



~ FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE ON JULY 29, 2020 ~

**SUMTER STEAM CHARTER (SSC) FOUNDING BOARD OF DIRECTORS SHARES ADDITIONAL PROGRESS TOWARDS MEETING GOALS IN “NEXT STEPS” POST-AUTHORIZATION PLAN**

With just a few weeks left before the 100-day post-authorization period concludes and the planning year is launched, here are the newest developments under the *Next Steps: Turning the Vision for SSC into Reality* summer action plan:

1. **Official Office Location:** SSC school leaders will be moving into temporary office location at 117 North Main Street on August 1. An open house is scheduled for August 20 from 5-6:30 pm.
2. **Financial Support for SSC:** As a 501(c)3, SSC recently launched a secure online giving platform through its website to collect tax-deductible contributions. Donors can currently select three categories for their donations to be marked towards: its after-school ASPIRE program, scholar uniforms, and facility upgrades.
3. **Board Professional Development:** SSC directors have also begun its initial collaboration with *Board on Track*, an organization widely known and respected across the high-performing charter landscape for its step-by-step program that builds the board’s capacity to govern in a highly effective manner. Dr. Ivey says, “it is clear from the many actions this board has taken over the charter’s incubation period that it is committed to being mission-oriented and results-driven and this further illustrates our interest in becoming a more strategic board.” In addition to executive coaching, *Board on Track* provides an online platform that builds an institutional memory for SSC, establishes best practice processes, provides board member level transparency and accountability against strategic goals, and also provides self-paced professional development designed to meet the personalized needs of both board directors and school leaders.
4. **Scholar Enrollment:** SSC has officially adopted its scholar enrollment policy, when official enrollment applications will begin to be accepted October 1 for the 72 kindergarten & 72 first grade seats in Fall 2021. If more applications are received than the number of seats, an initial lottery will be held in early December with continued enrollment in the Spring 2022. To date, 110 families have completed a pre-enrollment interest form.
5. **Primary Academy Campus:** SCDE & SCDOT have approved the property acquisition for 15 School Street. Thanks to the amazing generosity of an anonymous donor, this building will officially serve our scholars in grades PK-2. An extensive renovation project will begin early Fall to bring this building back to life and offer a world-class, STEAM-based education to our young scholars. Now that a facility has been acquired, the board is engaging the community in providing a more permanent name to honor both the legacy of the former Liberty Street Elementary School and also the unique educational programming the charter school will provide.
6. **Director of Advocacy & Engagement:** The current two-member leadership team will soon expand to three with this new additional position. Reporting to the Founding ED, this mission-driven & results-oriented individual will design & lead the school’s advocacy & engagement initiatives. This individual will be SSC’s ambassador in the Sumter community and will serve as the primary community and family engagement lead, cultivating relationships with key partners in and outside of Sumter to include community-based non-profit organizations, faith-based organizations, the military community, business leaders, workforce development leaders, elected officials, and other community leaders. Other areas of responsibility include motivating families to join SSC, managing scholar enrollment, as well as school-wide marketing & communications. Interested individuals can visit the website to view the full job description and to apply for this position, which will have an October start date.

According to Chairman Greg A. Thompson, he says that “these additional exciting developments affirm this board’s collective and unyielding commitment to taking no shortcuts as we create an additional high-quality public education for our community.” The board will host its next monthly meeting of the 2020-21 school year at 11:30 am on August 10 at the Central Carolina Technical College Advanced Manufacturing Training Center.

*Please direct questions to Dr. Trevor Ivey, Chief of Staff, via email at [tivey@sumtersteamcharter.org](mailto:tivey@sumtersteamcharter.org).*

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