

BOARD OF DIRECTORS REGULAR MEETING

Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting – March 11, 2026

Submitted by Ashley D. Smith

The South Carolina Governor's School for the Arts and Humanities Board of Directors meeting was held Wednesday, March 11, 2026, 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; Sandra Ayers; Sarah Cathcart; Rev. Josh Dry; Raye Felder; Rev. Leshown Goodwin; Fallon Hogan; Kim Lee; Fain McDaniel; Dr. Carly Porter-Phinizy; Katherine Barnette Pinillos; Irv Welling III; 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; Richard Jones, Director of Information Technology; Ashley Smith, Executive Assistant to the President/Board Secretary

Public Visitors

Sam Ayers

Welcome

Chairman Prosser called the meeting to order at 10:02 A.M. and welcomed everyone in attendance. He announced that the meeting is being livestreamed and recorded in accordance with SC legislation. He reminded board members of the required SC Ethics Filing deadline of March 30th at noon. He introduced new board members Raye Felder, 5th Congressional District, Fallon Hogan, 4th Congressional District, and Katherine Barnette Pinillos, 6th Congressional District.

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, December 10, 2025. A motion to approve the board meeting minutes was brought forth by Irv Welling III, seconded by Kimberly Lee, and was approved by a unanimous vote.

President's Report (Exhibit 2)

Dr. Adderley, President, provided a briefing on the President's Report, which was distributed by email prior to the meeting. He reflected on the students' academic achievements while continuing to focus on the responsibilities that come with their art disciplines. He acknowledged and thanked the Public Safety, Facilities and Academic departments for their efforts during the inclement weather. He commended alumna Danielle Brooks' inaugural monologue competition and her continued support of the Govie Community and the state. He provided an updated status on the FY 27 budget season and expressed appreciation for the consistent support from the state legislation.

- Chad Prosser explained that SCGSAH has received great support with previous funding requests from the House and the Senate. He advised that SCGSAH is considered a state agency due to not having taxing authority and is funded through the General Assembly.

Dr. Adderley confirmed the Outreach Department has successfully connected with 43 of the 46 state counties and promised that all 46 counties will soon be impacted. He explained that relationships and collaborations continue to grow throughout the state due to the belief in the SCGSAH program.

- Irv Welling imparted that outreach is a very important component because it solidifies relationships, facilitates collaborations between the school, legislature and other schools within the state. He explained the SCGSAH Charter states the school is to be an arts resource for the state via distance learning, and even though the proper funding was not received for distance learning, Dr. Adderley has done a great job with advancing the program.

Dr. Adderley reported that a grant (Hilliard) from the SCGSAH Foundation provided an opportunity for a partnership with the Call Me MiSTER program with Clemson University that explores how arts can support educational efforts in the classroom. He concluded his briefing by inviting all the board members to attend performances.

- Fain McDaniel inquired about the SPARK program state funding and explained how important the program is to the Outreach department. Dr. Adderley stated there has been some interest in supporting the program through alternative opportunities involving partnerships with another district or a group of districts in a part of the state where it is really needed. He explained the focus is on areas where there is little to no funding and the funding comes from a district or a county and not the General Assembly. Fain McDaniel confirmed that the Foundation grant funding, along with the National Endowment for the Arts and Arts Grow SC allocations, will continue to support the SPARK program.

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, provided a briefing on the Finance Report, which was distributed by email prior to the meeting. Mrs. Beam acknowledged Robert Arnold, Director of Public Safety, Richard Jones, Director of IT, and Tim Getchell, Director of Facilities, on their collaboration for researching, purchasing, and installing black coverings for all the doors during a shelter in place situation.

- Kimberly Lee asked for clarity on the procedure of reporting accountability during a shelter in place situation and which law enforcement entity would receive that information. Chad Prosser explained some of the security changes that have been implemented and confirmed that the school has a mandated Public Safety Department with law enforcement embedded into the staff. He noted this subject would be marked for discussion at the next board meeting. Mrs. Beam advised

that lock-down exercise, fire drills, and severe weather exercises are conducted every semester with the City of Greenville Police and Fire Departments clearing the exercise and providing a full post exercise debrief with the Public Safety department.

She briefed on the inclement weather and the research being conducted on the possible purchase of a plow truck for future use during inclement weather. She reported on departments having a bigger role with their funding regarding current use and possible cuts. She confirmed the meal plan collection has been positive since Finance obtained that task from Aramark.

- Chad Prosser explained the meal plans are \$4000 and the Foundation supplements that fee for students based on the family's income.

She addressed an SCDOE Access Control grant and the upcoming Multi-Factor Authorization updates, cybersecurity audit, and the installation of enhanced technology into the Visitor Center. She applauded the interdepartmental collaboration between Production, Film and Drama with the senior projects in Sakas. She provided a summary of the Financial Expense Report and an update with the Dining Hall renovation. She provided a detailed breakdown of the FY27 Budget Requests and emphasized the school's standings as a dependent state agency and not having a budget within a school district. She concluded her briefing by providing an updated status on the House Ways and Means Committee's budget submissions.

- Raye Felder inquired about state budgeting of free lunches and if that would apply to the school. Mrs. Beam explained that based on how the law is currently written, any funding for free school lunches would not apply to the school because of the meals provided and how the meals are served by the school. There was a discussion on the history and understanding of the free lunch funding.

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, provided a briefing on the Student Development Report, which was distributed by email prior to the meeting. Dr. Burns explained the Admissions Department is amid an admissions cycle where the core auditions have been completed but applications are still being received and reviewed. He detailed the recruitment process while expressing the importance of the financial assistance that can be offered. He confirmed decisions will be dispersed on April 1st. He provided an overview of the Endless Opportunities Information Sessions collaboration between the three Governor's Schools. He provided an update on the number of applications submitted and discussed a statewide concern for the decline of male representation in the arts.

