



1200 Toolebeck Rd
Aiken SC 29840
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HCA Board Meeting – 5.24.22- HCA Middle School Building Commons @ 6pm

Kevin Murray, Chair- **Present**

Michele Bulmer, Vice Chair- **Present**

Ashley Pitts, Secretary-

Present

Audrey Decker, Member-

Present

Susan Groseclose, Member-

Present

Dustin Ennis, Member- **Present**

Jared Chambliss, Member- **Present**

Pete Frommer, Treasurer- **Present**

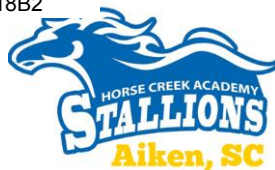
Phyllis Smith, Member- **Absent**

Meeting called to order - Called to order at 0600pm

- 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".
- **Ashley made a motion to amend the agenda- move open session to after the chair's report, Dustin seconded, motion passed. Ashley made a motion to remove budget approval for year 22-23, Audrey seconded, motion passed.**

Chair's Report:

- What it means to be a Charter School- Kevin discussed the rumors and social media issues. Kevin asked Dr. Taylor to explain and express exactly what it means to be a charter school. Dr. Taylor presented to the board and community present. Dr. Taylor expressed 5 points that have really stuck out to her- "1: I am hearing from parents that we need to get rid of our 'bad apples'- Lottery process is mandated by the public school act, we are only allowed to ask about name and age when they are placed in lottery process. Once they are accepted we can ask for records, they only reason we can not accept a student is if they are currently expelled from a school. 2: We like HCA the way it used to be before Dr. Taylor- Not sure if you have noticed buy our schools are a microversion of our society. 1 out of 6 adults and 1 out of 5 children have experienced a mental health crisis post pandemic. Daily we are cussed at and judged by parents for what we do. We are lucky to have filled our positions. Most of our parents are unbelievable but there isn't a day that goes by that someone doesn't say an ugly word to us in carline. Bottom line if you as a parent do not trust us, please choose somewhere else. When the board hired me one of the things that they said we wanted was to increase our school to Pre-K through 12th grade. More students will be more work, more students will call more discipline problems. We are in the process of changing our discipline policy to match our needs. As a school leader here I ask a lot from our employees, I will not put up with bullying from former employees or parents. We are not perfect by no means. We have accomplished a lot in the last 2 years. We have added grades, added partnership with ATC, we have grown from 500 students to 1150. We have implemented support teams to ensure teachers have what they need, we have hired the best people, we secured a wait list of almost 900 students, we have created an environment where students are provided with social emotional learning. You are welcome to judge me but I will not stand for it."
- Michelle went over for the open session rules- Michelle spoke in regards to the rules regarding how open session should be ran and what the expectations are.
- Parent Concern- Reagan Pender-Mrs. Pender introduced herself and addressed concerns about the restorative justice system- why do we choose this method? Is there a restorative justice team? What training have they gone through? What is the accountability? Spoke to her credentials about her experience in the justice system. Spoke regarding the definition of accountability. Concern about HCA placing a "band aid" on the problem. The board and lead learners need to go back to the drawing board in concerns about the discipline policy. Behavioral issues and safety concerns of the students and staff members. Her tenth grader comes home upset and frustrated daily, he has expressed that "nothing is going to happen except get talked to and sent back to class". In his words "One of teachers needs a bouncer". Children in his classes are not respectful, he is also afraid to go the bathroom at this school because he is scared, he is going to get jumped or have his picture will be taken and posted on social media. I have witnessed first hand the chaos as a parent volunteer. When there is



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no accountability you have the same result. I would like to address the board with board meeting minutes, meeting minutes should be posted on a monthly basis.

- Katie Massotti- I am here as a parent to no diminish anything that anyone has said here tonight. My son was diagnosed with Autism in Feb and has grown tremendously in the SPED system. There are good things happening in our school, everyone is present. I can't say that there aren't any discipline issues but we have made tremendous strides.
- Kristin Trowell- not present
- Wade Voigt- Thanked everyone for coming to the board meetings, I warned you something was going to go wrong. I was letting you know ahead that something was going to happen. Dr. Taylor called me out, I am okay with that. I have a problem with the teachers, I heard that SC has a shortage, that's wonderful but teachers that have been here for 13-15 years and they have left, where have they gone. Where have they gone, has anyone contacted any of them and asked what the reason was for them leaving. I looked at the board 21 of the original 121 teachers are left. Have you ever asked, I guarantee you that none of them have asked them. No one cares, this is not the HCA that it used to, we have 22 SPED teachers here, why? The board hires people, I know the teachers didn't leave because of money. Thank you very much.

