

BOARD OF DIRECTORS REGULAR MEETING

Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting – December 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, December 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; Sandra Ayers; Sarah Cathcart; Rev. Josh Dry; Dr. Harriet Jaworoski; Kim Lee; Fain McDaniel (via Microsoft Teams); Dr. Carly Porter-Phinizy; Andrew Saleeby (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, SCGSAH Foundation; Kip Altman, Director of Admissions; LaTomya Doctor, Director of Employee Relations & Compliance; Richard Jones, Director of Information Technology; Ashley Smith, Executive Assistant to the President/Board Secretary; Christina Vandiver, Director of Communications

Public Visitors

Martha Greenway, Greenway Strategy Group; Sam Ayers

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 noted the resignation of Della Watkins from the Board of Directors and introduced new board members, Sandra Ayers, Member At-Large, and Reverend Joshua Dry, Member At-Large.

Notice of Meeting

Chairman Prosser announced the 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, September 10, 2025. A motion for approval was brought forth by Gerald Witt, 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 noted a number of major milestones and recent achievements for the campus including reaffirmation of accreditation, celebration of the 25th Anniversary, curricular revisions, and the launch of the Film program. He stated that this work marks the school's transition into its next phase of artistic and academic growth, and it is perfectly aligned with our strategic planning process. He also discussed many events in which the students have participated that will prepare them for success beyond the walls of the school by building support networks throughout the various artistic communities. He also noted that the Film program has grown steadily and, having exceeded many goals for the program, is positioned to be as strong as the original five art areas of the Governor's School.

- ***(Irv Welling) How have we built up our film equipment and where are we currently? (Dr. Adderley)*** The inventory is adequate for the current state of the program, but technology requires constant updating. A great deal of equipment was acquired when the summer program was launched. It was supplemented through foundation support, state allocations, and purchases from the last budget cycle. The next phase to be addressed is space for the program. If the capital request for gallery and flexible instructional space building is fully funded during the current budget cycle, then Film and all of our programs will have adequate instructional space. ***(Irv Welling) Are there any great needs, equipment-wise, at this moment? (Dr. Adderley)*** At this moment, the department has no immediate needs. ***(Chad Prosser)*** There were some appropriated funds, and the Foundation was very helpful in acquiring some additional equipment, but the biggest challenge is storing and securing all this equipment. ***(Dr. Adderley)*** Correct, campus wide spaces are a critical factor that we are constantly adjusting, but we are able to accommodate Film through shared spaces that we were not able to a decade ago.

Dr. Adderley acknowledged the visiting Guest Artists and their impact on the students, showing the paths of a working artist. He also reported on the success of the College Application Day, acknowledging Dr. Jennifer Thomas and her staff, mentioning their work with financial aid and essay workshops, and the guest panel of college admission representatives.

- ***(Irv Welling) Years past there were discussions on having about \$35-40 million dollars in scholarships for that graduating class, are we still operating at that level? (Dr. Adderley)*** Yes. ***(Irv Welling) Are we still sending students to elite theater schools, such as Juilliard? (Dr. Adderley)*** Yes, we have students enrolling annually in the elite colleges and universities throughout the nation as well as right here in South Carolina. Most who enroll in-state, are awarded scholarships in the honors programs, and that seems to resonate well with the General Assembly. ***(Irv Welling)*** When I speak about the Governor's school, which is often, I often speak on those two points because that really resonates with people.

Dr. Adderley discussed the Century Cycle Continues (CCC) competition hosted by Danielle Brooks, Governor School Alumna ('07), and the impact it is expected to have on drama students from all over the state.

- ***(Dr. Harriet Jaworowski) Will the live competition be held on campus in February? (Dr. Thomas)*** Yes, the finalists will come to campus to perform a monologue for a panel of celebrity judges. It will be a public event. ***(Irv Welling) Will we be able to attend? (Dr. Thomas)*** Yes.

