



Mission Statement: The mission of The RISE Schools is to provide a rigorous and holistic education that develops the minds and character of scholars to be catalysts for social change.

**The RISE Schools
Governance Board Meeting
May 15, 2024**

Document Preparation Information

Prepared by Tanisha Taylor Jones, Interim Recording Secretary

Meeting Information

Date	Start Time	Location:	Teleconference Details
May 15, 2024	6:00 PM	Grammar Gymnasium	+1 601-680-7192
		676#	Access Code: 807 588
Meeting Objectives: Board Meeting			
Called by:	Email Address.		Phone
Ms. Lara Sterling, Board Chair	lsterling.board@theriseschools.org		(404) 669-8060

Attendees

Board: Lara Sterling, Dr. Camelle Simmons, Tanisha Taylor Jones, Desmond Hardy (via Zoom)

Staff and Community: Dr. Celeta Watson, Principal Christian Harden, Dr. Frederick Stamper, Jewel Adesola, Ajeenah Bagley, Laporschia Brown, Lynette Gandy, Yvonne Reid, Sonja Moore, Carmen T. Jordan, Tasha Harris, Dondrill McFarland, Veronica Percy, Arielle Mayors, Kenyatta Cat, Jesse Alexander, Pamela Jenkins, Catavia Thompson, Shakela Reid, Taniesha Sledge, Joy Huguley, Ken Kemp, Gwendolyn Williams, Gail Scott, Tiffany Cook, Dr. Nash Alexander, Tamarra Pierre, Todd Folsom, Mr. Kempf

Call to Order	Chair Sterling called the meeting to order at 6:05 PM	
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Approval of Agenda	A motion was made by Dr. Simmons to approve and adopt the agenda for the May 15, 2024 meeting as presented; Tanisha Taylor Jones seconded the motion. As there were no objections or abstentions, the agenda was adopted.	Vote 4 - 0
Approval of Board Minutes (Board Meeting)	Tanisha Taylor Jones moved to approve meeting minutes for the April 17, 2024 board meeting as presented; Camelle Simmons seconded the motion. As there were no objections or abstentions, the April 17, 2024 meeting minutes were approved as presented.	Vote 4 - 0

Executive Director Report:	<p>Dr Watson reported on the following topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current student enrollment for SY2025 is 430 • Gave a report on EOY highlights • GMAS reports <p>Dr. Watson shared her GLOWs regarding awards she has received and podcasts she has participated regarding charter school leadership.</p> <p>Recent testing data was discussed. Students are scheduled to retake the test on the week ending May 24, 2024.</p>
Facilities Director Report:	<p>Mr Stamper reported updates on the following facilities action items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction on the new gym is underway. The project will begin to take place over the summer and into the new school year. • Negotiations to extend the transportation routes for SY2025 will be in progress. The goal is to re-establish the Hapeville route, as well as include two run times per route per bus in order to increase student enrollment.
Principals Report:	Mr Harden and Mr Nash reported on teacher retention for SY2025, it was indicated that following a staff meeting notifying the employees of the SCSC by School Administration, staff expressed concerns regarding returning to RISE for the following school year.

<p>Finance Report:</p>	<p>Mr Washington reported on the following topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Fiscal year is June 2024 and action items surrounding year end close out was discussed ● A completed audit will be submitted by the end of May; finance team and leader are working diligently with Marshall Jones to complete the document sharing and review process. ● The board is recommended to begin onboarding an SCSC/State approved auditor for SY 2024-2025. ● A final budget for SY2025 will be approved by June 30, 2024, following the 2nd public hearing. A proposed budget was presented at the public hearing on May 15 at 5PM. A robust discussion regarding the initial projections was held. Dr. Watson, leadership team and administrators will begin the input process in preparation for budget hearing 2 scheduled on June 30, 2024. ● Mr. Kurt and Mr. Stamper have begun the process of reviewing all vendor contracts. A procurement and vendor vetting process is being implemented for the upcoming school year.
<p>Board Chair Report</p>	<p>Ms. Sterling addressed the room to detail the current circumstances behind the recent probation notice received by SCSC. Dr. Watson and Ms. Sterling discussed the notice with the attendees and addressed next steps regarding SCSC requested deliverables. Ms. Sterling briefly highlighted the recruitment and marketing plan that was submitted to the SCSC on May 15, as requested. A copy of the plan and communication to the SCSC to be posted on the RISE website.</p>
<p>Public Comment</p>	<p>A large number of the community and staff signed the request to make a public comment. Because of the length of the speakers making public comments, not all public comment requests could be honored. The public comment policy allows for a 15 minute period, however, because of the nature of the topic, the comment period was extended. The following stakeholders addressed the room to discuss their current grievances towards the current board and financial oversight:</p> <p>Jewel Adesola, Ajeenah Bagley, Laporcia Brown, Lynette Gandy, Dondrill McFarland, Carmen Jordan, Mr. Kemp</p>

Adjournment	<p>Because of the atmosphere in the room and in concern for Board Members and attendees safety, it was determined that the Board meeting would adjourn with a formal communication to be sent to parents and staff regarding the SCSC probation notification and next steps. A copy of these items to be posted to the school website.</p> <p>Dr. Simmons motioned to adjourn the meeting and Ms. Jones seconded the Motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote.</p>	Vote 4 - 0
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