

**SOUTHTECH CHARTER ACADEMY, INC.**  
**SOUTHTECH PREPARATORY ACADEMY, INC.**  
**November 12, 2015 Minutes of the Regular Governing Board/SAC Meeting**

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1. *Call to order* by Mr. Notter at 7:10 PM

2. *Pledge of Allegiance*

3. *Roll Call by Donna Baize:*

Present: Donna Baize, James Barr, Dan Heller, Diane Heinz, Robert Kesten, James Notter Absent: Aram Bloom, Roger Dunson, Nancy Ernst, Russell Feldman, Carl McKoy

Mr. Notter asked the Board to continue to stand to honor all veterans as we celebrated Veterans' Day. There was a moment of silence and meditation for those who are currently serving, for those who have served, and for those who have left our presence. (*Moment of Silence*).

4. *Open Public Meetings Act Statement* – The meeting has been properly noticed.

5. *Public Presentation:* Robert Knight, Language Arts teacher and sponsor for the Debate Team told the Board that he appreciated the opportunity to help recognize the students who are helping to build a Debate program at SouthTech. He introduced Julian Pollifrone, varsity member of the team and a senior in the Recording Arts Academy and mentioned other students – Lourdy Charles, 11<sup>th</sup> grade student in the Finance Academy and Jacinta Culver - IT Academy, Shaina Murat – IT Academy, and Michelle Satine from the Medical Academy. The students take time out their own schedule to participate in competitive debate, doing free research, drafting bills and developing dockets, and doing basically the work of Congress, in addition to their high school schedule. The Debate Team has placed in every tournament in which it participated this year. Julian has placed twice as a speaker, and Lourdy and Michelle have both won Great Gavels as Best Presiding Officers, which means that they showed mastery of rules, functions and procedures of the Congressional chamber. The students are now working towards getting the team involved in a national league and to cooperate with other local charter schools, Inlet Grove in particular, to create smaller theme competitions to develop academic gains for all. Julian Pollifrone then gave an overview to the Board, explaining what goes into the work that the students do to prepare for the debates, making a comparison of the competitions like experiencing the shark tank world of politics. Julian said that it was a lot of fun and very informative and that he learned much about our political system. He said he appreciated Mr. Knight committing his time to the students. Mr. Knight said that the students compete in the Palm Beach Catholic Forensic League, from Wellington to Dreyfoos to the Martin County high schools. The next tournament will be in Boca Raton at Olympic Heights. Mr. Kidd acknowledged Mr. Knight, who has dedicated his time to initiate the Debate Team and help the students.

6. *Approval of the minutes from the SouthTech Academy and SouthTech Preparatory Academy Governing Board/SAC regular meeting on October 8, 2015:*

**Motion by: Mr. Kesten**

**Second by: Ms. Heinz**

**All in favor. Motion carries.**

7. *Treasurer's/Financial Report:* Mr. Heller reported that the STA/STPA Finance Committee met at 6 pm and they recommend approval for STA/STPA Old Business Items C-4 and PC-4 from the September 17, 2015 meeting. They recommend approval for STA Financial Items C-1 through C-5 and Items B2, B3 and B4. For SouthTech Prep, they recommend Items PC-1 through PC-4 and Items PB-2, PB-3 and PB-4. Mr. Notter said that represents one hundred percent of those items that have financial impact to STA and STPA.

8A. *Chief Executive Officer Report:* Mr. Notter introduced Mr. Kidd as the awesome receiver of the 2015 Champion School Leader for charter schools. He said there are 600+ charter schools in Florida and a quarter of a million students, and our President & CEO competed among those numbers to be the one who received the award. Mr. Notter said it says much about the leadership of Mr. Kidd and all the people who support SouthTech.

**Award:** Mr. Kidd began his report, saying that the staff members nominated him for the award. He was not expecting the award. He said that he received the award as much for everyone else as he did for himself. Without everyone else being an intricate part of what we do here, the Board, staff, students – their attitude, dedication and the service they provide, he should not have even been a part of it. Mr. Kidd said that he honors all for their contribution to it, because they have made him look good. He was humbled by seeing five of his staff members present at the award presentation. He felt that the school received good recognition at the presentation. Mr. Haag, President of the FCPCS recognized Mr. Kidd and Rod Sasse from Imagine Schools for their role in Palm Beach County for the IDEA Fund scenario and getting it resolved. It was good for the school because it established SouthTech as being a charter school leader in South Florida. He thanked all those who nominated him for the award.

