

South Carolina Governor's School for Science and Mathematics
Board of Trustees Meeting, Hartsville, SC
In-person and Zoom Video Conference
November 16, 2023
Noon

The meeting minutes were recorded as information only; due to an error in calculating the quorum, the meeting proceeded as an informational meeting only. No voting or approval of action items took place, and all action items were tabled until the next meeting.

Governing Board Members Present In-Person

Mr. Robert Brown, Chair
Mr. Dennis Getter
Dr. David Tedeschi

Governing Board Members Present via Zoom

Mr. William H. Denny
Mr. Heyward Hilliard
Dr. Cynthia Young
Dr. Jane Joseph

Guests Present

Dr. Roberto Robles-Valencia
Dr. Christopher Roberts
Breanna Sherwood, Student

Staff Members Present

Mr. Danny Dorsel
Ms. Beth Dinndorf
Mr. Randy La Cross
Ms. Bridget Lloyd
Dr. Emilye Mobley
Dr. Michael Newsome
Ms. Elizabeth Oswald-Sease
Mr. Jon Shannon

Item 1: Call to Order and Roll Call:

The South Carolina Governor's School for Science and Mathematics held its Board of Trustees Meeting on November 16, 2023, in person and via Zoom Video Conference. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Bob Brown at 12:08 p.m.

GSSM Board of Trustees

Meeting Minutes of November 16, 2023

Item 2: Approve the minutes of the Regular Board of Trustees meeting on September 8, 2023.

Since no quorum of the Board was established, the minutes of the regular Board of Trustees meeting on September 8, 2023, were also tabled until the next regularly scheduled meeting.

Chairman Brown requested that the agenda be amended to discuss item #4, Education Policies and Practices Committee Report.

Item 4: Education Policies and Practices Committee Report

Dr. David Tedeschi presented his report on behalf of the Education Policies and Practices Committee. Dr. Tedeschi updated the committee on the discontinuance of the STEM Foundation pilot. However, since no quorum was present, voting on approving the discontinuation of recruitment for new cohorts for the STEM Foundations Pilot for 2025 was tabled until the next meeting.

Item 3: President's Report - Information Only

Mr. Dorsel provided updates on recruitment and enrollment, the Vice President of Enrollment Management vacancy, and marketing efforts through commercials and podcasts. He also discussed the research colloquium, the GSSM community meetings, summer outreach partnerships, and impact, the SC Nexus Tech Hub, and alumni's impact on South Carolina. A copy of Mr. Dorsel's report is on file.

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

Ms. Elizabeth Oswald-Sease reported on the financials on behalf of the Finance, Facilities, and Operations Committee. The report is current as of November 1, 2023:

- Revenue collected: \$18,447,846
- Operating expenses: \$6,686,765
- FY24 Projected Revenue: \$19,729,057
- FY24 Projected Expenses: \$18,903,548

Operational Updates:

- Capital Projects: Cooling Tower, Roof Replacement, and Dining Hall Renovations
- Implementation of Digital Workflows: Transiting from paper-bound to a digital platform
- Human Resources Audit: There were no findings for FY23; as a result, GSSM has been granted a two-year review period.

The FY25 Budget Request will be presented to the House Ways and Means Senate Finance Committee in the coming weeks. A copy of the financial report is on file.

Item 6: GSSM Foundation Report - Information Only

Ms. Beth Dinndorf, GSSM Foundation Executive Director, reported on the following updates: Fundraising Updates as of October 31, 2023; Fundraising Campaigns; Giving Tuesday in Honor of Dr. Carlanna Hendrick on Nov. 28, 2023; New Initiatives; Around the World with GSSM Fundraising Results: \$58,081 raised, and the Townes Award Celebration honoring SCbio is on March 20, 2024. A copy of Ms. Dinndorf's presentation is on file.

GSSM Board of Trustees

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Item 7: Faculty Senate Update

Dr. Roberto Robles-Valencia provided an update on behalf of the Faculty Senate. He invited the Board of Trustees to campus to observe a class.

Chairman Brown requested that the agenda be amended to move item #9, Break.

Item 9: Break

Chairman Brown requested a 9-minute break at 1:11 p.m. and reconvened the meeting at 1:20 p.m.

Item 8: Student and Faculty/Staff Update

Breanna Sherwood, a member of the Class of 2024, shared her reasons for applying and deciding to attend GSSM. She also talked about her research experience at the University of South Carolina, where she created hydrogels and sensors. Furthermore, she discussed her future academic goals, the colleges she aspires to attend, and the different career paths she has to choose.

During his discussion, Dr. Christopher Roberts discussed his journey to GSSM, his desire to teach at the institution, and the various available research courses.

Item 10: New Business - Information Only

Mr. Getter raised an issue regarding a student who sent two emails to the GSSM community on behalf of a student group without obtaining permission. The first email was not reviewed by the faculty or staff and included a political message urging students to wear green to support Palestinian civilians affected by the conflict. Mr. Dorsel clarified that the student intended to express empathy toward the people suffering due to the ongoing conflict. However, it was emphasized that supporting any political agenda is not in line with GSSM's policy.

Item 11: Approval of the Consent Agenda - Information Only

Due to the absence of a quorum, the voting for approving the Consent Agenda was postponed until the next regular meeting for discussion.

During the meeting, Mr. Getter talked about the Enrollment report and emphasized the importance of the school consistently identifying students as male or female. He also brought up the Outreach SPARK virtual afterschool program, which aims to involve students in STEAM studies and is specifically designed for sixth through eighth graders. Mr. Getter suggested creating a 15-30-second commercial to promote the program.

Item 12: Standing Committee Reports

There were no reports from the Standing Committee.

Item 13: Executive Session (Closed) to Discuss Legal Matter

Chairman Brown stated there were no topics to discuss.

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Item 14: Reminder of Upcoming Board of Trustees Meetings - 2024

Chairman Brown reviewed the upcoming meetings and suggested adding the Townes Award event to the calendar.

Item 15: Adjournment

Chairman Bob Brown requested a motion to adjourn. Dr. David Tedeschi made the motion, and Mr. Dennis Getter seconded. None opposed, and the motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

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 provided to the public on November 9, 2023, on the school's website and in publicly accessible areas at 401 Railroad Avenue, Hartsville, South Carolina.