



**~ FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE ON JUNE 2, 2020 ~**

## **SUMTER STEAM CHARTER PLANNING COMMITTEE TRANSITIONS TO A FOUNDING BOARD OF DIRECTORS IN RECENT ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING**

As a result of being formally approved to open in the Fall of 2021 as Sumter's first tuition-free public charter school by the SC Public Charter School District, the SSC Planning Committee held an organizational meeting on May 18, 2020 to formally transition to a Founding Board of Directors. A meeting agenda was posted Friday morning via the school's website and social media platforms. During the meeting, updates were shared regarding the board's progress in implementing *Next Steps*, its 100-day post-authorization action plan. 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.

During the meeting, updates were shared regarding each of the six goals. Building Excellent Schools is leading a nation-wide search for SSC's Founding Executive Director and present a slate of five finalists to the board for consideration on June 4, 2020. Finalists will be invited to spend a day in Sumter to tour the community and complete a final interview with the Founding Board. The board anticipates it will name its Founding Executive Director by late June 2020. To date, pre-enrollment scholar interest forms have been completed by parents/guardians of 55 scholars who will be K-1 eligible to attend SSC in the Fall 2021. The board is excited to launch a community awareness campaign in the Fall in hosting Family Preview Sessions at sites across Sumter once the official enrollment period begins. The board was excited to also receive notification of its 501c3 approval. The board also received an update regarding its application for planning & implementation start-up grant funding available through the US Department of Education Charter Schools Program. Finally, an update was also shared regarding the vetting process for its desired facility to house the school's Primary Academy (grades PK-2). The vetting process has begun with board members, local engineers & school design architects working in collaboration with the South Carolina Department of Transportation and Office of School Facilities at the South Carolina Department of Education.

The board also voted to approve the following vendors & contracted services during its planning & implementation year: Mccay Kiddy (fiscal management), Turner Caudell (legal representation), Barnabus Marketing (marketing & branding), Wright Specialty (commercial D/O insurance), and Liberty Mutual (fidelity bond insurance). A meeting calendar was also adopted. Beginning in July, board meetings will be held on the second Monday of each month at 11:30 am at the CCTC Advanced Manufacturing Technology Training Facility with work sessions scheduled on the fourth Monday, as needed. Additionally, an initial set of six governance policies was also approved to include structure of the agenda for board meetings, news media services at board meetings, board & public notification of board meetings, public participation in board meetings, conducting board of directors' meetings, and conducting executive sessions during board meetings. Chairman Thompson says, "We are excited to make this symbolic transition from a Founding Planning Committee that was primarily tasked with incubating plans for a high-performing charter school to a Founding Board of Directors that will implement those plans. The *Next Steps* plan, governance policies, and meeting agendas/minutes can be found on the school's website [www.sumtersteamcharter.org](http://www.sumtersteamcharter.org).

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