

BOARD OF DIRECTORS REGULAR MEETING

Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting – September 10, 2025

Submitted by Ashley D. Smith

The South Carolina Governor's School for the Arts and Humanities Board of Directors meeting was held Wednesday, September 10, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. in the Callie Stringer Rainey Boardroom of the SC Governor's School for the Arts and Humanities.

Board Members in Attendance

Chad Prosser, Chairman; Irv Welling III, Vice Chairman; Sarah Cathcart; Rev. LeShown Goodwin; Dr. Harriet Jaworowski; Kim Lee; Fain McDaniel; Dr. Carly Porter-Phinizy; Andrew Saleeby; Della Watkins (via Microsoft Teams); Gerald Witt

Employees in Attendance

Dr. Cedric Adderley, President; Betsy Beam, VP of Finance & Administration; Dr. Matthew Burns, VP for Student Development; Dr. Jennifer Thomas, VP for Arts & Academics; Amanda Herlihy, Executive Director of the Governor's School for the Arts & Humanities Foundation; Marva Daniels, Chair of Staff Council; Zach Inks, Chair of Faculty Council; Christina Vandiver, Director of Communications; LaTomya Doctor, Director of Human Resources; Richard Jones, Director of Information Technology; Ashley Smith, Executive Assistant to the President/Board Secretary

Welcome

Chairman Prosser called the meeting to order at 10:00 A.M. and welcomed everyone in attendance. He announced that the meeting is being livestreamed and recorded in accordance with SC legislation. He also noted recent resignations and vacancies on the Board of Directors. Chairman Prosser introduced Ashley Smith who joined the Governor's School at the start of the fall semester as Executive Assistant to the President and Board Secretary.

Notice of Meeting

Chairman Prosser stated notice of this meeting had been provided to all persons, organizations, and news media that have requested notification, as required by Section 30-4-80(e) of the SC Code of Laws. (Page 1)

Approval of the Minutes (Exhibit 1)

Chairman Prosser called for a motion to approve the minutes of the last meeting held on Wednesday, June 11, 2025. A motion to approve the minutes was brought forward by Dr. Harriet Jaworowski, seconded by Kimberly Lee, and was approved by a unanimous vote.

President's Report (Exhibit 2)

Dr. Adderley, President, reviewed the President's Report, which was distributed by email prior to the meeting. He commended the summer program for its continuity of producing transitions into age-appropriate summer and high school programs. He summarized that the school year opened on July 29, 2025, for all employees with the annual professional development days with students arriving on August 3, 2025. 115 new students joined the campus community this fall. Aligned with the school's theme of "Many paths, One Community: Govie Unity," he described the geocaching exercise assigned to the student body and compasses that each student received. As a token of appreciation, he provided board members with the same device given to students to navigate the exercise. Dr. Adderley reflected on the USC-Aiken reception and emphasized it was a great engagement opportunity in a distant county of the state. He also noted the success in campus Outreach efforts impacting all 46 counties of the state for the second consecutive year and the very productive connection between the offices of Admissions and Outreach. He also noted the economic shifts that will affect ongoing capital projects and campus budget requests for the next several years, most specifically the Gallery/Flexible Instructional Space and the upgrades in access controls and campus security measures.

- **(Chairman Prosser) What was the initial amount requested for the Gallery/Flexible Instructional Space? (Dr. Adderley)** Originally, it was \$4million.
- **(Fain McDaniel) What year is this for, FY-27? (Dr. Adderley)** Yes, FY-27.
- **(Chairman Prosser) Did the scope change or is the increased request due to not having a full estimate? (Mrs. Betsy Beam)** Yes, the increase reflects the change of scope.

Dr. Adderley acknowledged the many visitors of the campus, but highlighted the visits with the Honorable Bill Whitmire, 2nd Vice Chair of the House Ways and Means Committee, and Dr. Dwayne Gatson, Director of Student and Community Engagement (SCDE). Dr. Adderley noted the continued support of the Governor's School Foundation in providing financial assistance for families throughout the year, most specifically with meal plan assistance in the residential high school.

- **(Harriet Jaworoski) What is the cost of a meal plan per student? (Mrs. Beam)** \$4000.00
- **(Chairman Prosser)** Discussing the male/female balance or imbalance of the programs with Dr. Adderley, it has shown that Film and Creative Writing are relatively balanced, but many of the other programs, such as Music and Dance are predominantly female. This imbalance has real implications for the residence hall and having the ability to accommodate everyone in all programs.
- **(Fain McDaniel) Does the renovation include the consideration of the ability to flex? (Dr. Adderley)** Yes, that is the intention. **(Chairman Prosser)** The renovation is currently in conceptual planning. There will be a lot of planning when it pertains to providing the flex areas during the phases of the renovation, especially during the summer programs because that is the pipeline for new students. There will be a lot of coordination. **(Dr Adderley)** During any renovation or construction, flex space is very important due to the unknowns during the school year and being able to collaborate on space instead of having dedicated space has been very helpful.

