

HCA Board Meeting – 08.18.2021 Horse Creek Academy Commons 12 noon

Kevin Murray, Chair- **Present**
Michele Bulmer, Vice Chair-**Present**
Ashley Pitts, Secretary-
Present

Jennifer Heverly, Treasure -
Call in
Susan Groseclose, Member-
Call in

Dustin Ennis, Member- **Present**
Julie Jordan- Member- **Present**
Pete Frommer, Member- **Absent**
Brittney Jackson, Member-**Absent**

Meeting called to order – 12:00 PM (K. Murray)- **Called to order at 1202 by Kevin Murray**

- Dr. Ann Marie Taylor (Invocation)
- Pledge of Allegiance (K. Murray)
- Ashley Pitts (Mission Statement): “Our mission is to create an innovative and challenging learning environment that teaches the whole learner through the pillars of connection, flexibility, and service”.

Chair’s Report:

- None

Vice Chair’s Report:

- None

Committee Reports:

- None

Secretary’s Report:

- None

Treasurer’s Report: none

Executive Director’s Report:

- **COVID Updates - VOTING ITEM-** Dr. Taylor presented the COVID plan- As of 8/18/21 HCA has 47 + cases, 587 students are quarantined and 31 staff members are quarantined. Dr. Taylor shared her personal feelings on wanting 5 day in person instruction. Due to staffing shortages, Dr. Taylor is asking the board to do 3 things: 1- Virtual Learning for 4K-6th grade starting 8/20/21-8/29/21 with a return date of 8/30/21. 2- Approve COVID guidance plan and 3- 7th-10th grade students to do virtual learning starting 8/20/21-9/7/21 with a return date of 9/8/21. Proviso provided by the State of SC stays that we have to always have a 5 day a week in person instruction option UNLESS 1- we are unable to staff and 2- SCDHEC decides it is best to shut the school down for a period of time. Dr. Taylor went on to express that this is not an ideal situation and there is no “win-win”. Kevin Murray made a motion to pass COVID guidance to include the one week quarantine and the virtual learning. Jennifer Heverly seconded. Motion opened for discussion.
 - Michelle questioned 10 day quarantine vs 14 day quarantine- Dr. Taylor explained that we are only allowed to quarantine for 5 days per school year at this time.
 - Julie mentioned how other schools were conducting contact tracing. She stated that due to CDC guidelines being updated for children to they have to be within 3 feet of each other for 15 minutes or longer, that other schools are contact tracing using assigned seating. For example- desks are in groups and only the students that are within 3 feet of infected child would be quarantined instead of the entire class. Dr. Taylor explained how it is not possible to really contact trace using that method due to recess and specials. Nurse Shealy reiterated and agreed with Dr. Taylor’s explanation.
 - Dennis expressed and agreed that this is not an ideal situation, however a drastic measure is needed. The only concern expressed was regarding the children at our Cedar Creek campus.
 - Dr. Taylor expressed that she is working on quarantines all day from sun up to sun down.
 - Kevin expressed how detrimental this is to our village. Expressed the need to take a pause.
 - Dr. Taylor expressed that we used some of our federal funding for COVID sanitation purposes and during the quarantine the school would be thoroughly cleaned using the proper measures.
 - Michelle expressed concern because as of right now we are only allowed 5 days per school year to use for a full school quarantine.
 - Jennifer Heverly agreed with plan.
 - Susan asked if there is any way we can know how many students tested positive from our Cedar Creek campus? Dr. Taylor said roughly 4-5 students from the Cedar Creek campus tested positive.



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Open discussion ended at 1229. Voting took place at 1229. Vote was unanimous. Kevin motioned to end meeting at 1231, Dennis seconded. Meeting adjourned at 1231.

Questions/Comments from Board Members:

Executive Session:

- None

Open Session: