

South Carolina Governor's School for Science and Mathematics

Board of Trustees Meeting

Hartsville, SC

In-person and Zoom Video Conference

May 29, 2025

NOON

Governing Board Members Present In-Person

Mr. Robert (Bob) Brown, Chair

Mr. Dennis Getter

Dr. David Tedeschi

Governing Board Members Present via Zoom:

Dr. Kristi Austin

Mr. Heyward Hilliard

Dr. Jane E. Joseph

Ms. Barbara Melvin - joined at 12:30 p.m.

Dr. Henry Tisdale

Dr. Cynthia Young

Governing Board Members Absent

Mr. Patrick Cleary

Mr. William Hudson Denny

Mr. John M. Florence

Dr. Rainey Knight, Vice Chair

Dr. L. Jeffrey Perez

Guests Present:

Dr. Deidre Hall

Dr. Roberto Robles-Valencia

Ms. Susan Engelhardt

Whitt Byrd, 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

Meeting Minutes of May 29, 2025

Item 1: Call to Order and Roll Call:

Chairman Brown welcomed the Board of Trustees to the meeting and called the regular meeting to order at approximately 12:05 p.m. A quorum was present, and the meeting was officially convened and ready to proceed. Bridget Lloyd recorded the minutes.

Item 2: Approval of the Regular Board of Trustees meeting minutes on February 13, 2025.

Chairman Bob Brown called for a motion to approve the minutes from the February 13, 2025, Board of Trustees meeting. Dennis Getter moved to approve the minutes as presented. Heyward Hilliard seconded the motion. The board unanimously approved the minutes.

Item 3: President's Report - Information Only

Mr. Dorsel provided the Board with a solemn update regarding the recent passing of several faculty and staff members during the current school term. He officially announced the retirement of Dr. Emilye Mobley from her role as Vice President of Student Development, effective July 2025. He welcomed Matt Dowdell as the incoming Vice President for Student Development, who will assume his position in July 2025.

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

- The Approval GSSM Foundation Partnership Documents
 - Memorandum of Understanding - Must be reviewed every three years in May by the Board of Trustees and Foundation Board of Directors.
 - Gift Accept Agreement - Must be reviewed annually in May by the Board of Trustees and Foundation Board of Directors.
 - Service Level Agreement - Must be reviewed annually in May by the "Team of Five" referenced in the Service Level Agreement for Reporting and Memorandum of Understanding.
- Class of 2025 - College Admissions
- Class of 2026 - Research Opportunities
- Class of 2027 - Enrollment Update
 - Residential - 136 Enrolled
 - Accelerate - 36 enrolled. Danny will follow up with the board in September about the possibility of sunseting the program.
- GSSM hosted an affiliate Regeneron International Science & Engineering Fair (ISEF)
- GSSM Initiatives Update
 - SC Nexus Grant - Delivery expected in the summer.
 - South Carolina Technical College System - All campuses will host GSSM's GoSciTech Day Camp
 - SC Quantum - Reviewing and Testing Curriculum
 - Google Grant for AI submitted for teacher development.
 - Global Partnerships Expansion

- January 2026 - Plans for an Interim course that includes a global learning experience in Lithuania
- 2025 GoSciTech Summer Programs
- Class of 2025 Commencement Speaker - Neel Sus, Class of 1995

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 following financial matters:

1. FY 2024-2025 Third Quarter Financial Update (Period Ending 03/31/2025)
2. FY 2025-2026 Budget Request
3. Preliminary FY 2026-2027 Budget Request, which will be presented in the fall.

A copy of the finance report is on file.

Item 5: GSSM Foundation Report

Beth Dinndorf, the Executive Director of the GSSM Foundation, provided the Board with the following updates:

1. Fundraising Results: As of May 27, 2025, the Foundation has made significant progress in fundraising efforts. Detailed figures were presented to the Board of Trustees.
2. Campaign Goals and Funding Summary: An overview of the campaign goals was shared, along with a summary of funding received to date.
3. Summary of Allocations Paid to Date
 - a. Pending allocations to hire a lobbyist for GSSM.
4. GSSM Foundation Endowment Update: An update on the current status of the endowment was shared with the board.

A copy of the Foundation report is on file.

Item 6: Faculty Senate Update

Dr. Roberto Robles-Valencia updated the Board on behalf of the Faculty Senate, highlighting improved collaboration with the administration on academic and student services. He announced that he and Dr. Deidre Hall will step down as Chair and Co-Chair, with Dr. Jennifer Crawford and Ms. Alyssa Reisner taking over those roles next semester.

Item 7: Student Update

Whitt Byrd, a member of the Class of 2025, shared insights about his journey to the SC Governor's School for Science and Mathematics (GSSM), his experience at GSSM, and where he plans to attend college.

Staff Update

Ms. Susan Engelhardt, the Outreach Director of Summer Programs, provided the Board with an update on her professional journey at GSSM. She discussed managing the summer program, which includes organizing residential, day, and virtual camps.

Item 8: New Business

None.

Item 9: Approval of the Consent Agenda

Chairperson 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. Heyward Hilliard moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Barbara Melvin seconded the motion. The board unanimously approved the Consent Agenda.

Item 10: Standing Committee Reports

None.

Item 11: Reminder of Upcoming Board of Trustees Meetings

Chairperson Bob Brown reviewed the upcoming events scheduled on the Board calendar.

Item 12: Adjournment

Chairperson Bob Brown officially adjourned the meeting at approximately 1:10 PM. There were no objections raised by any members of the board.

Robert (Bob) Brown, Chairperson
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 May 21, 2025.