Vice Chair's Report:

Committee Reports:

- Non-Profit Committee Report- Michelle- we have not met recently, Murder Mystery Dinner- if you can go, I highly recommend. Get some tickets while you can it is June 5th 630-9. Mrs. Morallis spoke to the prizes that will be present for murder mystery present.
- Growth Committee Report- Nothing to report
- Charter Rewrite Committee Susan- Dr. Greene met with Limestone and the charter is not due til 2024 and the goal is to really drill down on it this summer and work on the list of things that Limestone of gave them.

Secretary's Report:

- Approval of last meeting minutes- Ashley made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from last month meeting, Kevin seconded, Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report:

- Monthly Fiscal Report- Pete- Spoke with Prestige, accounting firm, all money accounted for and all line items are good.

Executive Director's Report:

- ~~2022-2023 Budget Approval Voting Item~~
- Handbooks (Employee/Parent/Student/Athletic)- First Reading- 3 handbooks in the One Drive for board to review. When you begin to look at the Parent/Student Handbook so please pay close attention. The biggest changes were made to disciplinary process and jot down notes for us for the handbook team. Kevin said to go over all three and if there is anything that you would like to change please copy and paste it out and email the president, vice president and secretary. Susan said that if there are any concerns or questions all go to secretary. Dustin asked about when the deadline is to get the handbook approved it, Ashley stated that the handbooks have to approved by July 2022. Michelle encouraged us to pay close attention to the Disciplinary policy and the athletic handbook. Dr. Taylor stated that the new Athletic Director helped with the new Athletic handbook.
- Local Board Approved Course- Voting Item- Dr. Taylor presented the LBA for Health and Fitness- Michelle asked about satisfying PE requirements. Susan asked if it would only be 6-8th for an elective for semester only. Michelle motioned to approve the personal health and fitness course for school grades 6-8th for next school year, Dustin seconded, opened for discussion- Audrey was wondering what the wellness aspect of it was- Dr. Taylor read exactly what it all entails straight from the LBA course form- Dr. Taylor pointed out the instructor's credentials, motion passed by majority vote- Audrey Decker did not vote.

Questions/Comments from Board Members:

- Audrey Decker- Discipline Procedures; Possibility of "vetting out" student histories? – Disciplinary policies are right in front of her, question move towards the "vetting out" student histories. Really think this is a Tyler question. Obviously we can not



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accept students if they are expelled. Is there anything that we can legally do in regards to coming into HCA in regards to discipline. Rumor is that if the child is having discipline problems at another school, they pull them out before they are expelled and then put them in HCA. Is there anything that we can legally do if a student has major discipline problems? Tyler explained that since we are free we are subject to accept students until space is limited. If you have student that is currently expelled or is up for expulsion hearing due to the student is not currently eligible for public school. If a student is not eligible for public school then they are not eligible for admission to HCA. Audrey asked if a student had issues at other schools, but before they are expelled, they pull them out and apply for HCA, can we look at their records? Tyler specify that as an admissions issue we have to know if they are eligible to attend public school? If their current school says that they are not eligible for public school, HCA would say that they need to go become eligible at their current school. If they are just suspended and are still eligible for public school, you could consider their punishments those could factor in. Audrey asked if they we consider old records in regards to the students past discipline history. Dr. Taylor stated that we currently do this process. We have had 2 students this year that we declined because they were up for expulsion and we declined. Susan asked if our lottery only in February, if we have an open spot in December and a student is up for expulsion the student can't accept a student. IF there is no wait list, again if a student is up for expulsion and not eligible for public school we can't accept them. For students with discipline problems, we can take that into account. Michelle stated that we are following state policy to the letter, why do we have 21 SPED teachers, because we have so many need at our school and we are federally required to serve them. Dustin clarified that if a student is expelled from a school they have they can return for next year. Susan asked about if a student is accepted at HCA- got expelled from (ex: SAHS), they can be eligible for public school. Tyler explained that under law he is eligible to attend public school then he is eligible for enrollment at HCA, subject to the barring standards. Audrey asked if the disciplinary record comes with them, we do put them on probationary status. Dr. Taylor expressed that based on the board recommendations there are significant differences and will be clarified.

- Kevin made a motion to go to executive session, Dustin seconded, motion passed- executive session began at 0650.

Executive Session:

- Disciplinary Hearings
- Kevin made a motion to go back into public session, Dustin seconded, motion passed.

Open Session:

Open session began at 0842pm.

Michelle made a motion to uphold the expulsion recommendation for student A, Susan seconded, motion passed.

Michelle made a motion to overturn the expulsion recommendation for student B, Kevin seconded, motion passed.

Michelle made a motion to uphold the expulsion recommendation for student C, Dustin seconded, motion passed.

Michelle made a motion to end public session, Dustin seconded, motion passed.

Public session ended at 0844pm.