

Meeting of the SVHEC  
Board of Trustees

Thursday, January 16, 2025

9:30 a.m.

Berry Hill Resort – Classroom C  
3105 River Road | South Boston, VA 24592

SOUTHERN VIRGINIA HIGHER EDUCATION CENTER BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING  
JANUARY 16, 2025

**DRAFT MINUTES** – January 16, 2025

**MEETING MINUTES**

Thursday, January 16, 2025

9:30 a.m.

Berry Hill Resort & Conference Center | 3105 River Road | South Boston, VA

**SVHEC Board of Trustees**

**Present**

Mr. Stanley Jeffress

Mr. Jeff Davis

Mr. Ryland Clark

Mr. Scott Fleming (arrived at 12:20 p.m.)

Dr. Cornelius Johnson-interim Danville Community College President

Dr. Quentin R. Johnson

Ms. Sheri McGuire (Designee of Longwood University President)

Mr. Tom Raab (Designee of Virginia Community College System Chancellor)

Dr. Annie Wimbish

Mr. Dennis Witt

**Absent**

Dr. Angela Hairston

The Honorable Louise Lucas

The Honorable Daniel “Danny” Marshall

The Honorable Sam Rasoul

Ms. Grey Watson

**SVHEC Staff**

Dr. Nettie Simon-Owens, SVHC Staff Liaison & Chief Strategy Officer

**Board Counsel:**

Adam Kane, Assistant Attorney General

**Other Attendee:**

Sarah Gobble, Fahrenheit Advisors, LLC., Managing Director

**Agenda**

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AGENDA ITEM I.A: CALL TO ORDER (OPEN SESSION)

The Chair, Mr. Stanley Jeffress, Jr. called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. and extended greetings to all. He recognized all attendees present and introduced Mr. Ryland Clark, a new Board member. Mr. Jeffress thanked all for attending and stated the purpose of the meeting. The stated purpose of the meeting was to conduct interviews for the Executive Director position.

AGENDA ITEM I.B: CALL TO ORDER (OPEN SESSION)

A quorum was confirmed via roll call.

AGENDA ITEM I.B: CALL TO ORDER (OPEN SESSION)

The agenda was approved by consensus.

AGENDA ITEM II.2: CLOSED SESSION

AGENDA ITEM II.2.A: REQUEST TO ENTER CLOSED SESSION #1

Motion was made by Mr. Jeffrey Davis, seconded by Ms. Sheri McGuire, and duly carried that the Board of Trustees move into closed session pursuant to

- Virginia Code Sections 2.2-3711 (A)(1) for the discussion, consideration, and interviews of prospective candidates for employment; and
- Pursuant to 2.2-3711 (A)(8) for consultation with legal counsel regarding the same.

Motion was approved unanimously (9-0). The Board of Trustees entered closed session at 9:36 a.m. The Chair requested legal counsel, Mr. Adam Kane, Ms. Sarah Gobble with Fahrenheit Advisors, LLC., and Dr. Nettie Simon-Owens, SVHEC Staff Liaison, to remain in the closed session. The Board of Trustees convened into closed session.

AGENDA ITEM II.2.B: REQUEST TO RETURN TO OPEN SESSION #1

Motion was made by Ms. Sheri McGuire, seconded by Mr. Dennis Witt, and duly carried that the Board of Trustees return to open session. Motion was approved unanimously (9-0). The Board of Trustees returned to open session at 11:22 a.m. followed by a break for lunch.

AGENDA ITEM II.2.C: CERTIFICATION OF CLOSED SESSION #1

Dr. Annie Wimbish read the following:

*Whereas, the Board of Trustees of the Southern Virginia Higher Education Center convened in closed session on January 16, 2025, pursuant to an affirmative recorded vote and in accordance with the provisions of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act; and;*

*Whereas, Virginia Code §2.2-3712 requires a certification by this Committee that such closed meeting was conducted in conformity with Virginia law;*

*NOW, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of the Southern Virginia Higher Education Center hereby certifies that, to the best of each member's knowledge:*

- (1) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements under Virginia law; and*
- (2) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion by which the closed meeting was convened were heard, discussed, or considered in the closed meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Southern Virginia Higher Education Center.*

AGENDA ITEM II.2.C.i: Roll Call Vote of All Members #1

A roll call vote was called by Mr. Jeffress and executed by Dr. Simon-Owens, with members certifying that all relevant closed meeting requirements had been followed and satisfied.

