

South Carolina Governor's School for Science and Mathematics

Board of Trustees Meeting

Hartsville, SC

In-person and Zoom Video Conference

February 15, 2024

Noon

Governing Board Members Present In-Person

Mr. Robert Brown, Chair

Mr. Dennis Getter

Mr. Heyward Hilliard

Dr. Rainey Knight

Governing Board Members Present via Zoom:

Ms. Charmeka Childs

Mr. William H. Denny

Ms. Stephanie DiStasio

Ms. Barbara Melvin

Dr. David Tedeschi

Dr. Henry Tisdale

Guests Present:

Dr. Roberto Robles-Valencia

Dr. Jennifer Brown

Dr. Deidre Hall

Navneeth Nalajala

Staff Members Present:

Mr. Danny Dorsel

Dr. Jenifer Blair

Ms. Beth Dinndorf

Mr. Randy La Cross

Dr. Emilye Mobley

Ms. Elizabeth Oswald-Sease

Mr. Jon Shannon

Ms. Bridget Lloyd

Item 1: Call to Order and Roll Call:

At approximately 12:05 PM, Chairman Bob Brown called the regular meeting of the Board of Trustees to order. A quorum was present, and the meeting, having been duly convened, was ready to proceed with business. Chairman Brown welcomed everyone to the meeting. Bridget Lloyd recorded the minutes.

Item 2:

Approve the minutes of the Regular Board of Trustees meeting on September 8, 2023.

Chairman Board requested a motion to approve the minutes of the regular Board of Trustees meeting held on September 8, 2023. The Board was reminded that the minutes were not approved at the last meeting due to a lack of quorum. Mr. Hilliard moved to approve the minutes, and Mr. Getter seconded. There was no further discussion. The motion was passed unanimously.

GSSM Board of Trustees

Meeting Minutes of February 15, 2024

Approve the minutes of the Regular Board of Trustees meeting on November 16, 2023.

Chairman Brown requested a motion to approve the November 16, 2023 meeting minutes. Mr. Hilliard moved to approve the minutes, and Dr. Knight seconded. There was no further discussion. The motion was passed unanimously.

Item 3: President's Report

Mr. Danny Dorsel, in his report, highlighted the school's mission, vision, and values statement, which focused on supporting education statewide. His report highlighted the following events and updates.

- GSSM as a State Resource and Partner
 - SC Nexus Grant: GSSM will represent the K-12 partner
 - STEM camps will run for four weeks in ten technical colleges from June to July as part of the partnership with the SC Technical College System.
- Working to Partner with Virtual SC to deliver high-level synchronous elective STEM courses to seniors statewide.
- GSSM's Impact on South Carolina's Workforce
 - Phase 1: A&E Updates
- Property Updates
- Proposal for Tuition Grants for Graduates of Governor's Schools in South Carolina
- Leadership Changes
- January Interim Updates

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

Item 4: Educational Policies and Practices Committee Report

Chairman Brown passed the floor to Dr. Tedeschi, who heads the Educational Policies and Practices committee. On behalf of the committee, Dr. Tedeschi motioned for the Board of Trustees to approve the discontinuation of the recruitment of new cohorts for the STEM Foundations Pilot Program. The program has experienced a decrease in enrollment.

Chairman Brown opened the floor for discussion.

Chairman Brown introduced the matter of discussion regarding the STEM Foundations Pilot program. The Board of Trustees members reviewed the motion on page 19 of the Consent Agenda and discussed whether the program should be removed from academic offerings or discontinued for future assessment.

Mr. Hilliard proposed an amendment to the motion: to stop recruiting new cohorts for the program and for GSSM Leadership to seek approval from the Board of Trustees before restarting it. However, Mr. Hilliard later withdrew his proposal to amend the existing motion.

Action: Vote to approve discontinuing recruitment of new cohorts for the STEM Foundations Pilot Program.