Dr. Adderley discussed the impact the Outreach program has had across the state over the years by reaching over 160,000 individuals in all 46 counties in the state and being on track to reach all 46 counties again for the current academic year. He acknowledged

the work of Carol Baker, Director of Outreach, and her staff. He also announced Melissa McCrary, Outreach Spark Training Coordinator and Actor/Teacher, receiving the Advocacy Award from the SC Dance Association. Dr. Adderley indicated that the budget hearing with the Governor's Office was seemingly positive and he expects that the remaining hearings with the House and Senate subcommittees will be scheduled for January and February respectively. He invited anyone that may be traveling to the Lowcountry to visit the Coastal Discovery Museum's presentation celebrating the works of some of the school's alumni from over the last 25 years. He acknowledged the ongoing support from the Beaufort Advisory Committee and ongoing donors from the Beaufort County community.

- ***(Irv Welling) Is this something that can be found online? (Dr. Adderley)*** I don't think this can be viewed online. I believe they want to encourage foot traffic, so if you find yourself in Beaufort County or if you make a special trip, please stop in and visit the presentation.

Dr. Adderley concluded by sharing the events and performances calendar and inviting all that are able to attend.

- ***(Kimberly Lee) I received some very positive feedback from parents when I attended the Chamber Choir performance, so to revisit the College Application Day, does the school offer any assistance to parents with navigating the college visits or the college application process? (Dr. Adderley)*** A part of the College Application Day process that we provide is the alumni parent panel where they talk about their experience and provide some support or guidance from their experience. ***(Dr. Thomas)*** The Senior Conferences in the fall are scheduled virtually so the parents can join in on that call, so that any questions can be posed at that point.

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 discussed ongoing work of the Facilities team and Aramark Dining Services for the current reporting period. She expressed gratitude towards the Foundation and their financial assistance for families with meal plan purchases, as our percentage of families in need of financial assistance continues to increase. She acknowledged the IT Department and their success in completing technology projects to increase campus safety and security. She explained the new school-assigned email addresses for Board members and offered the IT Department's assistance if necessary.

- ***(Chad Prosser) To facilitate easier conveyance of information among the board members and to receive information about the school, it may be best to take the school email account. I have had a school account for years and this is how I receive all school communications. Using the school assigned email account is a much cleaner way to have separation of your personal and school-related accounts. Richard Jones is the person that will help you get everything set up. (Mrs. Beam)*** Richard Jones and Patrick Breitwieser will be here at lunch to help you set things up, if needed. ***(Chad Prosser)*** This is a google mail account, so that may help make things easier.
- ***(Dr. Harriet Jaworowski) Will this change the general communication about the school? (Chad Prosser)*** Yes, moving forward the information will go to the school assigned email address instead of your personal emails. This will be the official communication route. Trying to make things cleaner and more efficient, so we will work through any issues that may arise.

Mrs. Beam introduced the most recently hired police officer, Shannon Thomasson, and provided her credentials within law enforcement and working with students. We currently have four certified police officers, soon to be five. We are very proud of our Public Safety Department.

- ***(Chad Prosser) Just to explain for our new board members, we are technically an independent state agency, meaning we have our own enabling legislation. Most public schools have School Resource Officers that may be staffed by local law enforcement, but we have our own independent mini police department due to being an independent state agency.***

Mrs. Beam provided an update on capital projects. She briefed that the dining hall project has begun and, when it is completed, it will provide a more modern atmosphere with upgrades and a larger seating capacity. She explained the phases for the dining hall project and stated the goal is to be completed by June 2026. She provided information about a possible fund-raising initiative to sell the bricks from the removed courtyard fountain based on requests from alumni and employees. She provided an update on the Residence Hall project and said that, due to that price increase, the state engineer's office must come to campus to review the area and approve all plans. She commended the Music and Production Departments on their collaboration for the opera scenes this year. She acknowledged the many talented staff members in the Production Department for creating costumes and set building for the Film and Drama Departments. She reviewed the Expense Report and confirmed the school is currently on target for spending at this time of year. She explained that another vote is required on the amended budget following adjustments as explained by the Governor's Office following the first budget hearing. Due to the SC Department of Education no longer funding the Education Improvement Acts for the school, additional funds are requested to replace those dollars.

