

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES
SOUTH FLORIDA STATE COLLEGE FOUNDATION
BOARD ROOM, HIGHLANDS CAMPUS
JANUARY 9, 2024**

Members Present:

Mr. Don Elwell	Dr. George Mousa	Judge Heather Beato
Mr. Fred Hawkins	Mrs. Kris Rider	Dr. Catherine Cornelius
Mrs. Robin Weeks	Mr. Robert Duncan	

Excused:

Mr. Corey Allain	Mrs. Sandee Braxton	Ms. Cheryl Brown
Judge Angela Cowden	Mr. Andrew Santos	Dr. Darrell Jensen
Mr. Michael Kelly	Dr. Vinod Thakkar	Mrs. Patricia Manderville

Others Present:

Mrs. Jamie Bateman	Mrs. Anastasia Fuchser	Miss Taylor Massey
Mrs. June Weyrauch	Dr. Michele Heston	Mr. Peter Elliott
Mr. Bob Swaine	Mrs. Melissa Kuehnle	Dr. Benjamin Carter
Mrs. Teresa Vorous		

I. CALL TO ORDER

At 12:00 p.m., Mr. Elwell, President called to order the meeting of the South Florida State College Foundation. Mr. Elwell asked for a motion to accept the agenda of the January 9, 2024 meeting. Mrs. Rider made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Weeks to approve the agenda as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Elwell asked for a review of the minutes from the November 14, 2023 meeting. Mrs. Weeks made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Rider to accept the meeting minutes as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

III. FINANCIAL REPORTS

Mrs. Vorous reviewed the Consolidated Balance sheet and the Investment Returns through November 30, 2023. There were no questions or concerns. Dr. Cornelius made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Weeks to accept the financial reports as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. WARRANT LIST

Mrs. Weeks reviewed the Warrant List from October 1, 2023, through November 30, 2023. There were no questions or concerns. Mrs. Weeks made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Rider to accept the warrant list as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

V. PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

Mr. Hawkins shared that the Fall Commencement Ceremony on December 14 was a success.

Mr. Hawkins announced a few organizational changes, Mrs. Michelle Leidel is the Interim Dean of Applied Sciences and Technologies and Mrs. Asena Mott is the new Director of the Lake Placid Center in addition to her role as the Director of the DeSoto Campus.

Mr. Hawkins mentioned that he has spoken with Moffitt Cancer Center about partnering with us and our Nursing program.

VI. GRANTS UPDATE

Mrs. Weyrauch shared that SFSC was awarded \$3,000 from Battle Creek Community Foundation to support the Lunchbox Program on the DeSoto Campus which provides food security to the students on the campus.

Mrs. Weyrauch has submitted a grant with the Florida Department of Education to upgrade equipment used in the computer network technology program for \$153,716 with a \$200,000 match from AdventHealth Sebring and AdventHealth Wauchula.

VII. TAKE STOCK IN CHILDREN

Dr. Carter and the Take Stock in Children team are completing their mid-year assessment report to include the Take Stock mentor sessions and college success coach reports.

On January 5, Take Stock hosted a lunch with their current Take Stock in Children Mentors and students as a thank you. Dr. Carter shared that they have 23 students graduating this year and 40 new student applicants.

VIII. FOUNDATION UPDATES

a. Mrs. Bateman reviewed and shared with the board upcoming Foundation events and meetings.

Mrs. Bateman shared that Bill Jarrett Ford has donated a brand-new Lincoln Aviator to SFSC for the Automotive program. She thanked Community Relations and Marketing for their creative design, the vehicle was wrapped and delivered to the Highlands campus for future learning opportunities and will serve as a recruitment tool at local schools.

SFSC was named as one of the 150 institutions eligible for the \$1 million Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence, the nation's signature recognition of high school achievement and performance along two-year colleges.

Mrs. Bateman suggested May 4 for the Foundation's Annual Legacy Howl at the Moon Showcase event. Multiple organizations now offer the same event, Mrs. Bateman asked the board if the Foundation should go forward with booking the event. After further discussion, Mr. Elwell and Mrs. Weeks will meet with Mrs. Fuchser and Miss Massey to discuss the potential of the event and a date.

- b. Mrs. Fuchser will discuss the Annual Sponsorships for 2024 later in the meeting.
- c. Mrs. Bateman asked the Board to complete the 2024 Board Expectation packets and return them to Mrs. Fuchser and Miss Massey before leaving today's meeting.

