1) a teacher externship program where academic teachers spend several days during the summer in local industries where they learn about careers and opportunities; and (2) the implementation of YouScience in area middle schools and using civic club, church, and educational volunteers to interpret results for individual students.

The report also included information on courses and personnel. The Make It – Move It course now has a full schedule with teachers from Advanced Fabrication, Dot, Oxford, Robin Builders, Trane, and Truax. SECCA is seeking a new instructor for JROTC with the resignation of the assistant instructor who is taking a job in security at a regional manufacturer.

On a motion by Clint Williams and second by Don Betts, the meeting was adjourned at 7:00 pm.

NEXT BOARD MEETING

The next meeting will be held face-to-face on August 19, 2021, at 6:00 pm.

Don Betts, Chair

Shelly Smith, Secretary