Dr. Adderley concluded with a newly created video that will launch the upcoming Admissions campaign. He applauded the Communications and Admissions Teams for their efforts to capture the authentic student experience in this video presentation.

- **(Harriet Jaworoski) As I was reading the statewide reach of events, with**

several of them in York County, I was unaware of the events taking place. Is there a way that members can be made aware of events taking place in our respective counties? (Dr. Adderley) Yes, we can inform all board members of events in their areas throughout the school year and summer. We are currently exploring additional ways to communicate more effectively regarding our statewide activity. (Chairman Prosser) That's a great idea. I have thought about that previously due to some of us representing a particular congressional district, which incorporates multiple counties, and it would be nice to know about events going on around us. (Dr. Adderley) We can consolidate schedules and communicate that information accordingly. Thank you for your suggestion.

Without further questions, the President's Report was received as information and will be established as a permanent component of these minutes.

Finance and Administration Report (Exhibit 3)

Betsy Beam, VP of Finance and Administration, reviewed the Finance Report, which was distributed by email prior to the meeting. She celebrated the Facilities Team's cost effectiveness of internally completing work orders due to their trade skills and proper coverage of all shifts.

- ***(Chairman Prosser) Please express the Board's appreciation of the team, as well.***

Ms. Beam praised the Foundation for their continued efforts to provide financial assistance for families in need. She noted that Richard Jones, Director of IT, recently submitted a state grant proposal that would assist in upgrading campus security protections. She also congratulated the Production Team on their continued professional growth by completing several workshops and creating a Lookbook streamlining all the school's inventory. Ms. Beam was pleased to announce the much-anticipated Notice to Award posting for the dining hall expansion project stating that J. Davis Construction Co. will be awarded the solicitation. The contract is expected to be signed at the conclusion of the protest period.

Ms. Beam discussed the state audit with regards to two findings and the challenge process initiated.

- ***(Vice Chair Welling) Is there any possibility of having the challenge results issued and approved?*** (Mrs. Beam) That cannot be completed due to the contract that we have with Shared Services.
- ***(Chairman Prosser) Is there any transparency provided on the journal entries being that we are not allowed to make the entries?*** (Mrs. Beam) No, we are not provided with that transparency.
- ***(Fain McDaniel) What about reviewing the account before and after the journal entries?*** (Mrs. Beam) Yes, that is how we caught the issue and were able to send an email correcting the issue. ***(Fain McDaniel) It seems as though the timing between reviewing the account and catching the entry was off.*** (Mrs. Beam) Yes, the timing may have been off, but we can only see the total of the entry and the change from last month.

Mrs. Beam explained she has a better understanding of the process and has implemented new procedures for future transactions.

- ***(Andrew Saleeby) Do they extrapolate these findings to the entire population, the 200 or so assets?*** (Mrs. Beam) No, this was just a review. From a finance point of view, an audit is very strict and if this process was based on the school's smaller number versus Shared Service's larger number, then this

should have been a much higher review. Because the process was based on the school's numbers, it was clarified this was just a review.

Mrs. Beam disclosed that the state has not provided their year-end report, which does not allow her to provide a clear picture of the school's closing expenses. She predicted the school may be slightly over budgeted due to equipment failures.

- **(Vice Chair Welling) If we are over budget, will that amount come out of the savings we have incurred? (Mrs. Beam)** Yes, there was an amount earmarked for an overage.

Mrs. Beam presented the 2026-2027 Budget Request, which requires a vote. She detailed the line items in the report. The board members and Mrs. Beam discussed salary amounts and the request for specific positions to be classified as state employees in lieu of relying on grant funds for those salaries.

- **(Sara Cathcart) Does the Non-Certified Teacher salary include benefits because that amount seems higher? (Mrs. Beam)** That amount does include benefits and that amount includes an individual that has obtained a master's degree and has five years of experience. **(Sara Cathcart) But even Non-Certified? (Mrs. Beam)** Yes, Non-Certified.
- **(Chairman Prosser) Is the Non-Certified because of the specialty of the art? (Dr. Adderley)** In compliance with our founding legislation, our traditional academic faculty must possess a South Carolina teaching certificate. **(Dr. Thomas)** We require three to five years of teaching experience, but prefer five years of experience and a master's degree. The salary is based on those preferences.
- **(Chairman Prosser) What was the scope change in the gallery/flex space? (Mrs. Beam)** Not a scope change, but more of a design change causing the cost of construction to rise.

Chairman Prosser announced a vote is needed on the Budget Request and called for a motion to approve the document. A motion for approval was brought forth by Vice Chair Welling, seconded by Rev. Goodwin, and was approved by a unanimous vote.