Mr. Kidd said that he and Mr. Notter had three good days and nights in Orlando and he was able to connect with everybody he had on his list. He was able to work on a number of things, and one thing he identified

places in the charter that the District is not fulfilling their obligations; some of them are financial. We probably will be going for another request for conflict resolution. The District has already formerly refused to take care of. He will keep the Board informed as it goes forward and will not need Board action to take care of it. Mr. Kidd spoke to Kathleen Schoenberg, who has been our attorney and she has relocated, but is still active in South Florida. She is probably one of the best charter school lawyers and she is on board to help us in any way. Mr. Kidd would like to hold a Board workshop sometime in January or February, on the pros and cons of becoming an LEA (Local Educational Agency). Mr. Kidd had the opportunity to speak with John Legg, who works on the Education Appropriations Committee, regarding finding capital source funding for charter schools. Mr. Kidd thanked him for the support he has given charter schools and told him about some of the good things we are doing with the students. Mr. Kidd will follow up with a letter and a fact sheet. Mr. Kidd also spent time with Jesse Jackson from Lake Wales and spoke to him about some things. When Mr. Kidd and Mr. Notter spoke to one of the legislators, they talked about some verbiage that might be inserted in a bill that would allow conversion charters be included in any additional funding scenarios that the District tried to implement. Mr. Kidd is working with Dr. Jackson to get the language together and back to the Senator so he will have it. As far as networking and advocating, it was probably was the best conference he had attended. If just ten percent of the inroads we made work out, it would have been more than a very profitable trip. He told Nicole Handy, Kathy McInerney and Jennifer Melillo that the grant was handled perfectly, with no problems and they wished that all charter school did work like that. Mr. Kidd said no one person gets the credit, but it is Team SouthTech. Mr. Kidd said that Barbara had polled the Board about the Board meeting decision for December's meeting. We will be having the Holiday Feast on December 10, so please get it on your calendar. Finally, Mr. Kidd said that enrollment was down a little, but we are working on things to build it up.

Mr. Notter asked Barbara if we got a commitment from the Board to hold the December meeting right after the Holiday Feast on December 10. Barbara responded that she is still waiting on a couple of responses and will let Mr. Notter know about the quorum commitment. Mr. Notter asked that another email be sent out. Barbara asked Mr. Heller what time the Finance Committee would be meeting and he said he could not give a definite time. Mr. Notter said it would be close to 3:00 pm or 6:00 pm, depending on the responses.

- 8B. *Director of Professional Programs Report:* Mr. Boggess had the opportunity to attend the charter school conference and said that the Rock and Roll Academy instructor, Sandi Hagood, did a phenomenal job. There were close to 15 participants, and three or four came up afterwards and said they wanted to pursue what we were pursuing at SouthTech. Mr. Boggess said that one piece he took away from the conference was to see Mr. Kidd and Mr. Notter in action. These two men have dedicated their lives to public service and public education and there was not a person in the room that did not know collectively both, or one or the other. To be a part of that and watch it transpire was something great. Mr. Boggess said that one of the big initiatives that they have put on between Preparatory and Academy is the career exploration piece, bringing those middle school students over to the academy to feel out what the thirteen academies look like. We were recognized on CBS 12 where they highlighted exactly what the innovation process looks like, when you have high school students teaching middle school students what they are learning and what the middle school students are expected to learn when they come here. It is very unique and CBS did a great job of showing what that looks like. (They showed the CBS 12 clip). Not only did we gain market value, but also more importantly together, bringing the two campuses together and going back to the missional purposed – Two Schools – One Purpose – was the whole intent of what this is. Finding out what days this can be done when there is no testing is a challenge, but making it work is of upmost importance for both schools.

