

South Carolina Governor's School for Science and Mathematics

Board of Trustees Meeting

Hartsville, SC

In-person and Zoom Video Conference

February 13, 2025

NOON

Governing Board Members Present In-Person

Mr. Robert (Bob) Brown, Chair

Mr. Dennis Getter

Dr. Rainey Knight, Vice Chair

Governing Board Members Present via Zoom:

Dr. Kristi Austin

Mr. Patrick Cleary

Mr. W. Hudson Denny

Dr. Jane E. Joseph

Dr. David Tedeschi

Dr. Henry Tisdale

Dr. Cynthia Young

Governing Board Members Absent

Mr. John M. Florence

Mr. Heyward Hilliard

Ms. Barbara Melvin

Dr. L. Jeffrey Perez

Guests Present:

Dr. Deidre Hall

Dr. Roberto Robles-Valencia

Dr. Valeria Avanzato

David Coman, Class of 2025

Staff Members Present:

Mr. Danny Dorsel

Dr. Jenifer Blair

Ms. Beth Dinndorf

Dr. Neval Erturk

Mr. Randall La Cross

Dr. Emilye Mobley

Ms. Elizabeth Oswald-Sease

Ms. Bridget Lloyd

GSSM Board of Trustees

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Item 1: Call to Order and Roll Call:

At approximately 12:10 PM, Chairman Bob Brown called the regular meeting of the Board of Trustees to order. A quorum was present, and the meeting was officially convened and ready to proceed with business. Chairman Brown welcomed everyone to the meeting, and Bridget Lloyd recorded the minutes.

Item 2: Approval of the Regular Board of Trustees meeting minutes on November 14, 2024.

Chairman Bob Brown called for a motion to approve the minutes from the November 14, 2024, Board of Trustees meeting as presented. Dennis Getter moved to approve the minutes, and Dr. Rainey Knight seconded the motion. With no further discussion, the motion was unanimously approved.

Item 3: President's Report - Information Only

Mr. Dorsel began his report with the following updates from GSSM.

- Preview Day - Information Shared with Families
- January Interim Courses (Local and International)
- Consent Agenda Highlights
- Upcoming Initiatives and Events
 - Resilient Careers Grant - Technical College System
 - Foster Care and Homeless Students
 - Google Grant for AI Professional Development and Curriculum
 - Teacher Development Position
 - SC Quantum Update
 - Attending SCASA Principal and Middle/Secondary Education Directors Meetings
 - Revisit Tuition Grants for GSSM Graduates

A copy of the President's report is on file.

Item 4: Finance, Facilities, and Operations - Information Only

Ms. Oswald-Sease provided an update on the 2026 Fiscal Year Budget Request following her recent attendance at a budget hearing with the House Ways and Means Committee. She informed the board about the current status of the budget proposal and outlined her intention to present the same proposal to the Senate Finance Committee next month. Ms. Oswald-Sease will provide additional updates to the board during the next meeting.

Ms. Oswald-Sease updated the board on the status of the school's roof, which is still pending completion.

A copy of the 2026 Fiscal Year Budget Request is on file.

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Item 5: GSSM Foundation Report

Beth Dinndorf, the Executive Director of the GSSM Foundation, provided the Board with an update on the various grants and funding received since the last meeting. She emphasized the Foundation's commitment to enhancing its fundraising efforts and fostering stronger connections with the alumni community.

Important Dates to Remember:

- February 28 through March 2, 2025 - Alumni Class Reunion
- March 19, 2025 - The Townes Award Event
- SCGSSM Foundation Allocations for 2023-2024 and 2024-2025
- SCGSSM Foundation Revenues, Expenses, and Endowment Report as of January 31, 2025

A copy of the Foundation report is on file.

Item 6: Faculty Senate Update

Dr. Roberto Robles-Valencia and Dr. Deidre Hall provided valuable insights regarding the Faculty Senate's ongoing initiatives, which focus on several key areas:

- Establishing guidelines to enhance students' academic success.
- Creating strategies to effectively balance extracurricular activities with academic responsibilities.
- Developing protocols to promote academic integrity and the ethical use of artificial intelligence among students.

Item 7: Student Update

David Coman, a member of the Class of 2025, shared insights about his journey to the Governor's School of Science and Mathematics (GSSM), his experiences at GSSM, and provided an update on his research experience in Germany during the interim period.

Faculty Update

Dr. Valeria Avanzato, a member of the biology faculty, shared insights into her educational journey and expressed her passion for both research and teaching. She highlighted her commitment to guiding students at GSSM and emphasized the experiences she aims to provide in the classroom.

Item 8: New Business

None.

Item 9: Approval of the Consent Agenda

Chairman Bob Brown opened the floor for discussion on the items included in the Consent Agenda. Following the discussion, he requested a motion to approve the agenda. Dennis Getter made a motion to approve, and Dr. Rainey Knight seconded. With no objections, the board unanimously approved the Consent Agenda.

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Item 10: Standing Committee Reports

None.

Item 11: Reminder of Upcoming Board of Trustees Meetings

Chairman Bob Brown conducted a review of the meeting schedule, highlighting that the dates for September's Convocation, the Joint Board Retreat, and the Board of Trustees meeting will be finalized and communicated by the end of the month.

Item 12: Adjournment

Chairman Bob Brown officially adjourned the meeting at approximately 1:30 PM. There were no objections raised by any members of the board.

Robert (Bob) Brown, Chairman
Board of Trustees
SC Governor's School for Science and Mathematics

Notice of the meeting's time, date, location, and agenda was posted on the school's website and in publicly accessible areas at 401 Railroad Avenue, Hartsville, South Carolina, on January 31, 2025.