



1200 Toole beck Road  
Aiken SC 29840  
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## **Board Meeting – 01.25.22- HCA Commons- 6pm**

Kevin Murray, Chair-**Present**  
Michele Bulmer, Vice Chair-**Present**  
Ashley Pitts, Secretary-**Present**  
Audrey Decker, Member - **Absent**  
Susan Groseclose, Member- **Present**  
Dustin Ennis, Member - **Present**  
Jared Chambliss, Member-**Present**  
Pete Frommer, Treasurer-**Present**  
Phyllis Smith, Member- **Present**

### **Meeting called to order- Called to order at 0602 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:**

### **Vice Chair’s Report:**

- COVID Discussion- voting item-**Michelle clarified that she never meant to change the guidelines completely. Michelle asked the nursing team to provide data, Dr. T presented statement. Nursing team feels that our current guidelines is containing the situation. Nursing and staff are trying to create extra learning environments that help with staffing issues. Michelle reiterated that we don't want to quarantine healthy children. Michelle presented data from SCDHEC website for the entire school year. Michelle stated that she is most concerned with getting children back in school and that they are missing out on education. HCA has the highest number of quarantines out of the entire state of SC as of 1/19/22. Out of HCA's numbers 2626 were quarantined and only 226 were actually positive cases. 2400 students have missed in person school due to quarantines. Majority of schools in our state aren't reporting at all. Dr. T spoke**



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on behalf of nursing team and leadership team that the team is doing exactly what we have said that we would do. Michelle agreed that we are doing ....Dr. T suggested that we give the families a choice, She spoke to the mental health issues that have arose. Dr. T wants to still contact trace and let them know. She agreed to discussion. Nonnegotiable is contact tracing. Dustin asked what proposal would be. Michelle proposed that we contact trace with the seating charts and notify parents of positive cases in classed. If you are positive or symptomatic they must quarantine, however if you are asymptomatic come to school. Get rid of the whole class quarantines. Phyllis asked that Michelle repeat the asymptomatic choice, Michelle repeated. Phyllis stated that if they are asymptomatic they can still expose people. Susan asked what the difference is. Phyllis expressed that the “new normal” needs to be now. Dr. T suggested do contact tracing with just the close contacts. Let parents know that there is someone positive in the class and give parents the option to quarantine if they aren’t positive. Michelle spoke to Horry County procedures in the 20% rule with mass quarantines. Dr. Taylor spoke to families being afraid of COVID and being virtual. Ashley, RN stated that they looked at the percentages of local schools. 2000 students being quarantined from the beginning of the school year when we were at Cedar Creek. Currently our numbers are close to the same as other schools in our area close to the same size. COVID cases are increasing in our school. Kevin thanked the nursing team for their diligent work. Sara spoke to that our school is not a typical school. Susan asked what the difference- the difference was Cedar Creek is. Dr. Taylor stated that our classes are a lot smaller and we follow the rules to a “T”. Susan spoke to “as a parent” she feels our numbers are worse than surrounding schools. Michelle agreed that public schools aren’t following the guidelines. Michelle agreed that the nursing team is doing a great job. Ashely reiterated the suggestion. Dustin disagreed with the seating chart idea and contact tracing. Michelle made a motion to modify the COVID school guidelines to reflect the following: Positive case- quarantine; Symptomatic- quarantine; showing no symptoms- allowed to remain in school up to the discretion of the parents. Dustin seconded. Open for discussion. Jared spoke to that it is very similar to what larger cooperation’s are doing. Only exception is if you are close contact they must mask. Michelle spoke that Kevin



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made a point to revisit the data at the next board meeting if motion passed. Dustin said that he sees all sides of everything. Dustin spoke to academics and how students are falling behind. Ashley spoke to mental health aspect. Michelle asked how involved SCDEHC is in quarantining classes, Dr. Taylor tried to get them involved and they are not wanting to get involved. Kevin stated that everyone has an opinion and COVID is here and it is not going away. Susan asked if we should include it in the motion that we will revisit it at the next board meeting. Ashley spoke to the viral shedding period, Nurse Shealy agreed. Kevin asked if she felt that it will increase cases, she said she does feel that quarantines has helped with exposure but she can project that. Jared asked if we open ourselves up to any legal action. CDC guidelines are guidelines and not law so there is no legal premise, Tyler's second concern was ESSR funds and after speaking with Dr. Taylor there is not promise or connection for losing ESSR funds. Third concern CIE having something to say about the change. Parents are okay with vaccination statuses to the nurses. Kevin called for the vote. Motion passed with a 7/1 vote. Phyllis did not vote. Motion becomes effective 1/26/22.