- ***(Chad Prosser) This information can be found on page 19 in the board book, and a vote will be needed.***

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 Irv Welling, seconded by Dr. Harriet Jaworowski, 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 discussed the Admissions Department's current standing for high school and summer applications and noted that the current applicant pool represents 36 of the 46 counties. He commended the effectiveness of the communications process used to disperse information about school admissions, school events, and the upcoming CCC competition. He shared information on the annual Veterans Day program and noted the participants, alumni honorees, and their paths taken from the Governor's School. Dr. Burns also provided examples of current Student Life activities and discussed the development of the 2026-2027 Residential High School calendar. He explained that the calendar was created from numerous collaborations and the input from many groups, including parents, students and employees.

- ***(Chad Prosser) Is the calendar substantively the same as this current school year? (Dr. Burns) Yes.***
- ***(Dr. Harriet Jaworowski) Building a school calendar is not a simple task***

and you have managed to masterfully weave this tapestry to look like the Governor's School but meets the state requirements. That is not a simple thing. Well done! (Dr. Burns) Kudos to everyone involved in this process.

- ***(Gerald Witt) Having worked in a system where the modified calendar has been implemented, the staff and parents were elated because it provided opportunities where families could get together and travel during the off-season. Possibly every nine weeks for a break. In addition, it provided students with opportunities to utilize additional assistance when it was needed and not just during the summer.***

Chairman Prosser announced a vote is needed on the 2026-2027 Residential High School calendar. A motion was brought forth by Irv Welling, seconded by Gerald Witt, and was approved by a unanimous vote.

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 for Arts and Academics, reviewed the Dean's Report to the Board, which was distributed by email prior to the meeting. She reported that Ellen Weaver, SC Superintendent of Education, recently visited the school, spoke with Administration, and toured the campus. She explained the visit was engaging and that Ms. Weaver was able to interact with students and employees throughout her time on campus. She discussed a goal in the school's Strategic Arts Plan focusing on collaboration and noted there will be a cross-disciplinary course with Film and Visual Arts Departments built into the curriculum in the spring semester. This course will be co-taught by Zack Inks (VA) and Kevin Human (Film). She provided photographs from another collaborative project between the Dance Department and Visual Arts (Photography). Dr. Thomas also reviewed the National Student Clearinghouse information.

- ***(Chad Prosser) It is great to see the increase in the Advanced Placement (AP) scores.***

Dr. Thomas detailed the school's extraordinary AP scores of 90% earning college credit. She noted the high percentage of our students that enroll in AP courses each year.

- ***(Dr. Harriet Jaworowski) And please note that there are not many arts related AP courses. (Dr. Thomas) Correct, AP Art History and AP Music Theory, are arts-related, but are courses in which a strong studio artist may not excel.***

Dr. Thomas shared data that compares the SAT and ACT scores both statewide and nationally. The data indicates that the Governor's School is outpacing the state and nationwide with respect to high standardized test scores.

- ***(Dr. Harriet Jaworowski) It is great to see the reports generated by AP are much more informative and well-articulated. I appreciated reading every single one. This is a nationally normed indicator which is important for the students. (Dr. Thomas) Yes. It's especially valuable information. Jordan Dantzler's, our Art History teacher is teaching the class for the first time, and this is a great indicator of her success as an instructor.***

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 Board of Directors met last week and congratulated the Foundation staff on receiving an unmodified opinion on the audit this year. She reported that as of October 2025, the endowment has grown to \$9 million due to great gains in the investment portfolio and the great work of Amanda and the team for their consistent work to find contributions to the endowment. Amanda Herlihy reported on the current donations for Hadestown campaign, collaboration with the Alumni Department, and employee giving campaign. She announced the Songwriters in the Round in Greenville on March 26, 2026. She invited the Board Members to invite their inner circle of friends or anyone they believe may be interested in learning more about the school to the upcoming President's Briefing and Tour on February 20, 2026. She briefed that the Foundation staff are trying to connect more with students, faculty and staff to be able to provide more information to donors and board meetings.

