

South Carolina Governor's School for Science and Mathematics

Board of Trustees Meeting

Hartsville, SC

In-person and Zoom Video Conference

November 14, 2024

NOON

Governing Board Members Present In-Person

Mr. Robert Brown, Chair
Dr. Kristi Austin
Mr. Dennis Getter

Governing Board Members Present via Zoom:

Mr. Patrick Cleary
Mr. William H. Denny
Mr. John Florence - joined at 12:15 PM
Dr. Jane E. Joseph
Dr. L. Jeffrey Perez
Dr. David Tedeschi
Dr. Henry Tisdale
Dr. Cynthia Young

Governing Board Members Absent

Mr. Heyward Hilliard
Dr. Rainey Knight, Vice Chair
Ms. Barbara Melvin

Guests Present:

Dr. Deidre Hall
Dr. Roberto Robles-Valencia
Mr. Andreas Eglhofer, Class of 2026

Staff Members Present:

Mr. Danny Dorsel
Dr. Neval Erturk
Mr. Randall La Cross
Dr. Emilye Mobley
Ms. Elizabeth Oswald-Sease
Ms. Bridget Lloyd

Staff Members Absent:

Dr. Jenifer Blair
Ms. Beth Dinndorf

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.

GSSM Board of Trustees

Meeting Minutes of November 14, 2024

Item 2: Approval of the Regular Board of Trustees meeting minutes on September 6, 2024.

The Chairman of the Board requested a motion to approve the minutes from the recent Board of Trustees meeting as they were written. Dennis Getter motioned to approve the minutes, which Heyward Hillard seconded. There was no further discussion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Item 3: President's Report - Information Only

Mr. Dorsel began his report by informing the Board of Trustees about the passing of Dr. Bhuvana Parameswaran, a valued teacher. He then provided several updates during his report:

- Upcoming Research Colloquium at GSSM
- Society of Science Affiliated International Science and Engineering Fair
- Faculty and Staff Presentations at the NCSST Conference in San Antonio, TX
- 2024 NCSST STEM Teacher of the Year - Dr. Elaine Parshall
- Consent Agenda - Key Highlights
- GSSM - 2024 InnoVision Education Awards Finalist
- High School STEM Programs Impact for 2024-2025
- Third - Tenth Grade STEM Educational Opportunities
- Partnership with SC Nexus and SC Quantum
- GSSM Student Competition Updates
 - Regional Orchestra Competition - Highlights and Achievements.
 - Girls Volleyball Team - Recognized as the Regional Champions.
 - Girls Cross Country Team - Recognized as the Regional Champions
 - Boys Cross Country Team - Recognized as Second in the Region

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

Item 4: Discuss and approve the policy regarding using personal electronic devices during the school day.

Action: Pursuant to Proviso 1.103 under the General Appropriations Bill, H.5100, of 2024, the Board of Trustees of the South Carolina Governor's School for Science and Mathematics approves the institution's policy regarding the use of personal electronic devices during the school day.

Board member Dr. David Tedeschi provided an update on the policy, highlighting the brief edits not included in the initial document sent to the board for review. Danny Dorsel discussed the revisions suggested by the Deputy Superintendent of the State, which aimed to clarify the definition of the school day. Danny Dorsel specifically noted the changes to Section I, Item C, and Section II, which addresses Policy Implementation.

Chairman Bob Brown requested a motion to approve the policy presented at this meeting. Dr. David Tedeschi motioned to accept the document with the revisions as described, and Heyward Hilliard seconded.

GSSM Board of Trustees

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Chairman Bob Brown opened the floor for discussion. Following the discussion, the Board of Trustees requested that the original document and the two subsequent revisions be labeled with document control numbers for tracking purposes.

Chairman Bob Brown asked those in favor of approving the document and adding a document control number to signify their agreement by saying "Aye." No one opposed it, and the board approved the policy regarding the use of personal electronic devices during the school day.

Item 5: Finance, Facilities, and Operations Updates - Information Only

Elizabeth Oswald-Sease provided an update on the budget request for FY2026 on behalf of the Facilities, Finance, and Operations Committee. This new request is lower than the one presented at the board meeting on September 6, 2024, due to GSSM receiving funding to replace the residential elevators. Additionally, priority six has been amended to change the request for two full-time equivalents (FTEs) for two outreach instructors to funding specifically for two outreach instructors.

A copy of the finance report is on file.

Chairman Brown changed the agenda by moving the Faculty Senate Update from item 8 to item 6.

Item 6: Faculty Senate Update

Dr. Roberto Robles-Valencia and Dr. Deidre Hall provided updates on behalf of the Faculty Senate regarding artificial intelligence, academic integrity, and plans for the online academy.

Item 7: GSSM Foundation Report

Beth Dinndorf, Executive Director of the GSSM Foundation, provided several updates. Among these were the fundraising results as of November 12, 2024, showcasing the progress and key achievements. She also provided an overview of the "Around the World with GSSM" campaign results and information regarding the upcoming 31st Annual Townes Award, scheduled for May 19, 2025.

A copy of the Foundation report is on file.

Item 8: Staff and Student Updates

Andreas, a member of the class of 2026, shared his reasons for attending GSSM. He highlighted key experiences, such as engaging with advanced coursework, collaborating with peers, and participating in the Youth in Government club.

Dr. Matt Martin, the Dean of Curriculum and Instruction, started his presentation with a lyric poem by Emily Dickinson titled "Hope." He discussed the educational journey that led him to GSSM and addressed the challenges and opportunities teachers face.

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Item 9: Break

The Board of Trustees agreed to continue with the agenda items without a break.

Item 10: New Business

Chairman Bob Brown opened the floor to discuss hiring a lobbyist to support some of GSSM's major initiatives. The board considered the possibility of engaging a lobbyist and decided to keep this topic on the agenda for future discussion as necessary.

Item 11: Approval of the Consent Agenda

Chairman Bob Brown requested a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Mr. Dennis Getter motioned for approval, and Mr. Heyward Hilliard seconded.

Chairman Bob Brown then opened the floor for discussion. After the discussion concluded, he called for a vote, asking everyone in favor of approving the Consent Agenda to say "Aye." Since there were no objections, the board unanimously approved the Consent Agenda.

Item 12: Standing Committee Reports

No reports from the standing committees were presented.

Item 13: Board of Trustees Meeting Schedule: 2024-2025

Chairman Bob Brown reviewed the upcoming events on the meeting schedule, and the following changes were made:

- The Townes Award will occur in Columbia on March 19, 2025.
- The date for the Joint Board Retreat will be finalized later.
- The next Board of Trustees meeting is scheduled for February 13, 2025, at noon in Hartsville.

Item 14: Adjournment

Chairman Bob Brown requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. Heyward Hilliard motioned to adjourn, and the meeting concluded at approximately 1:45 PM.

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 November 7, 2024.