

South Carolina Governor's School for Science and Mathematics
Board of Trustees Meeting
September 12, 2025
Location: Hartsville, SC (In-person and Zoom Video Conference)

9:00 A.M.

Governing Board Members Present In-Person

Mr. Robert (Bob) Brown, Chair
Mr. William H. Denny
Mr. Dennis Getter
Mr. Heyward Hilliard
Dr. Henry Tisdale
Dr. David Tedeschi

Governing Board Members Present via Zoom

Dr. Kristi Austin
Dr. Jane E. Joseph
Dr. L. Jeffrey Perez - left at 10:25 a.m.

Governing Board Members Absent

Mr. John M. Florence
Mr. Royce Shannon
Dr. Cynthia Young

Guests Present

Dr. Jennifer Crawford
Ms. Alyssa Reiser Prince
Kaycee McComber, Class of 2026

Staff Members Present

Mr. Danny Dorsel
Dr. Jenifer Blair
Mr. Matt Dowdell
Mr. Randall La Cross
Dr. Matt Martin
Ms. Bridget Lloyd

Staff Members Absent

Ms. Beth Dinndorf
Ms. Elizabeth Oswald-Sease

GSSM Board of Trustees

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Item 1: Call to Order and Roll Call:

Bob Brown welcomed the Board of Trustees to the meeting and called the regular meeting to order at approximately 9:05 a.m. A quorum was present, allowing the meeting to proceed. Bridget Lloyd recorded the minutes.

Item 2: Approval of the Regular Board of Trustees meeting minutes on May 29, 2025.

Bob Brown called for a motion to approve the minutes from the Board of Trustees meeting held on May 29, 2025. Dr. Jane Joseph pointed out a necessary correction on page 7 regarding the commencement year, which should be updated to 2025. Dr. David Tedeschi motioned to approve the minutes with the correction noted, and Mr. William H. Denny seconded the motion. The board unanimously approved the minutes with the noted correction.

Item 3: President's Report - Information Only

Danny Dorsel's report included an update on various initiatives at GSSM, including:

- 2025 Summer Research Program: Students will engage in research opportunities at 31 institutions across four states and three countries.
- Opening of the School Institute: GSSM held a two-day training and informational session for faculty and staff on August 11-12, 2025. This event delivered important updates aligned with the school's mission.
- Enrollment Update: The residential program currently has 150 seniors and 140 juniors enrolled. The Accelerate program has 70 students enrolled. Plans are underway to transition the Accelerate program, which will feature an Accelerate Pathway along with individual STEM courses.
- Consent Agenda Highlights: Global expansions into India and Turkey; potential hosting of a 13-country teacher training session at GSSM; and the exploration of a Center for Neuroarts/Neuroaesthetics. Five robotics teams and three SeaPerch teams are currently active. The Outreach program has reached over 11,000 students through GoSciTech Day Camp programs across all 16 South Carolina Technical Colleges. Over 76 percent of students are involved in fall athletics, while more than 50 clubs are offered.
- Joint Board Retreat Discussion: The following topics were discussed at the retreat.
 - Selection of Lobbyist
 - Tuition Grant
 - Campus Expansion
 - Donation of a personal residence

The Board of Trustees will discuss these topics during the Executive Session of this meeting.

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- Google Grant Awarded
- SC Nexus lesson planning
- SC Quantum curriculum testing and building
- G³: Global, Google, GSSM Initiative; Global Youth Research and Innovation Network (GYRIN); Global Robotics Access and AI Literacy Initiative (GRAIL); and International Teacher Training Program
- Streaming Policy for Board of Trustees Meetings

No further discussion was raised regarding the President's report. A copy of the report is on file.

Item 4: Finance, Facilities, and Operations

Danny Dorsel presented the FY2026-2027 Budget Request on behalf of Elizabeth Oswald-Sease and the Finance subcommittee. The subcommittee previously approved the budget and brought it to the Board of Trustees for final approval.

Bob Brown opened the floor for discussion regarding the budget proposal. With no opposing views expressed, the board of trustees unanimously approved the FY2026-2027 budget request.

Item 5: GSSM Foundation Report

Danny Dorsel presented the Foundation report on behalf of Beth Dinndorf, GSSM Foundation Executive Director. The following updates were shared:

- Fundraising results as of August 31, 2025
- Campaign Goal Results for fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, and Current
- Alumni Participation Rate: Increased engagement noted among alumni
- Upcoming Events:
 - "Around the World with GSSM" on October 2, 2025, in Hartsville, SC
 - The 32nd Annual Townes Award Celebration on March 18, 2026, in Columbia, SC

No further discussion was raised on the Foundation report. A copy of the Foundation report is on file.

Item 6: Faculty Senate Update

Dr. Jennifer Crawford and Ms. Alyssa Reiser Prince were introduced as the new leaders of the Faculty Senate. They did not have any additional information to present to the board on behalf of the Faculty Senate at this time, but it was noted that several new senators have joined the group.

Item 7: Faculty Update

Dr. Jennifer Crawford provided an overview of her experiences as a chemistry instructor at GSSM, highlighting her educational journey and her role as an academic advisor. She also discussed her pathway that led her to GSSM and her work with students in the online program.

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Alyssa Reiser Prince shared her experiences as a visual arts instructor at GSSM, detailing her educational journey and passion for art, as well as her current artwork featured in two different locations.

Bob Brown requested to amend the agenda to move the Executive Session up next and to table the student update until after the board of trustees returns to session.

Item 11: Executive Session (Closed)

Bob Brown called for a motion to enter Executive Session. Heyward Hilliard approved the motion, and Dennis Getter seconded. There were no objections to the motion. The board of trustees entered executive session around 9:40 a.m.

Item 12: Return to Open Session

The board of trustees reconvened into open session at approximately 10:05 a.m. Bob Brown reported that no votes or actions were taken during the Executive Session.

Item 7: Student Update

Kayce McComber, a member of the Class of 2026, shared her journey from Mayo H.S. and why she chose to attend GSSM. The research opportunities were important to her interest in pathology. She also participates in many student activities at GSSM.

Item 8: New Business

Board Resignations:

Bob Brown addressed the recent resignation of the Vice Chair and another board member. He initiated a discussion about the need to create a nominating committee to fill the vacant Vice Chair position. William H. Denny expressed his interest in the Vice Chair position.

Dr. David Tedeschi proposed establishing a nominating committee to accept nominations for the Vice Chair position. The motion was seconded by Heyward Hilliard and approved by the board, with Dennis Getter abstaining.

The Board of Trustees established a nominating committee composed of Bob Brown, Dennis Getter, Heyward Hilliard, and Dr. Jane Joseph. This committee will supervise the nomination process moving forward.

Item 9: Break

No breaks were taken during the meeting.

Item 10: Approval of Consent Agenda

Bob Brown opened the floor for discussion of the agenda items. After review and discussion, he called for a motion to approve the consent agenda. Dennis Getter moved to approve, and Hudson Denny seconded the motion. With no objections, the board unanimously approved the consent agenda.

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Item 13: Reminder of Upcoming Board of Trustees Meetings and GSSM Programs

Bob Brown provided an overview of the upcoming events listed on the board calendar for the remainder of 2025. Important upcoming events include "Around the World with GSSM" on October 2 and the Board of Trustees meeting on November 13, 2025.

Item 14: Adjournment

At approximately 10:25 a.m., Bob Brown requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. William H. Denny proposed the motion, and Heyward Hilliard seconded. The board members voted unanimously in favor of the motion, and the meeting was officially adjourned.

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

William Hudson Denny, Vice-Chair
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 September 5, 2025