



where we are going. On the Perkins monies, from the District so far this year, we received \$4500 towards a \$5400 serving line for Culinary and \$795 worth of tools for Motorcycle, so we only received approximately \$5300 out of a \$1.6 million dollar grant. There must be several more thousand dollars that we are eligible for if we go in as an LEA.

**1325 Gateway Property:** We also have a proposal by the owners of the 1325 Gateway property to sell us that property. Mr. Kidd is collecting information on that as well. Ms. Heinz put a lot of time in trying to work out figures on that as well and Mr. Kidd will be meeting with Rich Moreno on Monday. Mr. Kidd wished everyone a wonderful Holiday season.

**8B. Director of Professional Programs Report – STA/STPA/Adult Ed Program:**

Mr. Boggess began by addressing Christina Romelus and telling her that it was a joy and pleasure speaking with her today and to see testament to what SouthTech produces. He told her that she is part of this legacy and as SouthTech alumni, he wished her the best in her endeavors.

In talking with staff, Mr. Boggess said that they are extremely appreciative for the gift cards and especially when they saw the increase in the amount given.

Mr. Boggess said that from his standpoint, there are three key pieces that he will continue to talk about until they come to fruition. As part of the administrative staff of both SouthTech Academy and SouthTech Prep, he said that they have put together an administrative strategic plan. The three pieces that Mr. Boggess will continue to talk about are the relationship and partnership with the City of Boynton Beach; second, the Association of Builders and Contractors and building a pre-apprenticeship program, with the hopes of feeding the program; and third is the relationship and partnership with the Palm Beach School of Autism.

Recently, Mayor Jerry Taylor visited Prep to view the new facility and was overly impressed as to what Nicole Handy and her staff was able to do there. He said that it is now, in his opinion, one of the best schools in the City of Boynton and plans to showcase it as much as possible. We also have a relationship with the Director of Development, Andrew Mack, who put us in contact with his manager of public arts to get us involved with the Kinetic Arts Symposium coming to Boynton Beach in 2017. He asked SouthTech schools to sit on that council and we had our first meeting a week ago and brought Automotive Tech teachers Tim Brown and Eddie Martinez, our Science teacher Meghan Shamdassani, and our aspiring Art Teacher Gyorgy Ari to be part of this council. Kinetic Art is moveable art and throughout Boynton Beach, they have put a priority on it, and they have public workspaces for it. It is an opportunity to push the STEAM concept, infusing arts into everything that we do and expose our students to it. Again, in partnership with the City of Boynton Beach, there is a Maker Space not too far from the school on Gateway Boulevard, called the Half Lab. Our grant writing team wrote grants for the Maker Space and Maker movement and there is one only five minutes from the school. The City is going to open the doors to this Maker Space for our students. Lastly, we have met with Justin Katz, who will be our new City Commissioner, as he is running unopposed. If he is going to be the City Commissioner for this district, we need to know what his agenda is and where he intends to take the city. Mr. Katz ran for School Board and ran on an anti-charter movement, which did give Mr. Boggess concern. At the end of their conversation, Mr. Katz is still anti-charter, but he is pro SouthTech and believes in the difference we are making especially with the data points that we showed him about the school.

Mr. Fiedor, Mr. Kidd and Mr. Boggess have been tirelessly working toward building the pre-apprenticeship program and have put an action plan together that will kick off in January. They met with ABC in Coconut Creek and there is still much to be shored up to make it happen. There is a huge hurdle, which is the agreement with post-secondary adult vocational with Palm Beach State College. If you have a connection with PBSC. If any of the SouthTech Board members have a connection with PBSC or know someone on their Board, the new President, or someone in that realm, please contact Mr. Kidd or Mr. Boggess.

We have created a partnership with Palm Beach School for Autism and Mr. Boggess saw evidence of its potential success, when eleven students came over and shadowed what it would be like to be in a career technical class here at SouthTech. Shawna Kingsley, the ESE Coordinator, is spearheading this and doing a great job. The students will be going through a screening process and possibly four or five students will be coming to SouthTech in January and we will build out from there.

In our individual academies, the students from the Medical Academy went to Trauma Hawk; Culinary went to Sysco, one of the largest food producers in southeastern United States, and our Cosmetology students went to Salon Suites to see and get a real world experience.