#### **Committee Reports:**

- Nonprofit Committee
- Growth Committee
- Charter Rewrite Committee- Susan Groseclose- First initial meeting with parents that responded to survey. Have split the group and the charter rewrite group into 3 groups. 3 groups are Business group/Educational group/Organization group- beginning next week we will begin having zoom meetings with parents that have responded. Goal is to have at least 4-5 meetings in the individual plans.

#### **Secretary's Report:**

- Approval of last meeting minutes (12.07.21) - Motion made to approve meeting minutes made by Ashley, Dustin seconded, and Motion passed.

#### **Treasurer's Report:**

#### **Executive Director's Report:**

- Monthly Fiscal Updates- Pete stated that budget is healthy and all percentages are where they should be. By the end of the school year we should have



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434,000 if we continue the way we are going now. Dr. Taylor would like to put some money towards the new gym if we have a healthy balance. Dustin asked if we are able to put 2M. Dr. Taylor said that we are allowed to have 2M put away for savings, anything above that is to go towards the new gym.

- MAP scores update and SC Ready Correlation- Dr. Taylor stated that our MAP scores are not good. Across the board half the students are “not meeting” and half are “exceeding”. We are seeing individual growth in students but not overall MAP scores. Working on interventions to help increase SC Ready scores, because right now they are projected to be about the same they were last year. Dr. Taylor said that right now she is slightly concerned but will be more concerned if we are there again next year. Dustin asked what we do as a board to help with increasing scores. Dr. Taylor said that we are doing all we can do to help, however with COVID and being in and out of quarantines has contributed, 25% of our MS and HS students have an IEP, which makes things a little challenging. Dustin agrees, we need to make sure we hire the best of the best which Dr. Taylor assured that we did hire the best of the best. Research suggest that once you hire a team you have a 3-5 year period until you start to see results, next year will be the 3<sup>rd</sup> year.
- Federal Money Update- reimbursements are coming slowly but they come in big chunks. ESSR 3 has been approved.
- Building Updates- March 14 move in date- awaiting the AC shipment to finish up the ceilings and the floors. If we get the green light on 3/14, furniture will be moved in on 3/15, 3/16, 3/17. Teachers will move in and set up 3/18 and 3/19. Security system wrapped in bond. Mobile transfer is being worked on. We are just waiting on contract for mobile transfer to move.
- Enrollment Updates- 98% retention rate, 0 spots from 1-6<sup>th</sup> grade open. Based on numbers once the lottery happens we are projected to have about 500-600 on the wait list.
- Local Board Courses to be approved-
  - Michelle made a motion to approve the K-5 SEL, Kevin seconded. Susan asked if SEL was a special. Dr. Taylor that SEL is a special but there are standards for the classroom. Motion passed.



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- Michelle made a motion to approve SEL for 6<sup>th</sup> grade, Pete seconded. Open for discussion. Motion passed.
- Michelle made a motion to approve the outdoor education course- 7<sup>th</sup> grade, Susan seconded. Motion passed.
- Michelle made a motion to approve the Service Learning- HS and students with disabilities, Pete seconded. Motion passed
- Michelle motion to approve the Introduction to Exceptionalities- HS, Kevin seconded. Motion passed.
- Michelle motion to approve the Psychology of Happiness- HS, Jared seconded. Motion passed.
- Michelle motion to approve the Criminology for HS, Pete seconded. Motion passed.
- Michelle motion to approve the Skin care and Make up- HS, Dustin asked to explain, Dr. Taylor said this is a course that anyone can take that isn't necessarily going that route, Kevin seconded. Motion passed.
- Miller Dodson Reserve Funds Update- Board voted to do the reserve study. Looked at everything from budget to inventory to buildings, etc. He gives us a report on how to save money and the longevity on the building and equipment that we have. Report should be done soon and can be updated soon.
- COVID Staff Days- Discussion- Voted from August to October 1 to forgive COVID days for staff. Since 10/1 staff have used a total of 92 COVID days and several teachers are out of sick days. Forgiving days to use subs we would be adding 30,000 to the sub budget. Jared asked if this was tilt the end of the school year. Kevin made a motion to pay back confirmed COVID sick leave from 10/2/21-3/1/22 and revisit the days then. Dustin seconded. Open for discussion. Kevin stated that he feels it is fair. Dr. Taylor said that some teachers are working from home to save days. Motion passed.

**Questions/Comments from Board Members:**

- Kevin talked to Tyler today and we will be sending CIE a letter that HCA would like to speak at their next meeting when they make the decision to approve our transfer request. Letter will be sent out via email to board and then 24 hours later it will be sent to CIE. 2/16 at 11, unsure if meeting will be via zoom or in person.



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\*Kevin requested that Ashley send email to nursing staff for data and all their hard work, invite to Feb board meeting with new data from 1/26-to date to revisit COVID guidelines.

**Executive Session:**

**Open Session:**

Michelle motioned to end meeting at 0713pm, Dustin seconded. Meeting adjourned at 0714pm.