



Board Minutes

Midlands STEM Charter School

Board Meeting

Monday February 10th, 2025 6:00 PM

854 US Hwy 321 Business S,

Winnsboro, SC 29180

The mission of the Midlands STEM Charter School (MSCS) is to produce academically and physically fit STEM proficient students.

Call to Order and Welcome - Chairman Thomas, who also read the mission statement.

Invocation – Wes Welch

Pledge of Allegiance – Kevin Thomas

Confirmation of a Quorum – Jennifer Lanier

Confirmation of Notice of Public Meeting - Dr Kennedy

Roll Call - - present in person were Kevin Thomas, Dan Campbell, Jennifer

Lanier, Wes Welch, Ashley Varnadore, and TK Kennedy. Present by zoom was Kizzie Smalls.

Public Comment - Mr. Johnson, the uncle of a Midlands STEM Charter School student, expressed concern for his niece and requested that her complaints be thoroughly investigated and not dismissed by staff. He also asked that staff refrain from sharing student information with others. Chairman Thomas thanked Mr. Johnson for his input and assured him that he would follow up with the school's leadership.

A. Action Items

1. January Budget Report presented

Dan Campbell made a motion to approve the Budget Report. Wes Welch seconded. There was no discussion. Vote was unanimous.

2. Amended 2024-2025 Budget presented

Reviewed changes made to budget according to available state and federal funding. Budget uses the Student enrollment count at the 5 day count. Dan Campbell requested a financial consultant's opinion in light of the USDA loan. Financial consultant agreed decisions around the proposed budget are in line.

Jennifer Lanier made a motion to approve the Amended 2024-2025 Budget. Kizzie Smalls seconded. There was no discussion. Vote was unanimous.

3. January Board Meeting Minutes presented

Have typos and cannot yet be approved. Jennifer Lanier will correct typos.

4. 2025-2026 Calendar presented

Presentation included consideration of our students needs and best practices around dual-credit students calendar, and year long courses. Proposed calendar meets those current needs. Dan Campbell made a motion to approve the 2025-2026 Calendar. Jennifer Lanier seconded. There was no discussion. Vote was unanimous.

5. Make up days presented

- a. January 10th- recommend February 14th (teacher workday)
- b. January 23rd- recommend February 17th (Student holiday)
before the 135 day count.

Presentations included administration always put student safety first in making decisions. Dan Campbell made a motion to approve the Make up days. Wes Welch seconded. There was no discussion. Vote was unanimous.

B. Chairman's Report

1. Facility Update - Kevin Thomas shared Heywards updates in his absence. Reviewed warranties. Vape sensors installed.
2. Financial Consultant Update - Rus's report included review of state and federal funding. Formal investigation into rural development has been opened by congressmen. Waiting for new federal administration's updates in Ag. School lunch is under the Department of Ag. Referenced 2018 Farm Bill. Rus reiterated that all stakeholders need to understand the importance of enrollment and retainment, and strategies such as open house, sharing open enrollment on social media, exit surveys, and the PTOs roll.
3. Policy Review Committee - Kevin Thomas created a committee to review operational policy. Dan Campbell noted the need to include policy under the teacher tab and not just the parent resource tab on the school website. Kevin Thomas stated members of this committee include: Kevin Thomas, Kizzie Smalls, Jennifer Lanier, TK Kennedy, and teacher Clacks.

C. Executive Director's Report

1. Enrollment - report included some new enrollees, and some withdrawals, bring current enrollment to 303. Open house 2/13, Intent to return surveys

D. Executive Session

Wes Welch made a motion to enter the Executive Session. Dan Campbell seconded. There was no discussion. Vote was unanimous.

1. Facility lease update

2. Financial Services contract update

Dan Campbell made a motion to exit the Executive Session. Wes Welch seconded. There was no discussion. Vote was unanimous.

D. Adjournment

Dan Campbell made a motion to adjourn. Jennifer Lanier seconded. No discussion. Vote was unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.