- 8C. *Principal's Report:* Ms. VanArsdale said that at the last Board meeting, she mentioned that she would be sending out a letter to the parents to provide them with information prior to getting the school grade, basically telling them that we are in a mode of continuous improvement, and were not sure of the grade with the new higher standards for calculating the grade. Ms. VanArsdale said that she edited the letter several times, but never sent it out. Today, within an hour of deciding not to send the letter to the parents with the mildly bad news, she learned that we received the simulated "A" grade. Whether the grade stands or not, Ms. VanArsdale said she wanted to recognize and congratulate Assistant Principals Eileen Turenne and Julie Williams, Dean Roman Salas and the entire SouthTech Academy staff. She said she had never had the opportunity to work with such competent, caring and dedicated professionals. Ms. VanArsdale says she hopes that while the Board members are serving on the Board, they could get to know these people because they are fantastic. She said she is very grateful and so proud of them for all their efforts.

With regard to the graduation rate, we found out that we have a true 93% graduation rate, but she said that it is unacceptable. The Class of 2016 will have a 100% graduation rate and the kids all know it. Ms. VanArsdale said that she has monthly luncheons for about 30 students who are at risk of not graduating, and together they are identifying the problem areas. She said they are making excellent progress.

The students will participate in Winter Spirit Day on Friday, December 18 and Ms. VanArsdale invited the Board to stop by. There will be dancing, basketball or eating snacks. On January 16, they will hold the Snowball Dance and everyone will be dressed in white, silver and light blue. A Charter School Mid-year Review is scheduled for mid-January. Finally, we are offering two forms of classroom management training for staff. There will be a refresher-type course, along with providing individualized instruction to teachers needing assistance. It may become mandatory and we will see how it goes. So far, the staff has been very receptive. Ms. VanArsdale wished everyone a Happy Holiday and thanked them for their support.

- 8D. *Middle School Principal:* Mrs. Handy said that quite a few fun things are going on. In January, we begin our tutorial for eleven weeks for ELA, Math and Science. We will be tutoring three times a week after school for one hour. There are currently 372 students enrolled, we have 15 students confirmed to begin in January, and she is processing five more applications, so possible 20 beginning in January. We have already processed 77 applications for 2016-2017, but cannot accept them before March. Mrs. Handy's goal is to be halfway full or more by that time. Mrs. Handy said she went over the projected grade is a little disappointed, but it could have been worse. The main thing was the Science scores and the middle school acceleration points were very low. We have that covered this year, so she is not concerned for next year. They celebrated the Honor Roll students with a luncheon and ice cream party. We also had Corporal Burt Richards from the Veterans Speaker Forum speak to all our eighth graders on Pearl Harbor Day and she recommends that he go to the high school as well. He is the one who led the charge to the District for our having off on Veterans Day. Mrs. Lamerson's husband is in a fraternal organization and each year they do a toy drive and other fundraisers. They raised over \$5,000 for our most needy families for both schools. The families were nominated from our Guidance Department. We purchased gifts and clothes for the entire family for the holiday. All of students participated in the Hour of Code, a nationwide movement, which they did at the high school as well. They say that in the next few years, all students will be required to read, write and code. This is the future and we are introducing the students now, starting at the elementary level. All will be in code in the future. Our PE students all participated in the Jump Rope for Heart Marathon, a marathon to raise money for the American Heart Association, and if anyone would like to donate, you can go online and donate on behalf of SouthTech Prep though December 14. We are purchasing two more laptop labs, cameras and printers for every classroom, along with a ton of supplemental math, science and ELA materials with the additional Title I funds. We budgeted \$56,000 last year and because of our almost doubling the student population, plus the allocation per pupil increased when we hit the 91% Free and Reduced rate, we went up \$129,000. We have to spend the money by December, so Mrs. Handy said she had fun spending it. She thanked the Board for the Holiday gift and said the middle school staff had never heard of a school giving a holiday gift and they are so grat

Mr. Fiedor said that the Adult Ed program has Tabe-tested well over 150 prospective employees from the City of Boynton Beach. Many of those employees realize their need to succeed, so they want to return to SouthTech for GED and other classes, and they have registered a number of those adults. Mr. Fiedor thanked the Board for the gift cards and wished all a good Holiday.