Without further questions, the Finance Report was received as information and will be established as a permanent component of these minutes.

Student Development Report (Exhibit 4)

Dr. Matthew Burns, VP for Student Development, reviewed the Student Development Report, which was distributed by email prior to the meeting. He reflected on the success of the summer programs, the second year of the revised summer music curriculum, and the third year of offering the summer Film program. He noted the strong partnerships among arts faculty throughout the state and our ongoing efforts to improve these relationships. He expressed the success of the continued orientation during the first few weeks of school and new initiatives of the Activities Fair with student-led organizations. He reiterated the goals of the Presidential Priorities recruitment initiative and the goal of reaching double-digit graduation rates in all 46 counties in SC. Dr. Burns announced that the admissions applications are currently live and eighty-eight applications from sixty-two high school programs within seven counties have been received. He concluded by introducing Mr. Kip Altman, our new Director of Admissions, and yielded a portion of his presenting time to allow Mr. Altman the opportunity to address the Board.

Without further questions, the Student Development Report was received as information and will be established as a permanent component of these minutes.

Dean's Report (Exhibit 5)

Dr. Jennifer Thomas, Dean and Vice President of Arts and Academics, reviewed the Dean's Report to the Board, which was distributed by email prior to the meeting. She reviewed the 2025 Advanced Placement exam scores and commended the students and teachers for their hard work. She celebrated the growth in scores and emphasized the excellence shown in preparing artistic students with a high level of academic content. She shared that Irv Welling, III, Vice Chairman, and Kim Wilson, Director of the Arts in Basic Curriculum Institute (ABC), attended the Summer Reading discussion group focusing on the book, *Your Brain on Art: How the Arts Transform Us* by Susan Magsamen and Ivy Ross (Random House, 2023). She confirmed the annual College Fair will be held on September 27, 2025, and projected the event to be productive with over fifty programs attending.

Dr. Thomas reflected on the success of the Arts Schools Network (ASN) Summer Leadership Retreat held in July and co-sponsored by the Governor's School and Greenville Fine Arts Center. She detailed the important and strategic networking opportunities presented with thirty administrators attending from art schools throughout the nation. She noted that the 2027 National Conference will be held in Greenville and hosted by the school in partnership with the Fine Arts Center. Dr. Thomas concluded the dean's report by providing information on the school's response to the role artificial intelligence may have in academic and creative work. She disclosed the National Art Education Association's (NAEA) Best Practice and the school's Honor Code were reviewed with the intention of focusing on artificial intelligence being a resource and not overshadowing traditional art forms.

Without further questions, the Dean's Report was received as information and will be accepted as a permanent component of these minutes.

Foundation Report (Exhibit 6)

Fain McDaniel, Governor's School Foundation Chair, and Amanda Herlihy, Executive Director of the Governor's School for the Arts and Humanities Foundation, reviewed the Foundation Report, which was submitted by email prior to the meeting. Ms. McDaniel reported that the Foundation's books were closed on June 30, 2025, and are currently being audited by Greene Finney Cauley, LLP. She stated that the Fiscal Year 26 Budget was approved in June 2025. Amanda Herlihy announced the upcoming Songwriters in the Round fundraiser is scheduled for October 23 in Beaufort, SC, and presentation of the same event will resume in Greenville, in March of 2026. Ms. Herlihy noted that the FY 25 Annual Reports will be distributed within the next week and also noted the recent grants secured from the John L. Smith Foundation and the Hilliard Foundation. She concluded by detailing Foundation Support in each region of the state.

Without further questions, the Governor's School for the Arts & Humanities Foundation Report was received as information and will be established as a permanent component of these minutes.

Faculty Council Report (Exhibit 7)

Zach Inks, Chair of the Faculty Council, reviewed the Faculty Council report submitted by email prior to the meeting. He briefed that Faculty Meetings are consistently being held and most recently it was discussed that Professional Development Days were a topic of discussion. He stated that there have been open sessions where faculty

members were able to provide feedback on summer programs. He concluded by stating that the recent Digital Accessibility training session was very beneficial.

Without further questions, the Faculty Council Report was received as information and will be established as a permanent component of these minutes.

Staff Council Report (Exhibit 8)

Marva Daniels, Chair of the Staff Council, reviewed the Staff Council report submitted by email prior to the meeting. She reported that Staff Council Meetings are consistently being held and there are actions in place to stay aware of the underrepresented departments. She announced there are two events in the planning stages: Fall Festival and Winter Social. She provided Staff achievements.

- ***(Sara Cathcart) When are the meetings? (Mrs. Daniels)*** The second Wednesday of every month.
- ***(Della Watkins) Do the Staff Council Chair and Faculty Council Chair attend each other's meetings or do the Chairs meet separately? (Mrs. Daniels)*** There are some instances where we may attend each other's meetings, especially if there is a specific topic being addressed, but attending each other's meetings is not a typical practice.