Mrs. Bateman asked the Board for approval to continue with The Griffin Group at the agreed amount of \$5,000 per month. The Foundation is appreciative of The Griffin Group and all that they do for us in Tallahassee. Mrs. Bateman asked the Board for a motion to approve the continuation of the contract and allow Mrs. Bateman to sign the contract for \$5,000 a month. Mrs. Weeks made a motion, seconded by Dr. Cornelius to approve the motion as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

- d. Phase 1 of the renovation of the Hotel Jacaranda hallway in the lobby has been completed and is back open. With the help of the Maintenance department, phase 2 will begin in the back offices. Mr. Bruns, General Hotel Manager has decided to stay in the Foundation's old conference room and this will allow his original office to be used for future tenants. Meanwhile, Mrs. Simmons will move back to her office behind the front desk in the hotel lobby once it is completed. The timeframe for completion is the end of February or the beginning of March.

There is a new commercial tenant, Sweetwater Coffee Company located in the old Ward Room. The Ward Room has relocated to The Artist's Group's previous studio space in the hotel arcade.

Sherco, Inc. has new owners and is now called Sherco Surveying, Inc. They have expanded their existing commercial space across the arcade hallway into the previous Take Stock in Children offices.

Mrs. Bateman shared that there is a need for a new AC unit on top of the Hotel Jacaranda Roof. The new unit is estimated at \$250,000 and it is on hold at this time.

- e. Mrs. Bateman shared no new changes for the Student Resident Facility. She suggested to the Board a Capital Campaign to offset expenditures. Mr.

Hawkins confirmed that there is no state funding for the dorms. After further discussion, the members agreed to begin a Capital Campaign.

- f. The contract for the Johnson Estate has been signed and the closing on the property has been set. Due to safety and liability reasons, Mrs. Bateman and Mr. Hawkins have agreed to move forward with Excavation Point to clear the property of all damaged items and remove waste.

Dr. McLochlin's Estate was appraised at \$165,000 and Mrs. Bateman has been informed of an interested buyer. Mrs. Bateman asked the Board for a sale price to move forward without a real estate agent at this time unless the potential sale falls through. Mr. Elwell suggested a sale price of \$175,000. Mrs. Weeks made a motion to authorize Mrs. Bateman to work with Mr. Swaine and the interested buyer, seconded by Dr. Cornelius as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

- g. Mrs. Bateman reminded the Board of officer elections at the Foundation Board meeting on May 14.

IX. ALUMNI RELATIONS AND OUTREACH

Mrs. Fuchser shared photos of the culinary students serving Hors d'oeuvres at the Jacaranda Jubilee on November 27 and the student spotlight of the month.

Mrs. Fuchser's Giving Tuesday Campaign was supporting our tri-county area and the future leaders – helping to Pave the Path to Success. The Foundation set a goal of \$5,000 but we surpassed that amount hitting a total of \$10,000 with 41 donors. Mrs. Fuchser thanked everyone who donated and assisted with Giving Tuesday to achieve the goal.

Mrs. Fuchser invited the Board to attend the Foundation's 7th Annual Million Dollar Hole-in-One Golf Shootout on January 11-13, 2024. She mentioned golf sponsorships are down compared to the previous years. Mrs. Fuchser shared a recap of the Foundation's events from 2019 through 2023.

Mrs. Fuchser announced the total amount of Annual Sponsorships is \$37,500. She thanked AdventHealth as our first-ever Platinum Sponsor. The Foundation is grateful for the continued support of MidFlorida, Cowpoke's Watering Hole, Duke Energy, SouthState Bank, and The Mosaic Company. She hopes to have a few more come in over the next month or so to round out our annual sponsorships and push us over the \$40,000 mark from last year.

The 2nd Alumni Society Hall of Fame was awarded to Mr. John Sedlock at the Christmas Luncheon on December 7. Mr. Sedlock attended South Florida Junior College in 1977 to play baseball and graduated in 1978. He is a well-known business owner in the area and gives back and supports the community and the local sports.

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The upcoming Alumni Networking Socials will be on January 18 at the Cowpoke's Watering Hole in Sebring, April 18 at Beef O' Brady's in DeSoto, July 9 at the Beef O' Brady's in Hardee, and October 10 at the Sebring Soda Shop and Ice Cream Works in Sebring.

In 2023, Mrs. Fuchser sold 9 of the Level 1 and 9 Lifetime Alumni Membership cards, a total of \$2,700 with \$270 supporting the Foundation's Alumni Scholarship. This year's Alumni Membership Program offers benefits from two new businesses, Square 1 Shooting Range and The Vault who are SFSC Alumni. The Alumni Association is taking 10% of each card sale and applying it to the Alumni Scholarship to grow the fund and start awarding scholarships.

Mrs. Fuchser will kick off Young Alumni monthly meetups starting on January 17 in Building B on the Highlands campus. She will meet with students on the Highlands campus again in February and will visit and connect with students located on all three campuses in March.

X. TIME FOR DIRECTORS

Mr. Elwell asked if there were any questions, comments, or concerns. There were none.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further discussion, Mr. Elwell adjourned the meeting at 12:59 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Don Elwell
Board President