**8E. Committee Reports:**

- 1) **Policy Committee:** Nothing to report.
  - 2) **Personnel Committee:** Nothing to report.
  - 3) **Business Partners/Government:** Mr. Notter said that the commitment he and Mr. Kidd made in terms of government relations and meeting with every legislative representative of Palm Beach County continues. Mr. Kidd added that when Mr. Notter meets with Representative Pafford tomorrow, they would have met with three representatives and two senators. He believes that they are building leverage with these meetings for the school and it will make a difference for the support we receive from hereon. Two pieces of legislation that Mr. Notter and Mr. Kidd are keeping their eye on is the one that is pushing strongly for a third-party authorizer, mainly because of some of the rules and regulations that the Districts are putting in place. Instead of only having the local School District being the authorizer, they are looking at a third party to do that. That bill seems to be moving forward and there are probably as many pros as there are cons. The sustainable funding stream for capital appears to be getting supporters and we will continue to monitor that. With the coding piece that Mrs. Handy was talking about, the bill was from Senator Jeremy Ring from Parkland, and it has a passed unanimously in the Senate to move it forward. He wants put into legislation that two-years coding becomes a substitute for the two-year foreign language requirement for graduation. If it passes, it will go into effect in January, so we will keep an eye on it to inform administration.
  - 4) **Program Review:** Nothing to report.
  - 5) **Nominating Committee:** Nothing to report.
  - 6) **Facility Committee:** Mr. Kidd mentioned the possibilities that may be coming up in the near future about the current middle school building. The School District, the County and the Fire Fighters are considering a sales tax referendum of a half-cent to come back in. He is talking as hard as he can about charter schools being including in that. The District is adamant that they will not give it to regular charter schools, but Mr. Kidd's position is that we are in District facilities and SouthTech and Inlet Grove should be a part of it, because we have serious facilities' needs. Mrs. Heinz added that there are key players in the community that they should introduce SouthTech to, such as the Economic Council and the Business Development Board because it will make a difference on whether it goes forward. She said it is important for when the language is put together, conversion charters is part of the language. Ms. Heinz will get together with Mr. Kidd. Mr. Notter said they could also get the language that Broward used in the referendum last year because although he is not sure of the verbiage used, the Superintendent did mention at some of his meetings that they would include some of the charter schools with dollars for technology.
  - 7) **Marketing Committee:** Mr. Notter did not receive anything from Mr. Barr, but he did see some things that were published, such as Mr. Kidd's award, so we are moving forward. Some of the things that Mrs. Handy spoke about in her report, such as increase in her enrollment and where her targets are, certainly speak very loudly, since they are things we were not able to speak to a couple of years ago. We do have a better-organized marketing plan that is being initiated and producing results. Mr. Barr will probably cover some things at the next meeting.
  - 8) **Five Year Strategic Plan:** With the IDEA and the things that Mr. Boggess talked about, we will have solid information for the Board for their strategic plan. It will also be the ending of the legislative session because the new session will start in January this year. We will have legislation that has been passed in order to know where we can go at that point in time. We are still on target for Q3 to have the Board meeting for the Board Strategic Plan.
  - 9) **Foundation Development Committee:** Mr. Kidd said we still have not found the right person to head it up.
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 – Revised Financial Statements for July, August and September, 2015**  
**Item C-3** I recommend that the Board approve and ratify the monthly financial statements for month ending July 31, 2015 as required by the Sponsor. (September 17, 2015 Board Meeting)

**Item C-3** I recommend that the Board approve and ratify the monthly financial statements for month ending August 31, 2015 as required by the Sponsor. (October 8, 2015 Board Meeting)

**Item 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. (November 12, 2015 Board Meeting)

**Administrative Items**

**A-1** I recommend that the Board approve the donations for the period from November 12, 2015 to December 10, 2015.

**A-2** I recommend that the Board approve the Clinical Affiliation Agreement with West Boca Medical Center for the Continuing Workforce Education phlebotomy students and authorize the President and the Chairperson to sign all related documents.

**Personnel Items**

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

**Financial Items**

**C-1** I recommend that the Board approve and ratify the monthly Charter school bank account reconciliation for month ending October 31, 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 October 31, 2015 as required by the Sponsor.

**C-3** I recommend that the Board approve and ratify the monthly financial statements for month ending October 31, 2015 as required by the Sponsor.

