



1200 Toolebeck Rd
Aiken SC 29840

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Handwritten signature and date: K/M 9/22/2020

HCA Board Meeting – 8.25.2020, HCA Commons

Kevin Murray, Present
Jenny French, Absent
Michelle Bulmer, Present

Rosalyn Bowman, Present
Jennifer Abraham, Present
Jennifer Heverly, Present

Robert Fazekas, Present
Yolanda Dortch, Called In
Brittney Jackson, Present

Meeting called to order - 6:00 PM (K. Murray)

- Dr. Ann Marie Taylor (Invocation)
- Mr. Murray (Mission Statement): "Our mission is to create a challenging learning environment with high academic and social expectations through developmentally appropriate, flexible, and innovative instruction that allows each student to realize and confidently possess their full potential."

Approve Minutes:

- July 29, 2020 Meeting Minutes- Bulmer Motioned, Fazekas 2nd, All Approved

Committee Reports:

- Growth Committee- Fazekas passed the floor to Dr. Taylor. We have received verbal affirmation to move into new high school building. Staff and volunteers helped Friday evening to move in immediately as to be ready for school Monday. This was an extremely costly project that ended up costing more than expected due to tech, etc. Committee, project manager, Tyler (attorney) and Russ (advisor), all agree it's best, moving forward to not do another modular and to start actual building. We are working on getting our bond to be able to move forward, which is expected to be available in December. Specifics will go to the growth committee sometime soon. Russ recommends we get an unsecured line of credit to get us through until the bond is approved. The board does not dispute this need to investigate the short term line of credit. Budget is tight at the moment but will normalize over the next few months. The lawsuit on the building repairs is still moving along nicely.
- Non-Profit Committee- An article was written in the Aiken Standard in regards to local private donor funding 50 new Chromebooks to the school and calling on the community to contribute as well. Mrs. Jackson also referred a young local artist who came by the school to meet with Mrs. Bulmer in regards to painting a donor wall mural in the entryway.

Chair's Report:

- Bond Counsel Retainer- Fazekas motions to approve the bond counsel retainer. 2nd Jackson. All approved.
- Mission Statement- Jackson motions to approve the new mission statement, "Our mission is to create an innovative and challenging learning environment that reaches the whole learner through the pillars of connection, flexibility, and service." Dortch 2nd. Dr. Taylor explained that 2 mission statements were created and voted on by the staff. This was the winner. All approved.

Secretary's Report:

- Title IX Policy Update- Heverly motioned. Fazekas 2nd. Mr. Murray explained that new federal mandates came out for changes to be made to school sexual harassment policies. Bulmer met with Mrs. Morris to discuss the changes that need to be made to the version that Erskine developed (which was posted as a pending document to our website on August 14th). Dr. Taylor discussed that this year has definitely been more difficult in regards to navigating the state/federal policies- Title 9 being just one of them. All approved the new policy.
- Policy Manual Creation/ Google Drive- Dr. Taylor spoke about need to have a central document for board policy so it's easier for her and future directors/board members to navigate. Bulmer spoke with Patti Rubenzer (our board advisor) who advised it is the norm for boards to have a separate board policy manual that is NOT the parent handbook. Mr. Murray brought it to our attention that a template for the manual was previously purchased but final product was not passed by the board. Bulmer will follow up on this project and present at a future board meeting.



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- Elections Prep- Dr. Taylor will be meeting with Bulmer in the week to go over procedures and update any application materials for distribution. It was asked that board members be willing to volunteer to oversee the elections for accuracy and to aid where needed in order to comply with Covid procedures.
- PADEPP Training/ Compliance- Mrs. Jackson is scheduled to attend training to be the board PADEPP lead in regards to evaluating the executive director appropriately.

Treasurer's Report:

- Fiscal Updates- All is a bit preliminary as we are only one month into the school year. Mr. Fazekas requested that the budget not be "trued up" so we have a better idea moving forward where changes need to be made. However, all is on track for now.
- RFQ Municipal Financial Advisory Services Doc- Dr. Taylor explained that this is a service that will be necessary to us during the expansion process in regards to the bond and building project.

Executive Director's Report:

- General Updates- School opening; kids have been happy- they are not unhappy about masks/schedules. Teachers are having a bit of a difficult time with adjusting to the changes. Hopefully the kinks are worked out over the next few weeks as the new norm sets in.
- Enrollment Updates- 793 students total (not including 4K)- 200 online. Virtual parents are wanting more in-person teaching so adjustments are trying to be discussed and navigated.
- Athletics & Athletics Booster Club- Fazekas motioned to approve the booster club bylaws. Bowman 2nd. All approved.
- Handbook Amendments- Fazekas motioned. Jackson 2nd. All approved.
- Blended HCA Stipends/ Leadership Stipends- Dr. Taylor requested consideration for the board to allow some additional stipends for some teachers who are currently taking on additional responsibilities. Fazekas requests that some solid stipend amounts be presented at the Sept board meeting after we have a better idea of funding in relation to our official enrollment numbers. Dr. Taylor offered for the stipends to come out of her salary as she feels very strongly these teachers deserve it. However, the board would like to table the discussion until next month when the new board is inducted and we have a better idea of funding. Jackson asked that we look into ways we can show our love and support of these individuals by way of recognition until we can compensate them monetarily.
- Covid Updates- It was announced today that we have one 8th grade student test positive for Covid19. The administration and staff acted promptly in accordance with protocol and the entire 8th grade (including teachers) have been placed on a 14 day quarantine at home order. They will continue learning virtually if able. There were a large number of phone calls/emails from concerned parents, but Dr. Taylor feels the situation was handled well.

Bulmer motioned to end the meeting. Heverly 2nd. Meeting adjourned 7:30pm.