Without further questions, the Staff Council report was received as information and will be established as a permanent component of these minutes.

Old Business

Chairman Prosser provided an update on solicitation of proposals for the campus strategic plan. He requested Mrs. Beam brief the board about the status of the process. Mrs. Beam explained that three qualified bids had been received for the Strategic Planning Consultation solicitation, but the committee decided that the scope needed to be revised to include a benchmarking study. She detailed the revised scope will allow the board to interview bidders and for proposals to be ranked based on price, experience, qualifications and past performance.

- ***(Chairman Prosser) There was also a request for the bidders to provide any sample plans used with public entities, that can be provided, to give the committee more information. Does this need a vote to be resubmitted for RFPs? (Mrs. Beam)*** No, a vote is not required.
- ***(Harriet Jaworowski) What does that do to the timeline? (Mrs. Beam)*** It really depends on when the state Procurement posts the Request for Proposals. I was informed it could be posted by Friday, September 12, 2025, and the RFP must be posted for ten days. Depending on how many bids are received, the committee's ability to rank the proposals and have the presentations completed within 7 days. This could postpone the timeline by about 30 to 45 days at the most. ***(Chairman Prosser)*** I don't think this would impact the schedule for completing the plan.
- ***(Fain McDaniel) Has the committee been formed? (Chairman Prosser)*** Yes, volunteers were requested at the last meeting: Andrew Saleeby, Della Watkins, Irv Welling. ***(Fain McDaniel) I think this would be a good thing for Amanda (Herlihy) to be able to represent the Foundation and so we can stay aligned because the Foundation completed our plan two years ago. (Chairman Prosser)*** Yes, Amanda can volunteer. ***(Mrs. Beam)*** Just want it to be clear that Amanda is welcomed to be on the committee, but because she is not a board member, she will be non-voting. Just want to make sure there are not any misunderstandings. ***(Fain McDaniel) I understand, it is just to ensure the school and the foundation are aligned and to answer any questions there***

- may be about our strategic plan that are already in place.*
- **(Della Watkins) Does the board have to interview all three of the top proposals? (Mrs. Beam)** That depends on how the scope is written. The scope can be written to say two or three, but it was strongly suggested for it to be three. The process must be equal for everyone, so at least two bidders must be interviewed, and it really depends on how many bids are received. **(Chairman Prosser)** Yes, if the scope can be written to say two, up to three, even though three is standard in any type of procurement. **Della Watkins Must the committee choose the bidder by price point? (Mrs. Beam)** This scope would allow the committee to use qualifications and experience as a part of the scoring process. Usually, the price point is about 40% of the score. **(Chairman Prosser)** Scoring, in procurement, is set by how much you want each of the elements to factor in. Pricing does not have to be the primary element, but it certainly is an element, because we only have so much budget when discussing professional services. There are more important factors that need to be looked at. **(Della Watkins) Ok, thank you. If there's a great divide in prices that will make it difficult. (Chairman Prosser)** This is not like purchasing a furnace and going with the lowest bid.

New Business

Chairman Prosser explained that he mentioned the livestreaming at the beginning of the meeting. He stated there needs to be a vote to approve the newly revised Public Information and Disclosures policy (the policy) on livestreaming and recording the meetings. He continued that the policy must be consistent with the new state regulations. He noted there was a copy of the newly revised policy provided prior to the meeting.

Chairman Prosser called for a motion to approve the policy. A motion to approve the policy was brought forward by Andrew Saleeby, seconded by Harriet Jaworoski, and was approved by a unanimous vote.

Chairman Prosser asked for a consensus about using iPads for the documents for the meetings versus the printed copies of the board book. He advised that many state boards are currently using them. He further explained the change would be easier if the iPads were provided the morning of the meeting, just as the board books were. There were no objections to this suggestion.

Executive Session

Chairman Prosser called for a motion to go into Executive Session pursuant to SC code 30-4-70 which allows for discussion of a personnel matter, President's Evaluation. A motion to go into Executive Session was brought forward by Kimberly Lee, seconded by Sarah Cathcart, and was approved by a unanimous vote.

It was decided to vote to go into Executive Session and then return to vote on coming out of Executive Session.

Chairman Prosser called for a motion to come out of the Executive Session. A motion to come out of Executive Session was brought forward by Kimberly Lee, seconded by Fain McDaniel, and was approved by a unanimous vote.

Chairman Prosser declared the meeting back in Public Session and there were no votes or actions taken during the Executive Session.

Adjournment

Chairman Prosser called for a motion to adjourn the Board Meeting. A motion to adjourn the Board Meeting was brought forward by Harriet Jaworoski, seconded by Kimberly Lee, and was approved by a unanimous vote.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:03 P.M.

