



1200 Toolebeck Rd
Aiken SC 29840

803.226.0160 | F: 803.226.0202

HCA Board Meeting – 12.03.2022- HCA Commons-6pm

Kevin Murray, Chair- Present	Audrey Decker, Member- Present	Caryn Butler, Member- Present
Michelle Bulmer, Vice Chair- Present	Chris Hagan, Member- Present	
Ashley Pitts, Secretary- Present	Phyllis Smith, Member- Present	
Jared Chambliss, Treasurer- Absent	Dana Cook, Member- Absent	

Meeting called to order-Called to order at 0613pm

- 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"

HCA Celebrations:

Chair's Report:

- Update on discipline policy and survey results- Dr. Taylor presented the survey results and the final discipline policy. Michelle presented the changes to the discipline policy regarding adding vape/tobacco possession and usage, added the additional consequences that administration can also use, also added ETOH/drug usage/possession. Kevin asked if everyone saw the survey results, all board members present answered yes. Audrey asked if any students had been expelled for vape usage or possession, Dr. Taylor stated that yes we have had 2 students expelled for vape possession/usage. Audrey asked if we are concerned about those students and changing the policy at this point? Michelle stated that per Tyler our attorney the current discipline policy at that time supercedes the one that may be voted in. Michelle made a motion to approve option 3 of the discipline quick reference, Audrey seconded, Kevin asked for Cassandra's and Emilee's opinion, Cassandra spoke to the the discipline team wanting date ranges for ISS/OSS, Spoke to separating out the vape possession and vape usage categories, Spoke to adding in the additional consequences that admin can choose from, Cassandra spoke for the elementary school level that she is happy with the date ranges and the choices that have been added, Mrs. Loiser add that same for the Middle/High school. Mrs. Loiser said that we need to make it clear that "if NOT expelled" but also add "If EXPELLED" include options. Michelle stated that to prevent from moving the voting item to the next board meeting lets not add anything in, discipline policy motion carried. New discipline policy to take effect immediately.

Committee Reports:

- Non Profit Committee- no report
- Charter Rewrite Committee- Caryn said they are working towards it. Dr. Greene has a meeting with Limestone on 1/5/22 to discuss moving forward
- Athletics Committee- Michelle stated that we are rolling out the bonfire chili cook off set for 2/4/22. Asking for volunteers, drumline possibly, smores stations, athletes to volunteer, announcement to go out soon about Christmas tree collection, fire department to be involved to ensure safety, we will also be dedicating our new fields. Survey land is supposed to get together soon with the preliminary drawing.

Secretary's Report:

- Approval of last month's meeting minutes- Ashley made a motion to approve last month's meeting minutes with the amendment that we add Andra Vance's name to remove from bank account, Michelle



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seconded, motion carried

- Parent concern regarding the honors curriculum- Per Dr. Taylor they had a meeting with this parent to discuss the curriculum and standards of honors courses. Dr. Greene did meet with the parent to help her understand the standards and curriculum. They are currently working on the master schedule now for MS/HS.

Treasurer's Report:

Executive Director's Report:

- Data Presentation- Dr. Greene and the academic team to present our data from MAP and SC READY testing. Dr. Greene spoke about our wins concerning the curriculum that spanned from 5K through HS, completed our writing initiative training with elementary students that those teachers are training other teachers. Parent concern regarding the intensive ELA program that we are currently building for HS. Monthly instructional mini-PD's with optional in person support for growth. Dr. Taylor spoke to how exciting this professional development and creating a website that is just for our staff that houses all of HCA's professional development resources and podcasts that Dr. Taylor has presented with the responses. Some of these materials that are presented are from our own HCA teachers to help professionally develop each other. Dr. Greene spoke to the fact that our rigor has been more intensive due to 3rd graders because parents don't understand the rigor of testing. Ashley spoke to the success story of her child with reading, switching from Montessorri to traditional classroom and how Dr. Green and Mrs. Birchmore has helped her tremendously. Dr. Greene spoke to MS/HS EOCs and will discuss the SC report card data. Academically we have had a lot of wins for our students. Overall both our Elementary and MS SC report grade is a 51. This is considered average for Elementary and considered good for MS. This is the highest that our grade has been. HCA outscored Erskine and the State. In comparison, our scores from 2021 to 2022. We improved in every grade except ELA/Math for 3rd grade. For 3rd and 4th grade we out scored Erskine in 3/6 categories. 6th-8th grade we held our own in each category, most improvement was in ELA for 8th grade. With local comparisons with East Aiken, Aiken Elem and Kelly Edwards. We held our own in each grade for elementary for each subject except 3rd grade. For 6th grade in local comparisons with Aiken Intermediate and Willsiton- which we are higher in both ELA and Math for 6th grade. Local comparison for 7th and 8th grade with Kennedy and Williston- We have held our own and for ELA we out score all schools. We have seen major student growth over the years. EOC courses. Currently our pass rates in Algebra is 56%; Biology is 52% and English 2 is 77%. Dr. Taylor spoke to the fact that we brought in students from other schools that we haven't had an impact on those students' education when they didn't start with HCA. Although these are discouraging scores across the state the scores are as follows: HCA 52%; State 57%; Erskine 62%; Aiken 52%. HCA is currently tied with Aiken. While our data for HS doesn't look great, we have to keep in mind that half of our student's year was at Cedar Creek and after COVID. While COVID isn't an excuse there has been stamina issues with testing. To help mitigate this we have implemented the benchmark testing to help them understand the weight of the EOC test. Students are not used to EOC exams because they are not used to the stamina of testing. With local comparison against SAHS and AHS we are consistently higher than AHS in the EOC's and very close with SAHS. Dr. Taylor spoke to the drop out rate. Our drop our rates for the first few years it will look like we are terrible. HCA has had several drop outs that have left other schools to come to us but yet because HCA is the last school they attended their number hits us. Cassandra talked to MAP scores and a correlation study to project/predict where our