	<b>SVHEC Board of Trustees Member Name</b>	<b>Closed Session Roll Call Certification (Yes or No)</b>
1	Mr. Stanley Jeffress - Chair	Yes
2	Mr. Jeff Davis – Vice Chair	Yes
3	Mr. Ryland Clark	Yes
4	Mr. Scott Fleming	Not present
	Dr. Angela Hairston	Not in attendance
5	Dr. Quentin Johnson	Yes
	Senator Louise Lucas	Not in attendance
	Delegate Danny Marshall	Not in attendance
6	Ms. Sheri McGuire	Yes
	Del Sam Rasoul	Not in attendance

	<b>SVHEC Board of Trustees Member Name</b>	<b>Closed Session Roll Call Certification (Yes or No)</b>
7	Mr. Tom Raab	Yes
8	Dr. Cornelius Johnson	Yes
	Mrs. Grey Watson	Not in attendance
9	Dr. Annie Wimbish	Yes
10	Mr. Dennis Witt	Yes

**Lunch was held from 11:30 a.m. – 12:08 p.m.**

The Board of Trustees meeting was reconvened at 12:08 p.m.

**AGENDA ITEM II.2.A: REQUEST TO ENTER CLOSED SESSION #2**

Motion was made by Mr. Jeffrey Davis, seconded by Dr. Quentin Johnson, and duly carried that the Board of Trustees move into closed session pursuant to

- Virginia Code Sections 2.2-3711 (A)(1) for the discussion, consideration, and interviews of prospective candidates for employment; and
- Pursuant to 2.2-3711 (A)(8) for consultation with legal counsel regarding the same.

Motion was approved unanimously (9-0). The Board of Trustees entered closed session at 12:08 p.m. The Chair requested legal counsel, Mr. Adam Kane, Ms. Sarah Gobble with Fahrenheit Advisors, LLC., and Dr. Nettie Simon-Owens, SVHEC Staff Liaison, to remain in the closed session. The committee convened into closed session. Mr. Scott Fleming joined the meeting at 12:20 p.m.

**AGENDA ITEM II.2.B: REQUEST TO RETURN TO OPEN SESSION #2**

Motion was made by Ms. Sheri McGuire, seconded by Mr. Jeffrey Davis, and duly carried that the Board of Trustees return to open session. Motion was approved unanimously (10-0). The Board of Trustees returned to open session at 4:15 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM II.2.C: CERTIFICATION OF CLOSED SESSION #2

Dr. Annie Wimbish read the following:

*Whereas, the Board of Trustees of the Southern Virginia Higher Education Center convened in closed session on January 16, 2025, pursuant to an affirmative recorded vote and in accordance with the provisions of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act; and;*

*Whereas, Virginia Code §2.2-3712 requires a certification by this Committee that such closed meeting was conducted in conformity with Virginia law;*

*NOW, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of the Southern Virginia Higher Education Center hereby certifies that, to the best of each member's knowledge:*

- (3) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements under Virginia law; and*
- (4) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion by which the closed meeting was convened were heard, discussed, or considered in the closed meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Southern Virginia Higher Education Center.*

AGENDA ITEM II.2.C.i: Roll Call Vote of All Members #2

A roll call vote was called by Mr. Jeffress and executed by Dr. Simon-Owens, with members certifying that all relevant closed meeting requirements had been followed and satisfied.

	<b>SVHEC Board of Trustees Member Name</b>	<b>Closed Session Roll Call Certification (Yes or No)</b>
1	Mr. Stanley Jeffress - Chair	Yes
2	Mr. Jeff Davis – Vice Chair	Yes
3	Mr. Ryland Clark	Yes
4	Mr. Scott Fleming	Yes
	Dr. Angela Hairston	Not in attendance
5	Dr. Quentin Johnson	Yes
	Senator Louise Lucas	Not in attendance
	Delegate Danny Marshall	Not in attendance
6	Ms. Sheri McGuire	Yes
	Del Sam Rasoul	Not in attendance

	<b>SVHEC Board of Trustees Member Name</b>	<b>Closed Session Roll Call Certification (Yes or No)</b>
7	Mr. Tom Raab	Yes
8	Dr. Cornelius Johnson	Yes
	Mrs. Grey Watson	Not in attendance
9	Dr. Annie Wimbish	Yes
10	Mr. Dennis Witt	Yes

The Board of Trustees returned to open session at 4:15 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM III: Action Taken on Items Discussed in Closed Session

Motion was made by Mr. Jeffrey Davis, seconded by Dr. Quentin Johnson, and duly carried to authorize the Chair, Mr. Jeffress, to execute and negotiate the contract with the new executive director in accordance with the Board discussion held in closed session. Motion was approved unanimously (10-0).

AGENDA ITEM IV: UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Motion was made by Mr. Jeffrey Davis, seconded by Mr. Tom Raab, and duly carried that for the Executive Director position, when a salary increase is approved by the General Assembly, the salary increase for the Executive Director position will apply to the base salary only for the position covered by General Fund appropriation and paid according to the amount stated in the budget bill. Motion was approved unanimously (10-0).

AGENDA ITEM V: COMMENTS

The Chair thanked all for attending and participating in the meeting.

AGENDA ITEM IV: ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Mr. Jeffrey Davis, seconded by Mr. Tom Raab, and duly carried to adjourn the meeting. Motion was approved unanimously (10-0). The meeting ended at 4:20 p.m.