There are three top priority pieces for both STA, STPA and the Adult Ed Program. First is working with the Palm Beach School for Autism. There have been four meetings between the administration from both schools, and school site visits with Shawna Kingsley-Scott and Mr. Boggess, and she has done a phenomenal job as ESE Coordinator and has taken the lead on this. Educationally, she is making sure that we are doing what is in the best interest of the autistic students, but also for the best interests of the SouthTech students. They will be coming tomorrow to shadow. We are looking at two different academies and possibly a third – Commercial Art/Graphic Design, Information Technology, and either Automotive, either Collision or Tech - to look at students in January, coming to be a part of SouthTech Academy. We are looking at having a dozen students, but more in the range of six to eight students to start. We still have to work out logistically, and how it will look - whether it is bus, transportation and even the FTE cap. It will be a win for those students to gain vocational skills. Mr. Boggess also spoke about the partnership with the Associated Builders and Contractors (ABC). We are looking at the possibility of a pre-apprentice and apprentice program that would encompass

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**Page 3**

SouthTech Academy and SouthTech Adult Education. ABC has an inherent need to get back into Palm Beach County to better serve their constituency and stakeholders, but more importantly, we want to grow what we are doing in Adult Ed to better serve our constituency and stakeholders. It could be a win-win. We are traveling to visit their facility next week and to further converse.

Lastly, with regard to our relationship with Boynton Beach, it is of utmost inherent priority for SouthTech Academy to build that relationship. We have always had a great relationship with the City of Boynton and we want to strengthen it. Mr. Kidd and Mr. Boggess met with Mayor Taylor last week, who put us in contact with the City Manager. We were talking about grant initiatives, putting their grant writing team with their grant writing team, and together with some of the smartest people in the city, we could really put together a strategy to have a great grant initiative for January and for 2016. We are looking at specifically at a Maker Space – everything from 3D Printers to AutoCAD – if you can dream it and build it, you can make it. In addition, we have been working a partnership with Career Source Palm Beach and we will continue to develop it. They donated 70 two-year old computers to us in October. With a little upgrade, they can be usable in our classroom and Mrs. Ruiz is working on this. These are the three priorities for us.

- 8C. *Principal's Report:* Ms. Van Arsdale said that we are extremely proud of our students, staff and parents working together to increase student achievement and raise their behavioral expectation. We want our students to be, not only college and career ready, but we want them to be well rounded and well grounded. We continue to work toward our goal of 100% graduation. We are adding creative intervention, such as monthly luncheons for students who are in danger of not graduating. These luncheons are held in the President or Principal's conference room with the Guidance Director, the Assistant Principals and Ms. Van Arsdale. The students are open and forthright about the reasons that they are in danger, from not doing much in freshmen and sophomore years and now they are trying to make up for the lost time. We offered suggestions, support and solutions to them. Erin Kurtz and Ms. Van Arsdale hold individual meetings with the students each week and are now meeting with teachers who provide those students with specific support. We are all working together to provide very specific support for these students. Last Thursday, the National Honor Society (NHS) held the induction ceremony in the Media Center, and there were 30 inductees. The officers conducted a meeting that was beautiful and meaningful. Having presided over 21 NHS induction ceremonies as a principal, these kids and their sponsors did the best job, covering things Ms. Van Arsdale never even thought of. The students researched the each pillar of the NHS so thoroughly, and the Board would have been so proud. Mr. Kidd spoke to the students about humility as it relates to students being very talented and gifted, versus others who have lesser ability. Ms. Van Arsdale spoke about honor, integrity and character, all-important concepts at NHS. This Saturday night, we will have the first dance of the year – The Masquerade Ball – sponsored by the Student Government Association. She will be attending with other staff members. Ms. Van Arsdale closed by saying that a great school, in our case – two great schools, can only be as great as their leader. On behalf of the entire STA staff, she congratulated Mr. Kidd for being named the 2015 Champion School Leader by the Florida Consortium of Public Charter Schools. No other individual is as deserving of this honor.

- 8D. *Middle School Principal:* Mrs. Handy said that she would echo what Ms. Van Arsdale said in that Mr. Kidd was definitely deserved of the award and she was very proud to be in the audience watching Mr. Kidd receive it.

