

Horse Creek Academy  
"The Heart of Education"

1200 Toolebeck Road  
Aiken, SC 29803



South Carolina Charter School  
Executive Board

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Open Session Board Meeting  
April 12, 2016  
Submitted by Alexis Black

*Approved*  
*Alexis G. Black*  
4/26/16

Members in attendance: Beth Bilson, Suzanne Rye, Kevin Murray, Joel Black, Jake Edwards, Jason Shealy and Charles Lowe

Members Not in Attendance: None

Place: Commons Area at Horse Creek Academy

Start Time: 6:05 p.m.

Parents: *<Please refer to sign in roster>*

The Open Session was called to order by Beth Bilson at 6:05 p.m.

Reading of Mission Statement

Beth states that if anyone has any suggestions or ideas in order to make the mission statement better, please make the board aware.

Beth's introduction of new administrators

Dr. Roberson takes floor and applaud students

Dr. Roberson begins his speech talking about living in education and believes in the power of education. He envisions the success of HCA students and wants them to succeed. He would like to brand the academy so others we will be replicated by other schools in South Carolina.

Statistic and research is available as the program provides a better body perception among students. 92% of students agree or strongly agree that they learned something helpful. 81% of students have more knowledge of facts. By a student reaches 9<sup>th</sup> grade, they will hear from their peers regarding this topic.

Dr. Roberson believes that charter gives parents the choice in education and would like to build a good quality program so we will be recognized. He envisions that we will be the choice that parents want to where we will have a longer wait list.

Dr. Roberson ends his speech by thanking the parents and their presence to rely behind the school.

Beth calls to make a motion to amend the agenda to vote on Mr. Brown's employment with HCA.

Kevin makes a motion

Joel Black seconds

All in favor

Beth calls for a motion to vote on Mr. Brown's acceptance of HCA's offer of employment.

Kevin Murray makes a motion

Jason Seconds

All in favor

Motion carries

Beth give introduction of Mr. Brown and gives him the floor to make a speech

Mr. Brown begins speech as it is an honor to serve at HCA and accept the job. He served 20 years as a pastor and concerned for tomorrow's youth. Mr. Brown has a dedication and desire for them and will not settle for second rate education. He and Dr. Roberson share the same vision and thanks the crowd for the opportunity to be a part of HCA.

Mr. Brown end his speech.

Floor is turned over to Beth calls for a motion to approve the prior board minutes before the Montessori introduction.

Jack Edwards makes a motion

Joel Black seconds

All in favor

Minutes are approved and will be posted no later than April 13, 2016.

Finance discussion will be postponed until next board meeting so the monthly report cannot be given at this time.

Beth hands the floor to Sarah Strom and Sharon Birchmore who speak on Montessori

Sarah Strom introduces herself as the 3K/4K Montessori classroom teacher Sharon Birchmore introduces herself as the 4/5 mixed Montessori classroom teacher meaning there are some Montessori instruction and some traditional instruction. Once the 3k-5k children reach her classroom, she will become completely Montessori.

Sarah instructs crowd to refer to Montessori handout (provided in attachment) and begins her presentation.

Sarah is certified Montessori, Sharon will complete Montessori certification in the fall of this year and Margaret Ann Williams is in need of her certification.

Presentation ends

Before Sarah and Sharon answer any parent questions, Sarah notes that due to CDEP funding, Williams and Strom's class was able to purchase supplies. The school is still in need for the lower elementary program, Sharon Birchmore will need supplies and a certified teacher will need to be hired.

Sarah calls for parent questions.

Parent Question:

Is homework needed for the child to progress?

Sarah: No homework is given and the lessons are in the work for the home meaning the child could do chores (trash pickup, sweep, cleaning, etc.). The academic realm comes naturally.

Parent Question:

How would upcoming 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade student enroll in the program?

Sarah: Not sure of the process defers question to Beth

Beth: We will have more information as soon as the school makes a decision in the direction it would like to take for the Montessori program.

Parent Question:

How would the child become academically ready for testing?

Sarah: There is required testing within the classroom, observations and one on one engagement.

Parent Question:

The selection of 3k/4K is the only option but how would it work from upcoming 4/5 grade classes.

Sarah: Last year letters were sent home asking the parent if they would like to enroll their child for the program or choose traditional program.

Parent Question:

You say that there needs to be community members advocate for this program, what do you mean?

Sarah: Not a lot of people know of the Montessori program being that we are the only school in Aiken County, so we need people to spread the work of this program so we can progression.

Follow up question: Do you need volunteers in the classroom?

Sarah: Not generally but people are welcome to observe. Upper elementary embrace volunteers.

Parent Question: Will there be a traditional classroom remain because I feel my child would not excel in a Montessori environment?

Suzanne states that she has a fourth grader originally in schedule to attend the traditional classroom but when she heard that a Montessori program will be available to her child, she had him changed over.

Parent follow up: But I prefer the traditional approach to best suit my child and hopes the board still considers traditional instruction.

Parent Question: My child is unable to sit still. Would he succeed in a Montessori setting?

Sarah: Absolutely. There is freedom of movement.

Parent Comment: Parent has child in the 3k/4k program and she watched the child blossom from a shy child into an outgoing, loving student who loves to learn. Will the program follow the child?

Sarah: The child will stay with the same teacher for 3 years (in this case of the 4 year old, only 2 years).

End of Montessori presentation.

Beth takes the floor and proceeds to the agenda.

Update on Gym: Kevin Murray

Gym is painted

Inside construction will start in 14 days

Board is working on Phase 3

Kevin to give tours

Beth thanks Kevin for stepping up to ensure gym completion is near to obtain CO.

Playground Update: Paula Scott – Murray

KaBoom intensity model has been chosen

Site visit was in November

Volunteers to move current playground and level off area

Students will enjoy new playground and is a start to something great.

Playground will be one that we can add on in time.

\$12,000 is required after grant money is exhausted.

Jason makes a motion to approve \$12,000 to be used to purchase playground

Joel Black seconds

All in favor

Motion passes

7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> grade Roundtable Discussion: Natonia Sullivan

Roundtable meeting Thursday April 21, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. in the commons area

Meeting for parents of students in middle school

Board representatives needed

Updates are finished

Beth informs parents that per the school's attorney, that parent Q&A is not a requirement of the board. There will be times that the board will not call for a Q&A session. If a parent would like to make a comment or have a question, they will need to submit that in writing in an email to the board. The procedure is in the handbook.

Parent Question:

The carline route is horrible and is there anything going to be done about it?

Beth: We cannot answer at this time. If you would like to send an email to Mr. Brown, he will get an answer.

Beth thanks the parents for their attendance and calls for a motion to go into executive session.

Kevin Murray makes a motion  
Jason Shealy seconds  
All in favor  
Open Session closes at 6:49 p.m.

Executive Session Begins

Motion to move out of Executive Session by Kevin Murray  
Seconds: Charles Lowe  
All in favor

Executive Session Closes at 8:47 pm

No votes  
Meeting is adjourned.