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)

No briefing provided, but information is available in the board report for review.

Staff Council Report (Exhibit 8)

No briefing provided, but information is available in the board report for review.

Old Business

Chairman Prosser announced that the Faculty and Staff Council Reports have been a perfunctory part of the agenda but there was a discussion held with Dr. Adderley after the September 2025 board meeting of revisiting that briefing to include more focused topics of specific departments, faculty/staff members, successes and areas that need to be addressed that the board can assist with. He stated that revision will begin to take place at the next meeting. He stated the Faculty and Staff Council reports can be found in the board packet for review. He concluded this announcement by stating the remainder of the meeting will be used to address the new strategic plan by introducing the company that was selected from the Request for Proposal process.

Chairman Prosser then introduced Martha Greenway from the Greenway Strategy Group.

Ms. Greenway introduced her agency and explained that there will be three individuals working on this project. Staci Walker and Fran Power will work closely with her to complete all research, data collection, and development of all strategic planning material. The Greenway Strategy Group has experience with public education, higher education and arts integration into the educational process.

Ms. Greenway explained the Greenway Strategic Planning Group's approach will have three phases: Analysis, Strategy Development and Action Planning. Her work will be focused on, "how to position the school to have an even greater impact on the campus, nationally and internationally? And what are the greatest opportunities?" She detailed the best way to approach the Strategy Development phase is to have a consensus of how to focus on this work. She projected that the strategy development initiatives will be discussed in the March Board Meeting once the data collected has been reviewed and analyzed. The approach to the Action Planning phase is to determine what resources

are needed and when to use them to complete the plan. Ms. Greenway concluded her discussion of phases by stating that the purpose is to absorb the tools and protocols and not just have a list of things to do.

Ms. Greenway stated that the Analysis phase has already begun. This includes an examination of the state of education throughout the state, arts education, and our sources of support and engagement. She noted there will be a great deal of stakeholder input (students, all employees, alumni, board members, and parents).

- **(Chad Prosser)** Regarding our timeline, we are much more interested in quality product than rushing through the process to have a perfunctory plan in place. Even though there is a very short timeline to accomplish all we would like to accomplish, it gives us enough time to get it done. We are in this process because the previous strategic plan has been completed, which means that another plan must be in place. We are looking for those special elements to help us raise the bar and look at some examples of external programs to possibly adopt some great themes. We are at a great starting point, and we have done a lot of things right, so this process is to address how we can do even more.
- **(Dr. Harriet Jaworowski)** *Can you please be more specific about how you see the board participating?* **(Martha Greenway)** Yes, and I would be interested in your thoughts on that as well. Once the analysis phase is completed and we complete the session around the idea of the strategic plan framework, I think it would be great for the board to participate in that along with other stakeholders, such as faculty, staff, students, alumni, partners, or possibly just having a representative group. The board will then be able to review that framework and provide feedback before the detailed implementation plan is built out to ensure the alignment is there between the board and the plan development.
- **(Chad Prosser)** *During the information gathering phase, there will be small groups of board members created to have discussions via Zoom with Martha's team so that every board member's voice can be heard. Ms. Greenway has suggested that smaller groups are better to get ideas on the table. Those will be done as soon as possible, correct?* **(Martha Greenway)** Yes, those groups will be created as soon as possible, and a sign-up process will be emailed out shortly. We will have multiple meeting times with about four or five slots each meeting so everyone can sign up for a time best for their schedule but being careful not to step into a forum setting. There will be discussions with one of the team members about what you find important and any concerns so every board member will have input in the analysis phase.

Ms. Greenway opened the floor for the board members to share their hopes for this planning process.

