



~ FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE JULY 16, 2020 ~

## SSC CONTINUES TO MAKE PROGRESS IN FULFILLING ITS “NEXT STEPS” 100-DAY POST-AUTHORIZATION PLAN

Upon being unanimously approved by the SCPCSD as Sumter County’s first tuition-free public charter school on April 16, one of the first few actions taken by the SSC Founding Board of Directors was to create and adopt its 100-day post-authorization plan. Titled, *Next Steps: Turning the Vision for SSC into Reality*, the plan includes six goals that span the following areas: the hiring of an executive director, the facility approval process, grant funding, community awareness, marketing & branding, and building board capacity. With just one month left in SSC’s 100-day post-authorization period, the board is excited to share the following current summary of its progress:

### **Goal 1 - Conduct a Nation-Wide Search to Hire an Executive Director**

*Status of Goal 1 (Achieved):* Dr. Khalil Graham was unanimously hired as the Founding Executive Director on June 26. He will soon relocate to the Sumter community and formally assume his duties on August 1.

### **Goal 2: Facility Approval Process**

*Status of Goal 2 (Achieved):* SCDE Office of School Facilities visited the proposed school site on July 1 to conduct its assessment for property acquisition. In collaboration with the SCDOT School Engineering Division, the property acquisition of 15 School Street has now been approved. Having the approval of both entities is required in order to acquire the property and move forward with renovation plans. The board is in the final stages of closing on the property and is engaging with Collins & Almers Architecture Firm (Florence) as its design professional.

### **Goal 3: Securing Additional Funding**

*Status of Goal 3 (Achieved):* SSC applied for the USDE Charter Schools Program grant in the amount of \$800,090 for three years of start-up funding, and we have been approved for the full year one planning phase amount of \$125,000. Continuation funding for years two and three has also been awarded so long as grant benchmarks & requirements are met. SSC has also launched an online giving platform through its website for tax-deductible financial contributions.

### **Goal 4: Community Awareness**

*Status of Goal 4 (Ongoing):* SSC continues to promote general community awareness through frequent social media updates, local media coverage, and awareness sessions. Recently, the board adopted the official scholar enrollment policy which opens up the initial application period on October 1. SSC school leaders anticipate holding 30 Family Preview Sessions for prospective families throughout the fall, beginning in September. Additionally, temporary office space for SSC’s school leaders has been acquired at 117 North Main Street for the planning year.

### **Goal 5: Marketing/Branding**

*Status of Goal 5 (Ongoing):* New and updated content continues to be added to the SSC website on a weekly basis. Official logos will be used during the planning & implementation year in addition to new "Ask me about SSC" t-shirts. With the acquisition of the 15 School Street property, the Founding Board of Directors will soon be engaging the community in a new name for SSC to honor the legacy of the former Liberty Street Elementary School.

### **Goal 6: Strengthening Board Capacity**

*Status of Goal 6 (Ongoing):* SSC's Founding Board of Directors is committed to becoming a high-functioning board that exists to provide visionary leadership and support for its Founding Executive Director. SSC now adheres to open meeting law and follows Roberts Rules of Order during its meetings. The Charter Alliance of South Carolina will be providing the statute-required charter board training in September. Recently, the Founding Board of Directors approved engaging with "Board on Track" to utilize an online platform to monitor board effectiveness and individual/whole group coaching to strengthen the overall capacity of the board. The board has also adopted a yearlong planning & implementation plan to guide its next steps leading up to SSC’s opening on July 20, 2021.

“Our *Next Steps* plan has provided a sense of direction for this board and outlines measurable goals, allowing significant results to be delivered in an efficient & intentional manner,” says Chairman Greg A. Thompson.

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

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