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students will fall. Cassandra explained what academic intervention is- when the whole class is moving through a skill, the hope is that the majority of the students will master that skill and you move on. The students that don't master the skill they need an academic intervention. Elementary built in Stallion Time to help those students. Cassandra spoke to the "Does not Meets, Meets, Approaches and Exceeds" letters. Stallion time was for everyone helping from every department. Stallion Time is an "all hands on deck" approach. Each grade level got 2 additional staff members and was asked what do they want to use their 2 staff members for. Cassandra talked about how we really focused on the lowest 20% of students, which is great but we need to focus on the average students as well. So what Cassandra did was the lowest performing students go to the commons in the mornings to get their needs met, classroom teachers are focusing is on the approaches or meets students and are getting their needs met. Hope and what she is seeing is that the rigor is rising. During Stallion Time classroom students are focusing on the "bubble students". Nick Hutto asked about accepting HS students- how do we compare accepting an older HS students? Dr. Taylor said she would answer his question, Kevin stated we can have public comments at this time. Mrs. Loiser spoke to the interventions that Cassandra implemented and MS/HS has benefitted from her plan. MS they do Stallion time and they focus on ELA and Math. After 6 weeks they evaluate if the students need to switch to a different group or stay in the group they are in. During this time they identify the GT students and push them a little further. Teachers/Admin monitor progress every 6 weeks. HS Stallion Time is a little different. At this point they should have already had the ELA and Math skills that they needed. HS has different tactics for Stallion Time. For example for HS they do HS 101 which is tailored to each grade level. Tuesday-Thursday HS students focus on Academic Overtime, with an emphasis on EOC courses. On Fridays they do Advocacy Day, they have 1:1 grade book checks with their teachers. Advocacy has also been implemented in MS to speak about their grades and future plans.

- HS uniform survey information- Last time we talked about HS uniforms and we did surveys to see what students and staff think about the hats and uniforms. Per the survey results state that staff members do not want hats or uniforms for HS students. Dr. Taylor is worried that if we changed the uniform policy/hats policy it may send the wrong message to the staff members by allowing hats now because the students that are advocating for hats do not adhere to the hat policy. Kevin and Audrey discussed . Mrs. Loiser spoke to the new ticket process for uniforms due to hats and dress code policy. Mrs. Loiser spoke to the fact that dress code is something we can take off of the teachers very easily. Michelle spoke specifically to the hat issue. Kevin spoke to the passion of the students and that the students that came are the main culprits of wearing hats and being disrespectful. Michelle stated that her idea would be tabling the vote til the February meeting and let the kids know they need to adhere to the policy. The HS students collectively are wearing hats and get in trouble. Audrey spoke to the fact that there is a sense of comfort for children wearing hats. Audreys thoughts are if we were to allow hats that it still has to be an HCA hat or a uniform hat. Phyllis said the survey went out to the HS students and not the whole school. Audrey added that if we don't allow the boys wear hats but allow girls to wear headbands. Michelle asked about forseeing any problems about students wearing hats in Elementary. Chris asked what their votes would be, Mrs. Loiser said "no for this year, yes for next year". Cassandra stated as a classroom teacher it is a battle.
- Hat survey information – possible voting item- Kevin made a motion to allow students to wear hats at HCA, Audrey seconded, motion opened up for discussion- Michelle said the motion is too broad, there needs to more specifics, Chris spoke to the fact that since teachers are not for hats currently we should not allow them to wear hats this school year, Caryn spoke to the fact that in the workplace you have a



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- dress code and it is what it is. Motion did not pass, opened up for more concerns, no other concerns.
- Monthly Fiscal Update- Monthly fiscal update is in One Drive, update on the Audit and it was a Prestige mistake and the auditor found that overall the wrong calculations were used. This month all looks good.
- Proposal from Sweatman Strategies- Firm is offering to Lobby for charter schools because they want to help mitigate the new Superintendent that is coming into office that is Pro Private School and Pro For Profit Charters. Michelle asked if we are able to get more schools to go in then we will be able to have a better conversation.

Questions/Comments from Board Members:

- Dana Cook- Bus for field trips proposal- Board member not present for presentation.

Executive Session: No disciplinary hearing. Kevin made a motion to go into executive session at 0743pm, Michelle seconded. Motion carried. Executive session started at 0744pm. Kevin made a motion to end executive session, Michelle seconded, motion carried. Kevin made a motion to go back into public session, Michelle seconded, motion carried. Executive session ended at 0805pm, Public session began at 0806pm.

Kevin made a motion to approve the contract between HCA and Limestone, Chris seconded, motion carried.

Michelle made a motion to accept HBC’s settlement offer as given to us by HCA attorney Tyler Turner(civil action No. 2019-CP-02-01994), Audrey seconded, motion carried.

Michelle made a motion to change accounting firms from Prestige to Veris, Phyllis seconded, motion carried.

Audrey motioned to end meeting, Michelle seconded, motion carried.

Public session ended at 0809pm.

- Contractual
- Disciplinary