Some of the things occurring in November on the middle school campus are the Stand Strong live webcast, shown schoolwide. This was a very powerful address by Nick Vujicic, who spoke about bullying in schools. It was very effective and there was much good dialogue afterwards with the students. Next week, a couple of local veterans are coming in to present to the eighth graders during their History classes. Also, the Homeless Coalition coming to present to all of the students to build awareness and empathy. There are a few homeless students on our campus. We will also be scheduling the Living Skills in Schools' Presentation – a drug and alcohol prevention program designed for middle school students. Today we met for the founding of the National Junior Honor Society. We are working with the advisors from STA, and they are helping us to plan our induction ceremony, which, as a new school, we cannot induct middle school students into NJHS until they have been on campus for at least a semester. Our first induction ceremony will be in January and they will be inducted for a year. The Honor Society students from STA will act as our presentation officers, since we have not quite elected officers yet. They have volunteered to help us out. We want to hold our middle school students to the same high standards that they are expected of at the high school.

**8E. Community School Report:** Mr. Fiedor reported that the Community School tries to place five more classes in its programming, in order to pull on the interest of additional community members. We are doing another certification program – Automated Service Consultant program. We want to get this started, along with improving and increasing the number of classes we offer in the automotive section. We have added a small engine repair program, and are considering adding an intermediate auto repair program as well. Apparently, a female mechanic is impressing everybody and is able to handle the tools as well as anyone Mr. Fiedor has seen. She is growing in the interest of those who really wanted her to take the time to ask the question, why you came to this class. She answers it by doing those things that they themselves are experiencing with their own automobiles, and making this a very personal satisfaction. She is currently developing classes. We did not give tests before this particular class, but Mr. Fiedor found that he needs to strengthen that area, by pulling out enough individuals so that we can have a solid pre-apprentice/post certification type program that demands a little higher education base. They are accepting it for the first time. Those that normally came to show us what they could do with their hands are now doing some reading and some testing. At the moment, there are 45 students in the AC Program and Mr. Fiedor told them that he might only take 30 to be considered for the second level. That means we will do a pre-test and a post-test and they saw that they now have to read the book. There are now four additional classes – Zumba in the evening, but Mr. Fiedor is trying to bring a cadre of exercise programs that we can bring in the afternoon for the teachers. He said that we need to have a program with AutoCAD, Website Development and Graphics so we can have post high school certification classes.

The connection between the City of Boynton Beach and us is becoming tighter in terms of relationship and Mr. Fiedor is working with the Human Resources. He said that we have TABE tested 149 of their prospective new employees here at SouthTech. Some of those tested have recognized their need to come back to school and we have registered four or five of them. Of the 149 tested, 120 said they never knew of SouthTech and Mr. Fiedor was able to inform them. The winter term that will begin January 19. There was further discussion about possible partnerships with Associated Builders and Contractors (ABC); Lowes and the City of Boynton Beach.

Mr. Kidd mentioned that Superintendent Avossa visited SouthTech for about 45 minutes. The administrators, Julian from the Debate Team and two other students attended him on a brief tour of the school. Mr. Kidd said he was very complimentary about what he saw at SouthTech and very positive. While in the conference room, Dr. Avossa asked if our model could be replicated four or five more times in the District. Mr. Kidd told Dr. Avossa that if he gave us the support and let us build it, and we can help him to replicate the model.

- 1) **Policy Committee:** Nothing to report.
- 2) **Personnel Committee:** Nothing to report.
- 3) **Business Partners/Government:** Mr. Kidd spoke about meeting with legislators up at the conference and we have met with local legislators. We are going to be meeting that objective that we gave everybody in the beginning when we initiated the building confidence and trust, being the trusted advisor for the governmental official, so they have a go-to place to get information.
- 4) **Program Review:** Nothing to report.
- 5) **Nominating Committee:** Nothing to report.
- 6) **Facility Committee:** Nothing to report.
- 7) **Marketing Committee:** Mr. Barr said he would like to hear from whomever the staff person is who handles the marketing, as well as all the wonderful things he is hearing. He hopes that the person is promoting all these wonderful things. Mr. Kidd told Mr. Barr that we are forwarding them to Kristine Gobbo, who gets them out to the press. The award piece is going to be written up. One of the pieces Mr. Notter asked the Board to support is to actually send a personalized letter from this Board to the Palm Beach School Board, sharing the acknowledgement of what occurred here. Mr. Barr said he would create something and present it for review and editing to Mr. Notter.
- 8) **Five Year Strategic Plan:** Mr. Kidd said that hopefully and into the new year, administration and the Board would be working on the Five Year Plan.
- 9) **Foundation Development Committee:** Mr. Kidd said that the Foundation is stagnant and we have yet to find the person who has money, influence and friends and loves the population that we serve. If anyone has any ideas, please let him know. He said that he has not given up on the concept.