**Emergency Items**

**None.**

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

**None.**

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

**Motion: Mr. Kesten; Seconded by Mrs. Baize**

**All in favor. Motion carries.**

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

**None.**

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 – Revised Financial Statements for July, August and September, 2015**

**Item PC-3** I recommend that the Board approve and ratify the monthly financial statements for month ending July 31, 2015 as required by the Sponsor. (September 17, 2015 Board Meeting)

**Item PC-3** I recommend that the Board approve and ratify the monthly financial statements for month ending August 31, 2015 as required by the Sponsor. (October 8, 2015 Board Meeting)

**Item 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. (November 12, 2015 Board Meeting)

**Administrative Items**

**None.**

**Personnel Items**

**None.**

**Financial Items**

**PC-1** I recommend that the Board approve and ratify the monthly Charter school bank account reconciliation for month ending October 31, 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 October 31, 2015 as required by the Sponsor.

**PC-3** I recommend that the Board approve and ratify the monthly financial statements for month ending October 31, 2015 as required by the Sponsor.

**PC-4** I recommend that the Board approve the agreement between SouthTech Preparatory Academy, Inc. and E-Rate Advantage, LLC and have the President sign all documents.

**PC-5** I recommend that the Board approve the agreement between SouthTech Preparatory and Recio Commercial Cleaning.

**Emergency Items**

**None.**

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

**None.**

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

**Motion: Mr. Kesten Second: Mrs. Ernst**

**All in favor. Motion carries.**

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

**None.**

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 – Mr. Feldman***

Mr. Feldman said that the meeting was sparsely attended, but there was representation with lively discussion. Mr. Knight, our Debate Advisor, attended and is looking for a parent or high school graduate volunteer to help in the debate tournaments as judges. One of the mothers had somewhat of a background in debate, so they will touch base with Mrs. Turenne if they can help. We also shared our charter school status as a High Performing School, passing around the letter we received. We also shared the exciting news about our pending simulated A grade for the school. We went over the FCAT Reading Retakes' results, which were down a bit from last year, but still higher than the District's. This will be addressed in our Professional Development. We have the Student of the Month, the Employee of the Month, and will begin having the Bus of the Month because there had been some issues and wanted to address this as a positive. Whichever bus had the most successful ridership for the month will be rewarded with doughnuts. Mrs. Turenne said they had visited eight middle schools during the day and three in the evening. Mr. Boggess arranged for Ms. Hill to go to St. John's Church to recruit and on December 3, there was an Open Recruitment House.

Ms. VanArsdale said that the social media is not reaching many of the parents and we may return to the newsletters and postcards, which seem to be the number one mode of communication.

***Introduction of the STA - SAC Consent Agenda – by Chairperson:***

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 said that she went to the Orientation and went to each table to talk to the students and the parents. She would ask the student what their interest was and then connect the teacher with that particular interest to the child. She asked one student what he liked most about the school and he said everything, so he was the best recruiter. Ms. Heinz said it was exciting to participate in this way.

Mrs. Handy said that there was an SISC meeting preceding the Recruitment Open House, but it was not well attended despite the fact that they called the parents. She told Mrs. Turenne that she would like to brainstorm with her a bit on how she built her membership. At that meeting, they reviewed fundraising and discussed data, enrollment and recruiting. The one parent who showed up attended SouthTech with her husband and their child now attends Prep. Mrs. Handy told her that perhaps she could connect with and call the other parents, and she is willing to do it.

***Introduction of the STA - SAC Consent Agenda – Chairperson***

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 brought up Mr. Knight's request for volunteers for the debate tournaments. It would be one Saturday per month, between 7:30 am and 3:00 pm. Training for being a judge is provided, so if anyone knows someone who could volunteer, please let her know. She said that the Holiday Feast was amazing with good company and good food with a chance to sit with the staff and others from SouthTech in that setting. Mrs. Baize mentioned how she met one of her son's friends, who attended SouthTech and is now a teacher at SouthTech. It is another testimony on SouthTech. One of the biggest reasons that she is still on the Board, even though her children are no longer here, is because of the teachers and the people she has met during the years that she knows really do care. Although her children are all adults now, she sees things in them and she knows that they got it from SouthTech. They would not be where they are today if they had gone to the other high schools. Mrs. Baize thanked everyone and said that they are all here because they really love what they do and they really love the kids. She wished all a Happy Holiday.