Chairman Brown restated the original motion to approve discontinuing the recruitment of new cohorts for the STEM Foundations Pilot program. He opened the floor for further discussion. There was no further discussion, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

GSSM Board of Trustees

Meeting Minutes of February 15, 2024

Note: Although the Board of Trustees voted to approve the discontinuation of recruitment of new cohorts to the STEM Foundations Pilot program, it was understood in the discussion that the program would remain on the books.

Item 5: Finance, Facilities, and Operations

Ms. Elizabeth Oswald-Sease presented a financial report on behalf of the Finance, Facilities, and Operations Committee. The report provides an update on the school's financial health and includes information on its facilities and operations. It covers the fiscal year up to December 31, 2023.

- FY to Date Revenue Collected: \$18,717,614.00
- Operating Expenses: \$9,285,083.00
- FY Projected Revenue: \$19,925,855.00
- FY Projected Expenses: \$19,160,649.00

Facilities Updates:

- The GSSM has been approved to extend Phase 1 of the cooling tower project.
- GSSM is now progressing towards the stage of soliciting bids for the roof replacement project.
- The dining hall renovations are currently on hold until the summer. The anticipated cost is \$350k. The fee structure is built into Aramark's contract with GSSM.
- GSSM has purchased new furniture for the South Lobby study lounge for student use.
- New laundry equipment for the residence halls will be installed in March. To address the expense of using the equipment, the Foundation funds purchasing cards for students with financial needs.

Legislative Update:

- GSSM had a positive meeting regarding the budget for FY25 with the House Ways and Means Committee.
- GSSM has received support for seven full-time equivalent (FTE) requests from the State Department of Human Resources.

A copy of the financial report is on file.

Item 6: GSSM Foundation Report

Beth Dinndorf, GSSM Foundation Executive Director, reported on the following updates:

- Annual Fund Report: Fundraising Results as of January 31, 2024
- New Corporate Contacts
- SC Nexus Project and GSSM's Role
- GSSM Foundation Endowment Balance Update
- Banking and Investments Accounts Balance as of December 31, 2023

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

Item 7: Faculty Senate Update

Dr. Deidre Hall presented the Faculty Senate update on behalf of Dr. Roberto Robles-Valencia. She discussed the faculty's perspective on the Interim and highlighted focal areas for the Spring semester.

GSSM Board of Trustees

Meeting Minutes of February 15, 2024

Item 8: Student and Faculty Updates

Navneeth Nalajala, Class of 2025, shared his reasons for choosing GSSM, interim experience, and academic growth and journey at GSSM.

Dr. Jennifer Brown, a Biology teacher and Chair of the Biology Department, shared her recent experience traveling with students to the Galapagos Islands during the interim.

Item 9: Recess

Chairman Brown called for a 10-minute recess at approximately 1:42 p.m., ended the recess at approximately 1:52 p.m., and reconvened the meeting.

Item 10: New Business

None was reported.

Item 11: Consent Agenda

Action: Approval of the Consent Agenda

Chairman Brown opened the floor for discussion.

Questions about enrollment for 2026 cohorts, poverty rankings, and the economic impact study were raised.

During the meeting, Chairman Brown asked for a vote on the Consent Agenda. He requested those in favor to say "Aye" and those opposed to say "No." There were no objections, and the motion passed unanimously. The Consent Agenda was approved as distributed, and there was no further discussion.

Item 12: Standing Committee Reports

None was reported.

Item 13: Reminder of the upcoming meetings of the Board of Trustees.

Chairman Brown reminded the board members about some important upcoming events and meetings. In March, there will be the Townes Award Event. In September, there will be the GSSM Convocation, the GSSM Board of Trustees and Foundation Joint Board Retreat, and the Board of Trustees meeting.

Item 14: Adjournment

Chairman Brown adjourned the meeting without any opposition at approximately 2:06 p.m.

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

GSSM Board of Trustees

Meeting Minutes of February 15, 2024

Notice of the meeting's time, date, location, and agenda was provided to the public on February 8, 2024, on the school's website and in publicly accessible areas at 401 Railroad Avenue, Hartsville, South Carolina.