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**Page 5**

9. *Public Comments on Agenda Items – Five (5 Minutes Maximum Each Person)*  
SouthTech Academy – None.  
SouthTech Preparatory Academy – None.
10. *Introduction of Consent Agenda for South Tech Academy – President & Chief Executive Officer Jim Kidd.*  
Old Business - from the September 17, 2015 Board Meeting  
C-4 I recommend that the Board approve the audited financial statements for the fiscal year end June 30, 2015.
- Administrative Items**  
A-1 I recommend that the Board approve the donations for the period from October 8, 2015 to November 12, 2015.  
A-2 I recommend that the Board approve Policy 1.02 Governing Board revisions to reflect the election results of the Officers and Directors at the Annual Meeting.
- Personnel Items**  
B-1 I recommend that the Board approve the Personnel actions for the previous month.  
B-2 I recommend that the Board authorize the President to approve the contract with Blue Cross Blue Shield for Health Insurance and sign all related documents.  
B-3 I recommend that the Board approve the insurances for life, dental, vision, and short and long-term disability offered to the employees, at no cost to the school.  
B-4 I recommend that the Board approve the purchase of holiday gift cards for SouthTech employees. (Recommended by Mr. Notter, Board Chair)
- Financial Items**  
C-1 I recommend that the Board approve and ratify the monthly Charter school bank account reconciliation for month ending September 30, 2015 as required by the Sponsor.  
C-2 I recommend that the Board approve and ratify the Charter school monthly Disbursement Report for month ending September 30, 2015 as required by the Sponsor.  
C-3 I recommend that the Board approve and ratify the monthly financial statements for month ending September 30, 2015 as required by the Sponsor.  
C-4 I recommend that the Board approve the renewal of the QBE Insurance Corporation Blanket Accident Medical Basic & Voluntary Student Accident Insurance.  
C-5 I recommend that the Board approve the 2016 STA Operating Budget Amendment.
- Emergency Items**  
None.  
Mr. Notter inquired about pulling Item B-4 and Mr. Kesten said he would take care of that item, as well as the SouthTech Preparatory Item PB-4.
11. *Poll Board for Items to be Pulled for Comment or Questions:*  
Ms. Heinz pulled Item C-1 and Mr. Heller pulled Item B-4.
12. *Approval of SouthTech Academy Consent Agenda with exception of the items pulled:*  
Motion: Mr. Kesten; Second: Ms. Heinz  
All in favor. Motion carries.
13. *Approval of Each Pulled Item (Item-by-Item):*  
Item B-4 I recommend that the Board approve the purchase of holiday gift cards for SouthTech employees.  
Motion: Mr. Kesten Second: Ms. Heinz  
Mr. Kesten said he asked for this item to be pulled is because they discussed it at the Finance Committee meeting, and the Finance Committee recommends that they issue American Express cards in the amount of \$100 to the employees, and \$25 per card to the cafeteria staff.  
All in favor. Motion carries.

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**Page 6**

Item C-1 I recommend that the Board approve and ratify the monthly Charter school bank account reconciliation for month ending September 30, 2015 as required by the Sponsor.

**Motion: Mr. Kesten Second: Mr. Barr**

Ms. Heinz would like to know what FPL charges SouthTech per kilowatt-hours. She offered to look at it and hopes that we have negotiated it as low as possible.

Mr. Kidd told her to set up an appointment with Kathy McInerney. Kathy said she would send her the last couple of bills.

**All in favor. Motion carries.**

14. **Public Comments on non-Agenda Items: None.**

15. **Introduction of Consent Agenda for SouthTech Preparatory Academy – President & Chief Executive Officer Jim Kidd:**

**Old Business – from the September 17, 2015 Board Meeting**

PC-7 I recommend that the Board approve the audited financial statements for the fiscal year end June 30, 2015.

**Administrative Items**

PA-1 I recommend that the Board approve Policy 1.02 Governing Board revisions to reflect the election results of the Officers and Directors at the Annual Meeting.

**Personnel Items**

PB-1 I recommend that the Board approve the Personnel actions for the previous month.

PB-2 I recommend that the Board authorize the President to approve the contract with Blue Cross Blue Shield for Health Insurance and sign all related documents.