- **(Irv Welling)** Even though we do a great job here at the school, I am sure things can be done better. I think we have a lot of opportunities to help graduates get in the right places and receive support when going beyond the school. **(Chad Prosser)** Maybe defining what success looks like for the students in all programs, maybe five or ten years after they leave. Looking at what we can do to facilitate that student's success even further out. **(Irv Welling)** After speaking with an alumnus, I felt like we could do something to provide a greater community of resources, not just Govies, but some resources to help him along. I believe this is just the tip of the iceberg.
- **(Dr. Harriet Jaworowski)** Success of the students is a paramount indicator, but also success of the school is that and more. When reviewing the initial charter of the school, are there ways to be exceptional as it relates to that charter. We have accomplished so much during Dr. Adderley's tenure by reaching other parts of

the state and doing things beyond the school walls, but if we are just looking at test scores, then we hit the ceiling. I feel like we need to look beyond college and look at careers, a bigger picture of the school.

- **(Kimberly Lee)** When speaking with students' families, there were indicators of equating success with if the students were still in the arts or performing. That discussion led me back to the core academics and the graduates' success. How do we define success? Not just performers in the individual arts areas, but life, career, financial, and public service successes. Even though we need to concentrate inside of the four walls during their two or three years here which is only a small time in their lives.
- **(Gerald Witt)** Danielle Brooks had no idea of a Governor's School and now to see what it has introduced her to within her career, and now she is reaching back to give back. We have been very successful with reaching across the state. We have some students that come back to become faculty members who will create their own program. There must be more effort to continue to reach some of those underserved areas. When we do that, we provide great experiences with reaching the students but also moving them forward. Students are the pipeline, if you don't have the students the school does not exist. Making an effort to go out and look for those diamonds in the rough.

Ms. Greenway opened the floor for the board members to share their concerns about this planning process.

- **(Dr. Harriet Jaworowski)** I just don't want to get bogged down with information.
- **(Martha Greenway)** Hopefully it is understood we want to get through the noise.
- **(Gerald Witt)** Boots on the Ground plan is an actual plan that can be executed quickly.
- **(Irv Welling)** We are not just trying to produce a plan, but what are we going to make impact, not just on a document, but what are we going to do. The plan is just a tool not the result.

Ms. Greenway opened the floor for board members to share recommendations for external input.

- **(Irv Welling)** Donors and philanthropists.
- **(Sarah Cathcart)** Principals to find out how they are looking at the school.
- **(Carly Porter Phinizy)** College and higher education admissions
- **(Dr. Harriet Jaworowski)** State level officials, State legislature and governor's office.
- **(Dr. Jennifer Thomas)** Partners - Roger Simpson, SCDOE Fine Arts Coordinator, Kim Wilson (ABC Institute)
- **(Chad Prosser)** Sister Governor schools (SCGSSM and SCGSA at John de la Howe), Ted Riley, legislative liaison,. I believe we should be a center of excellence for thought leadership in arts education. Not just here in the state or K-12, but broadly nationwide and beyond. We have done a lot with outreach from Dr. Adderley and Carol Baker, but we should be the first recognized center of excellence. If someone thinks of art education, we should be their immediate thought. Like the Juilliard of high schools.

Ms. Greenway explained the balancing of quick wins, meaning implementing some things quickly and seeing a change, but also recognizing some things will need to be implemented later after more preparation. Ms. Greenway concluded by announcing the immediate plans of moving forward to collect data from interviews and working sessions.

New Business

Chairman Prosser announced a vote will be needed on the new Telework Policy. Dr. Adderley explained that the revised policy is a result of an Executive Order from the Governor's office, essentially revising the teleworking and telecommuting policies from the pandemic era.

- ***(Chad Prosser) Please understand this impacts us because of the recruiters that work outside of the office. There was some ambiguity relative to state employees being in their state office. There were some restrictions that have been worked on regarding our field employees.***

Chairman Prosser announced a vote is needed on the Revised Telework policy. A motion was brought forth by Irv Welling, seconded by Dr. Harriet Jawrowoski, and was approved by a unanimous vote.

Chairman Prosser announced the 2026 Board of Director meeting dates have been provided and published.

Adjournment

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

The meeting was adjourned at 12:34 P.M.