Mr. Kesten said that he knows that the District is worried about charter schools and that they are implementing programs to combat charter schools because more and more parents are beginning to understand what charter schools provide. This is a good testament as to we at SouthTech are doing. We get out there in the community and look at all the wonderful things that our students and teachers are doing. Look at the young lady that was here earlier. That is a precedent to all that you here at SouthTech do. The Board has nothing to do with that; we only assure that you are implementing some of the things that you need to do, but you do it all. Mr. Kesten said that he wishes that his son could have come here to high school. Mr. Kesten wished everyone a happy and healthy holiday.

Mr. Heller said that the Board may help to facilitate, but the people at SouthTech do the work. He said that the staff, the students, Mr. Kidd and Mr. Notter make the difference and he appreciates everything that they do. He told everyone to enjoy their time off.

Mr. Dunson thanked everyone for all they do. He asked when we got the great sign that is out on Congress Avenue and was told last summer. He said that he is proud to be on the Governing Board and for everyone to have a great holiday season.

Mrs. Ernst said that this was the first time that she was able to come to the Holiday Feast and it was so good. Just looking out at everyone from the front table enjoying the camaraderie between the teachers and the staff was fantastic. She congratulated everyone on the A grade and wished everyone a Happy Holiday.

Mr. Feldman said that we spend a lot of time correctly complementing our administrators and the teachers, but there is another integral member of the team, who often is not mentioned, and said he would like to mention that person today, who probably plays a significant role, and he thanked Barbara for everything she does. Mr. Feldman said that he was very pleased that we are moving forward with our Asperger Program and the cooperative agreement with the School of Autism and they are thrilled. We all have an understanding of our roles and that will be presented to you very soon. Mr. Feldman mentioned the Edventure School and what an outstanding job they are doing with the kids, who would never have survived the public school. You will be receiving an invitation for a fundraiser for Edventure and it will be a dinner on February 28, a Sunday night by a nationally known chef. He is not asking Board members to come or to donate, but just wanted to let the Board know that it is happening. Edventure is a very small charter school in Boynton Beach and can use all the help it can get. He wished everyone Happy Holidays.

Ms. Heinz spoke about things she hears that make her proud to serve on the Board and she spoke specifically of how Ms. VanArsdale is meeting with the 30 students at risk of not graduating, and how she is listening to their personal aspects. She said that you would not find that kind of special attention in other schools. She knows that Ms. VanArsdale wants that high graduation rate, but Ms. Heinz believes that she is more interested in seeing those students succeed. Ms. Heinz also spoke to the need to understand the mindset the District has had toward charter schools and how it has to do with the inadequate funding for students in general. The District has had to fight for every dollar for funding education, so they see charter schools sucking away more money from them. She said that people with that mindset need to come to SouthTech to see what the school is about and how we set the students on their career path. Ms. Heinz wished everyone a Happy Holiday.

Mr. Notter said that he echoed everything that his colleagues have said and to please take back to all staff how proud this Board is of them for the tremendous amount of time, talent and treasures they give each day to make our kids what they are today – 93% graduation rate with 80+% poverty rates. He wished all a Happy Holiday spent with family and friends. Mr. Notter said he is proud to be the Chairman and he thanked everyone for helping him to transition his life to the world of Choice.

Mr. Kidd reminded everyone about the Rock & Roll Academy's 47 bands performing at Lafayette's on Saturday from 12:00 – 4:00 pm.



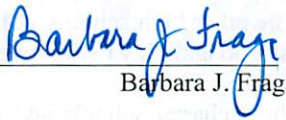
**SOUTHTECH CHARTER ACADEMY, INC.  
SOUTHTECH PREPARATORY ACADEMY, INC.**

**December 10, 2015 Minutes of the Regular Governing Board/SAC Meeting**

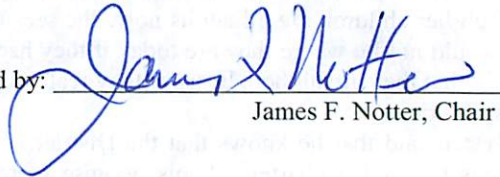
29. **Motion to Adjourn:**

Mr. Notter asked for a motion to adjourn. **Mr. Kesten motioned to adjourn at 5:10 pm until the Regular Board meeting on January 14, 2016.**

Minutes Prepared by:

  
Barbara J. Fraga

Approved by:

  
James F. Notter, Chair