PB-3 I recommend that the Board approve the insurances for life, dental, vision, and short and long-term disability offered to the employees, at no cost to the school.

PB-4 I recommend that the Board approve the purchase of holiday gift cards for SouthTech employees. (Recommended by Mr. Notter, Board Chair)

**Financial Items**

PC-1 I recommend that the Board approve and ratify the monthly Charter school bank account reconciliation for month ending September 30, 2015 as required by the Sponsor.

PC-2 I recommend that the Board approve and ratify the Charter school monthly Disbursement Report for month ending September 30, 2015 as required by the Sponsor.

PC-3 I recommend that the Board approve and ratify the monthly financial statements for month ending September 30, 2015 as required by the Sponsor.

PC-4 I recommend that the Board approve the 2016 STPA Operating Budget Amendment:---

**Emergency Items**

**None.**

16. **Poll Board for Items to be Pulled for Comment or Questions:**

Mr. Kesten pulled Item PB-4.

17. **Approval of SouthTech Preparatory Academy Consent Agenda with exception of the items pulled:**

**Motion: Mr. Kesten Second: Ms. Heinz**

**All in favor. Motion carries.**

18. **Approval of Each Pulled Item (Item-by-Item):**

Item PB-4 I recommend that the Board approve the purchase of holiday gift cards for SouthTech employees.

**Motion: Mr. Kesten Second: Mr. Barr**

The Finance Committee is recommending to the Board approval American Express gift cards in the amount of \$100 for the regular staff and \$25 for the cafeteria staff for SouthTech Preparatory.

**All in favor; Motion carries.**

19. **Public Comments on non-Agenda Items: None.**

20. **Board in the Capacity of School Advisory Council (SAC) for:**

**SouthTech Academy**

**School Improvement Steering Committee (SISC) Report – STA SISC Chairperson – Mrs. Baize**



Mrs. Baize said there was another good meeting and there are many good things going on at the school. She deferred to Mrs. Turenne said that she was privileged to be able to do was to give a big thanks to our academic coaches. She thought that it would be interesting for the committee to know how we figure out which students we need to help and how we could help them. She asked both coaches to prepare an explanation on how they target the students who need the most help. The Reading Coach gave a beautiful flow-chart in color to show the process of seeing which student needs help and in what area. There are specific pullout groups for specific skills and this is how we have taken a percentage of students who read on grade level from 32% five years ago to over 52% now. Our Math Coach wrote a small novel, explaining her process. She focuses on the ninth and tenth graders and what they need to do to make sure they are on track for graduation; then she looks at the juniors and seniors who still have not met their math requirement for graduation. She whittles that number down and for the 2015 graduation, she had that number down to one student. We tracked the student down over the summer for administration of the test. When you have over one thousand students and you have academic coaches who know the students, down to the skill they need to graduate, there is something very special going on there. We gave thanks to the academic coaches. Overall, we have a great program. We have great recruiting going on and solid input from a core group of people who attend the meetings. Mrs. Turenne said she just loves Mrs. Nicolini, who at the end of the meeting, not only expresses her concerns about the latest traffic pattern for student pickup, but she proposes the solution, which Mrs. Turenne will be sharing with Officer Principe in the morning.

Mr. Notter said that he heard at the conference that they were going to now use four (4) as the new proficiency number, versus three (3). Mrs. Turenne said they have not figured out what constitutes a three vs. what constitutes a four. They are having public meetings to determine cut scores and our Reading Coach attended one of them. Mr. Notter said that the number is related to the school grade. There is a number that they count for learning gains, and the number that they use in that proficiency is three, and if they shift up to a four, it will have a negative impact to offset SouthTech. We used to get the points for the learning gains. Hopefully, the big seven counties will do a tremendous amount of lobbying in January to get this taken care of. Ms. Van Arsdale said she would be sending out a letter to the parents informing them about these changes.

