



1200 Toolebeck Rd
Aiken SC 29840
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HCA Board Meeting – 09.26.22- HCA Commons-6pm

Kevin Murray, Chair-Present
Michele Bulmer, Vice Chair-Present
Ashley Pitts, Secretary-Present
Jared Chambliss, Member-Present

Audrey Decker, Member-Present
Susan Groseclose, Member-Present
Dustin Ennis, Member-Present

Pete Frommer, Treasurer-Absent
Phyllis Smith, Member-Present

Guests:

Tyler Turner
Chris Hagan
Dana Cook
Caryn Butler

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”.

Chair’s Report:

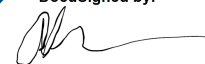
- Presentation for exiting board members- Pete Frommer, Dustin Ennis, Susan Groseclose-**Kevin presented the exiting board members their gifts and went over all the accomplishments that the current sitting board of directors has accomplished. Kevin spoke that it is not going to be the same without them present. Kevin thanked the members for their humble service to HCA. Photo taken of current board and exiting board members.**
- Swearing in of oncoming board members- Ashley Pitts, Caryn Butler, Chris Hagan, Dana Cook- **Kevin presented the newly elected board members and Tyler Turner swore new board members. Tyler congratulated the new board members on their election.**

Vice Chair’s Report:- Kevin made a motion to amend the agenda- motion to remove the uniform policy from agenda and move to next month’s meeting, Jared seconded, motion passed.

Michelle made a motion to move the Policy on board eligibility to next month’s board meeting, Kevin seconded, motion passed.

- Policy on board eligibility- terminated employees ineligible - Voting Item
- Land Acquisition- Voting Item - **Land has come available for our sports complex, 28 acres with initial asking price of \$200,000, however with the advice of a realtor he is now asking \$300,000. Michelle made a motion to have Brittney Jackson, previous board member and realtor to represent HCA, Dustin seconded, opened for discussion- Kevin suggested having a board member run with the realtor, to have a go between with the land acquisition and work with Brittney, Audrey asked how we would acquire the land, would it be via a loan or cash, Dr. Taylor confirmed it would be cash, Kevin discussed that there is only 200 feet of frontage and we need to meet all the checks and balances with DOT, Susans asked**

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about if there was a house in between, Dr. Taylor and Kevin clarified exactly where it is. Susan asked about previous land proposal and the person asked the one across the street and he doesn't want to sell, Ashley asked how does it make the school for finances, Dr. Taylor said using cash price would be better than getting a loan, we would want to build up our reserve as quickly back as we can, but she doesn't see any negatives, Michelle volunteered to be the board representative and go between the realtor and the board, Ashley seconded having Michelle represent the board. Motion passed.

Committee Reports:asked

- Non Profit Committee- Sarah Morris is not present- Michelle read what Sarah sent her. As of today we have raised approx- \$11,000 dollars through the calendar fundraiser, kona ice and US census participation. We have acquired a few grants, such as the Kiwani's Legacy of Play grant, Bridgestone Trust grant (\$50,000) and the WKate Kellog Foundation(amount TBD), We will be selling crafts at the craft show at Virginia Acres soon, We are also looking for volunteers to help with the horse show at Aiken Horse Park and in exchange we are listed as one of their charity partners. Athletic Banner sale has raised \$9,000 which all goes towards the athletic fields and equipment.
- Growth Committee- Susan said it is going in the right direction.
- Charter Rewrite Committee

Secretary's Report:

- **Approval of last month's meeting minutes**-Ashley made a motion to approve last month's meeting minutes, Michelle seconded, motion passed.

Treasurer's Report:**Executive Director's Report:**

- **New Digital Sign- Voting Item**- Dr. Taylor asked Kevin to present the digital sign. He spoke to the fact that we need to a digital sign to represent our school. 2 options- Option 1- higher resolution mm display-\$34,622. Option 2- standard 16mm resolution sign for \$31,224, Kevin made a motion to approve either option for us to acquire, Dustin asked if the electrical is included, Katie stated that yes it is, the only cost that is not included is the zoning which would cost approx \$300-500. Michelle asked where the money would come from? Dr. Taylor said it would come from communication under operation and maintenance, Phyllis asked if we needed to get 3 quotes and Dr. Taylor said that we would get an RFP. Michelle said that she would prefer that it would be better to have at our new sports complex- Kevin petitioned for the reason why we need a digital sign, Kevin made the motion to approve to get an RFP for the new digital sign, Jared seconded, discussion had- Ashley and Michelle voted no, Dustin, Phyllis, Audrey, Jared, Kevin and Susan voted yes, motion carried via majority vote.
- **Social Media Policy- Voting Item**- Phyllis made a motion to discuss the social media policy, Kevin seconded, opened for disclaimer- Dustin reiterated that it is about the disclaimer if being posted on social media. Tyler stated that the policy fits what we want to accomplish, motion passed.
- **Discipline Update and Tyler's Notes- Voting Item**- Dr. Taylor presented- Speaking to Tyler's Notes. Per Dr. Taylor there has been discussions with Limestone about coding things in Power School- Limestone had questions about why there is an increase in occurrences in power school of incidents- Per Dr. Taylor there has been some concerns that were expressed by Limestone on how strict the policy is. Dr. Taylor discussed with Kevin and Tyler Limestone's concerns. Dr. Taylor said while they have liked the new discipline policy- however we are sending students up for expulsion after few incidents. Per Limestone it is a state mandate that we provide substance abuse counseling for anyone caught with tobacco or alcohol. Biggest difference is that the admin team put some "wiggle room" in the phases. Also, changed some wording due to Title IX. Due to incident management wording such as "sexual harrasement and vandalism". Per Dr.