- Carly Porter Phinzy inquired if there was any energy being put into addressing the gender differences. Dr. Burns answered that there are continuous thoughts on addressing gender differences. He explained currently there are efforts being implemented of introducing males to successful males in the arts and helping to create and maintain a connection. There was a discussion on the history of the school's gender attendance and the nationwide cross-institutional trend.

He explained the need for the FTE classification for the Mental Health Counselor and addressed the hiring for the Regional Representative positions that are still pending due to the revised Remote Work Executive Order. He emphasized the positive publicity and engagement the school receives from the alumni that continue to connect with and support the school. He detailed the wrap around services provided by the Student Life

Department and summarized the Govie 101 program, which addresses life skills beyond the classroom.

- Katherine Barnette Pinillos inquired if there are any transitional preparations provided for first-generation college students. Dr. Burns answered yes, there are different avenues taken to provide transitional services. He commended Anna Copeland, Associate Director of Residential Life, and Terri Mattress, Director of School Counseling, for investing in the students outside of the classroom and addressing needs with the students and their families. Dr. Jennifer Thomas added the College Application Day is a heavily involved interaction and the Office of Student Counseling includes the families during the sessions discussing financial aid, application process, and any other areas that need to be addressed. Sarah Cathcart added that the experience of attending the residential high school program is also preparation for college transition

He concluded his briefing by reiterating the plan to connect with all of the counties within the state to ensure the continued advancement of the program.

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. Dr. Thomas provided a brief overview of students' achievements within the academics and arts for school, state, regional and national levels. She announced that a film created by a Visual Arts student, *empty nester*, was selected to be a part of the SCETV NextLens Film Festival. She also announced SCSGAH is the 2A classification winner of a new competition for FASFA completion with the Commission on Higher Education. She confirmed the Dance Department is currently interviewing for a Modern Dance Instructor due to the upcoming retirement of Josee Garant, Dance Instructor. She stated that the search includes a diverse applicant pool to ensure that future recruitment is appropriately addressed. She detailed information about a new curriculum that is being reviewed and developed for the Music Program and stated that it would be presented before the board for review and approval at the June board meeting. She explained that there are discussions with the SCSGAH Foundation about grants for equipment, personnel and other areas to continue moving forward. She introduced policies that require the board's review and vote. She explained that campus leaders, staff and faculty collaborated on creating this school-wide Artificial Intelligence Use Policy with a growth mindset and can be revised accordingly as needed. She explained that the Scholars Diploma will now be titled the Diploma of the Governor's School for the Arts & Humanities starting with the Class of 2027.

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.

Fain McDaniel introduced the upcoming Songwriters in the Round event and the importance of this inaugural event's success. Amanda Herlihy reported on the upcoming Hometown Musical and the ongoing efforts to gain support for this event. She advised there will be a Donor Reception on April 15th that will include a Talk Back event with

members of the Broadway Production Team that are currently working with the students. She explained the Foundation is working with a Public Relations & Marketing Team to better explain the school to donors, supporters and board members. She concluded her briefing by encouraging the board members to invite their inner circle of friends or anyone they believe is passionate about the arts to visit the school or consider joining the Foundation's Board.

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

Chad Prosser introduced Martha Greenway of Greenway Strategy Group. Ms. Greenway presented the three phases of the Greenway Strategy Group's approach for SCGSAH's strategic plan: Analysis, Strategy Development and Action Planning. She explained that the Analysis phase has been completed after numerous sessions with various stakeholders, individually and in group settings. She stated the plan is currently in the Strategy Development phase which devises priority outcomes, strategic themes and objectives, and strategic initiatives. She detailed that the strategic initiatives are specific projects that need to be implemented for the objectives to be achieved. She explained that the Action Planning phase will prioritize stages for the strategic initiatives to be implemented and create a monitoring and review process. She provided a summary of the Strategic Plan Framework as of March 4, 2026. She invited any questions or feedback from the board members.

- Irv Welling commended The Greenway Strategy Group for capturing the feedback from a group stakeholder session on campus and providing thorough information for the plan.
- Chad Prosser explained there will be more information in the June board meeting.

New Business

- Livestream Policy (Exhibit 9) – Dr. Adderley explained that although this policy was approved by the board members during the September 10, 2025, board meeting, he was informed the policy did not meet all state requirements and needed to be revised. He confirmed this submission contains all the required information and needs a vote of approval. Chairman Prosser called for a motion to approve the revised Livestream Policy. The motion was brought forth by Irv Welling III, seconded by Kimberly Lee and was approved by a unanimous vote.
- Artificial Intelligence Policy (Exhibit 10) – Dr. Thomas explained this policy during her brief. Chairman Prosser called for a motion to approve the Artificial Intelligence Policy. The motion was brought forth by Rev. Leshown Goodwin, seconded by Dr. Carly Porter-Phinizy and was approved by a unanimous vote.
 - Fain McDaniel inquired if this policy is aligned with the state policy? Dr. Thomas answered that the policy has been created with guidelines that were mandated by the state, but there has not been a state policy established.

- Governor's School Diploma Policy (Exhibit 11) – Dr. Thomas explained this policy during her brief. Chairman Prosser called for a motion to approve the Governor's School Diploma Policy. The motion was brought forth by Irv Welling III, seconded by Kimberly Lee and was approved by a unanimous vote
- National Student Clearinghouse Data (Exhibit 12) – This exhibit was not addressed during the board meeting.

Adjournment

Chairman Prosser called for a motion to adjourn the board meeting at 12:37pm. A motion to adjourn the board meeting was brought forth by Irv Welling III, seconded by Kimberly Lee, and was approved by unanimous vote