*Introduction of the STA - SAC Consent Agenda – by Chairperson: None.*

21. *Poll SAC for Items to be Pulled from the SAC Consent Agenda for Comment or Questions: None.*

22. *Approval of SAC Consent Agenda Except for Items Pulled: None.*

23. *Approval of Each Pulled Item (Item-by Item) – Introduction by Chairperson: None.*

24. *Board in the Capacity of School Advisory Council (SAC) for:*

**SouthTech Preparatory Academy**

***School Improvement Steering Committee (SISC) Report – Chairperson Diane Heinz***

Ms. Heinz deferred to Mrs. Handy to give the report. Mrs. Handy said the committee met October 13 and the main discussion had to do with parent training and increasing the number of parents coming to the school for resources. There was a conflict during our first parent training, because we have parents who have children attending both schools, so we changed the date and had our second one last week during our Scholastic Book Fair. We had a Literacy Parent Night and sold \$2,500 worth of books and raised \$1,250 in credit for purchases.

Mr. Kidd encouraged any Board members who have not seen Prep in operation, to go down and get a tour. They took Erika Whitfield to Prep for a tour and in every classroom but one, the teachers were teaching and the kids were engaged. He said that you could sense the good things going on when you walk in the door.

*Introduction of the STA - SAC Consent Agenda – Chairperson: None.*

25. *Poll SAC for Items to be Pulled from the SAC Consent Agenda for Comment or Questions: None.*

26. *Approval of SAC Consent Agenda Except for Items Pulled: None.*

27. *Approval of Each Pulled Item (Item-by Item) – Introduction by Chairperson: None.*

28. *Board Comments:*

Mrs. Baize said she is looking forward to the Holiday Feast and for everyone to keep doing the terrific things they are doing.

Mr. Kesten congratulated Mr. Kidd on his award and as Mrs. Handy said, there is no one as deserving of it

**SOUTHTECH CHARTER ACADEMY, INC.  
SOUTHTECH PREPARATORY ACADEMY, INC.**

**November 12, 2015 Minutes of the Regular Governing Board/SAC Meeting**

**Page 8**

throughout the State of Florida. He also congratulated Mr. Knight and the Debate Team. His own experience of being on the Debate Team in high school helped him to speak publicly without notes, and that is where he got his legal beginnings. It can do nothing but good for the students involved and for the school.

Mr. Heller congratulated Mr. Kidd and said that we have a great school. We have a leadership role in charter schools in Florida, which is important to note. Mr. Kidd is the figurehead for that, but as he said, it is the team effort with everyone involved – students, faculty, administration – he thanked everyone for their hard work and said - let us keep it up.

Mr. Barr complimented Mr. Kidd on his leadership and said that leaders are only as good as the people who work with them and for them. By extension, he congratulated and recognized all the staff who works with him. It is not an individual award as Mr. Kidd stated earlier. There are great things happening, so keep telling the world how good we are.

Ms. Heinz said that when she was elected to the School Board and had 157 schools to worry about, she was always questioning every dollar. Here she knows that here the money is well spent because there is a fabulous staff with a fabulous leader. She said she is more proud and honored to be on this Board. She wants the people in the community to be aware of SouthTech.

Mr. Notter wanted his closing comment taken back to the other employees, and to be given to the Board. He said that he had 39 phenomenal years in public education, leading the sixth largest school system in America. He believed that he had the best team, but after three plus short years at SouthTech, he is trending in a different direction. He is not quite there yet, but he is trending very strongly in the correct direction. He is beginning to believe more and more that charter schools are really the cure for American public education, and all of you are the foundation that is pushing this very stubborn educator over that mark – and that is tough to do. He told the Board members that he is extremely proud to be on this Board and that he is getting the opportunity to live a second life and potentially a little better than the last one he lived. He thanked everyone for the opportunity. He told everyone to keep up the good work because they are all extremely important to the success.

Mr. Kidd said that we have an excellent Board and the school is a reflection of the Board. The Board members bring a lot to the Board – and he mentioned those who have been on the Board a while – Mr. Kesten, Mrs. Baize. He said he gives credit to Mr. Notter. Mr. Kidd had the opportunity to see Mr. Notter interact with eight to ten of his former employees and the respect, administration and love they have for him is unbelievable. Mr. Notter has brought that into this Board. Mr. Kidd thanked Mr. Notter for what he does for the Board and for the school.

29. *Motion to Adjourn:*

Mr. Notter asked for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Kesten motioned to adjourn at 8:38 pm until the Regular Board meeting on December 10, 2015.

Minutes Prepared by:

*Barbara J. Fraga*  
Barbara J. Fraga

Approved by:

*James F. Notter*  
James F. Notter, Chair  
12-10-15