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Taylor Angel is planning to come to discuss things such as discipline. Michelle said that children need to see things very black and white and it needs to be clearer for them to know that if things happen they will be brought before the board. Phyllis asked Tyler about the legality of minors using vapes, alcohol and tobacco? Tyler clarified that if it is an illegal act then yes law expulsion- Phyllis asked if it should be an automatic expulsion- Tyler said conceptually there are so many different offenses and there are so many different levels. Per Tyler it is really hard to list out on paper what should and should not be an expulsion without know the student and their disciplinary history without gathering the evidence. It helps us on the back end because anytime we expel a student the state looks at it as a serious event- Tyler spoke to needing the recommendation of expulsion vs the write out on paper- Per Dr. Taylor they are mandated to document in power school. Dr. Taylor spoke to the admin team feeling more comfortable with the new discipline policy vs our current policy. Dustin spoke to the reputation out in the community. Dustin asked about the coding for sexual harassment and vandalism. Several teachers that have left mentioned in the exit interview that they left because of lack of discipline and lack of support of administration. Michelle stated that she loves that we have never seen a student come before the board twice. Kevin asked about the discipline for Elementary school students. Ashley spoke to that we need to have separate discipline policies for elementary, middle school and high school students, we need to have 3 separate policies. Ashley asked about the logistics of the expulsion hearing, Admin sends the recommendation letter, Board chair sends the meeting notification letter, must be an informed meeting where all parties are informed, parents have right to submit information as well prior to expulsion meeting. Susan asked that the original policy was pushed on the board to approve because we need to "trust the educators". Susan asked if there was a way to salvage what was given to us as the board originally and what they are presenting to us now? Can the admin make that determination? Susan asked if there was a place to add potential board hearing? Phyllis stated that what was brought to the board in July was changed from what we originally brought to the admin team. Michelle spoke to the fact that the board and the admin team going into the school year that it was going to ugly for a while until our children know we are not playing with them. Michelle stated that their document that was sent to us states in the bold print up front stated that "this document does not supercede any local board policies". Kevin spoke that Limestone and the superintendent is not happy with our discipline policy and has been invited to the next board meeting on 10/10 and then further discuss the discipline policy. Kevin made a motion to table the discussion, Michelle seconded, Dr. Taylor said that she gets many calls from Limestone and getting their "hand slapped"- Michelle asked if Limestone had not been calling had they brought it before the board? Dr. Taylor said probably not- the admin team is not liking the incident reporting portion of the discipline policy but overall they are "okay" with the policy. Motion passed to table discussion til next board meeting.

- 2022-2023 Calendar- Voting Item- Dr. Taylor present the new calendar for school year 2023-2024, with the board meeting dates. Kevin asked if there was any way that we could end school on a Friday? Dr. Taylor, Susan and Kevin discussed trying to figure out how we can end school on a Friday and not on a Tuesday. Michelle made a motion to approve the calendar for school year 2023-2024, Jared seconded, motion passed.
- Monthly Fiscal Update- Dr. Taylor presented in absence of treasurer. Expenditures and fiscal report in One Drive. Nothing really to report- just what was in the report. Michelle asked if Erskine owed us any money- Dr. Taylor said that no we have pretty much spent all of ESSR II and spending ESSR III now. Opened for new discussion. No questions asked.
- Uniform Policy Updates- Voting Item

Questions/Comments from Board Members:

- Audrey Decker- Trees- Audrey spoke to the trees at the entrance of the school. When you turn left out of the carline, the trees on the right hand side of the road it makes it hard to see when you are pulling out of the carline. She thinks they need to be trimmed back.
- Susan Groseclose- Carline- Susan presented the carline with visuals. Susan spoke to how vocal she was when they first came two years ago. Susan spoke highly to silent dismissal. Silent Dismissal should be used properly. There should be two people in carline stationed at the beginning and they should know what letter is zoned for it. Children should already be standing in the zone when the car pulls up. It prevents kids from running up and down the middle and the nonsense of "move on forward". Average wait time from the time she pulls



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in to the time she is leaving is about 18 minutes. From the time that she stops and kids get in and they leave is about 7 minutes. At the old school that uses Silent Dismissal properly average wait time is 3 minutes. There isn't any waiting, confusion and safety issues.

Executive Session: Kevin made a motion to end public session, Jared seconded, motion passed. Public session ended at 0715. Kevin made a motion to go into executive session, Michelle seconded, motion passed. Executive session started at 0715. Michelle made motion to end executive session, Audrey seconded, motion passed and executive session ended at 0729pm.

Kevin made a motion to start public sessions, Michelle seconded, motion passed and public session began at 0730.

- Contractual

Open Session:

- Scotty Voigt- Michelle read the rules of engagement for speaking in public session. Scotty started with that several years ago started class size with 16 students and currently we are at 24 students per class size. Spoke to the fact that we have high turnover rate with teachers. One of issues is to be truthful, our new administrator brought someone with her and that particularly person said she wasn't going to be doing this job for long. Per Scotty there is a conflict of interest with HR and admin. Literally Dr. Taylor's best friend works as HR and there should be a conflict of interest. Scotty said that he personally said he likes the new carline however we need to improve the carline to make it better. Where is the evaluation for the administration coming from, carline is still backed up to the road. Next year we are adding more children with 12th grade, and things are going to get worse. Not a fan of the idea of land acquisition. Scotty spoke to everything he said years ago. There needs to be common sense with the board and the drainage system with our fields. Nothing will change if we don't step up. Ball field and issues will be with the fields. Speaking ended at 0736.
- Kevin made a motion to end public session, Jared seconded, motion passed. Public session ended at 0737.