

Horse Creek Academy  
"The Heart of Education"

1200 Toolebeck Road  
Aiken, SC 29803



Approved  
H. B. Baker  
4/11/16  
South Carolina Charter School  
Executive Board

Phone: (803) 226-0160  
Fax: (803) 226-0202

---

Open Session Board Meeting  
March 29, 2016  
Submitted by Alexis Black

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

Members Not in Attendance: None

Place: Room C9 at Horse Creek Academy

Start Time: 6:00 p.m.

Staff Attendees: Natonia Sullivan, Lexi Black, Paula Scott-Murray, Sara Shealy, Brittany Busbee, Katherine Wren, Terry Green, Stacy Greene, Connie Kinney, Jennifer Lott, Attorney: Tyler Turner

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

The Open Session was called to order by Beth Bilson at 6:01 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.

6:03 p.m. Introduction of Board Members

Approval of March 8th Minutes:

Suzanne Rye made a motion to accept  
Kevin Murray 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion  
Motion passed, All in favor

6:05 p.m. Sara Shealy presented The Aiken Youth Empowerment Program

- Program in planning sex education
- Program will be instructed to 8<sup>th</sup> Graders by Sara and Science teacher. Sara has built a relationship with the students and students feel

comfortable speaking with her as she is always available to answer questions that students may have. Sara felt the new program is appropriate and she felt that we didn't need the same program.

- 6<sup>th</sup> grade will have a starter discussion and have no contraception instruction. The program will discuss topics such as what is risky behavior, a healthy relationship, body image, building relationships
- Ms. Sullivan is familiar with this program as it was in a program at a former school she attended.
- There will be a boy's counsel discussing self-respect, respect for girls, building allies and productive community.
- Statistics and research are 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.
- Real talk is a discussion topic that brings up questions that the students may have. This is a two-day program available to 7<sup>th</sup> graders but definitely 8<sup>th</sup> graders.
- Reproduction, Pregnancy, Diseases, abstinence, life cycles, healthy relationships and is more concentrated.
- Permission slips will go out to parents. If parents choose to opt out of this options, there is no pressure but please make sure you speak to your children regarding sex education.

Sara calls for any questions. No being, presentation ends and Beth thanks Sara for her time. Sara states that she will discuss information with Paula Scott – Murray but wanted to give the board and parents information in open forum.

Beth calls for parent questions:

Parent Question:

Middle school parent surveys were announced in last month's newsletter that encouraged parents to fill out. Since that time, parents have received no response on the outcome of that. There was also supposed to be a round table discussion as a save the date. It has been one month and parents don't have any other information regarding this. The parent would like to have some feedback. Also, there was a change in the cell phone policy. Policy went into effect one month ago but parents just received notification. Parent is not happy with the timeliness of information. Middle school seems to have been taking so long for positive changes to be in effect.

Charles questions parent to clarify what the roundtable discussion would be.

Parent reads the notification that was sent to parents. Parent repeats that nothing is being communicated in a timely manner and understands that students do forget to bring information to parent but feels it should be given in proper advance.

Beth refers this topic to Natonia Sullivan.

Natonia states that there is a middle school team dedicated to improving projects at hand. The team compiled the surveys in order to receive feedback. The team wants to take the feedback and make sure that they are well informed to get as much data as they can to the board. The team would like board support and input in their overview results. Once that is done, a date will be sent out and given to parents. School messenger and website is working well as communication among the parent and students.

Parent:

There needs to be a review of the website because there is information that is old and needs to be removed. One being in the parent section calling for parents to give Charles Lowe input for a PTO.

Suzanne tells the parent that due to the website going down a couple months ago, it is possible that there would be outdated information as our IT company changed domain companies and that meant the retrieval of old information. Someone will go through the website and update as needed.

Parent:

If something is delayed or doesn't happen, it needs to be posted on the newsletter. There needs to be more communication to let parents know what is going on.

Kevin Murray states that the discussion with that will be tabled as the 3 minute per public comment time had expired.

Parent:

Robo calls are not working effectively because one parent will receive the notice but not the other parent.

Paula Scott Murray states that the Robo calls are programmed to the information that is listed in PowerSchool and recommends each parent to update their information. The calling system is set up to make 3 attempts at reaching the family of the student. If there are multiple students, then the system will make multiple calls.

Suzanne makes the announcement that Chick Fil A Family Night raised 4,155 which doubled from last year. The traffic was wrapped around the building.

Parent:

Could we not get more cards to pass out to incoming customers?

Stacy: Chick Fil A would not give any more cards and it was strictly for parents of students of HCA.

Parent:

Is there any more information about getting a new principal and will the newspaper know before the parents?

Suzanne: This is one of the major discussion topics in Executive Session.

Beth Bilson calls for any questions, none being, she announces the next board meeting which will be April 12<sup>th</sup>

1<sup>st</sup> phase of getting financial and board meetings will be every two weeks until July 12. The board meeting dates will be posted on the website once official.

Stacy Greene announces that the next fundraiser will be World's Finest Chocolate bars

Beth calls to go into Executive Session

Kevin Murray makes a motion

Joel Black seconds

Motion passes, All in favor

Open Session closes at 6:35 p.m.

Board calls for Teacher Liaisons to stay.

Executive Session Begins

Motion to move out of Executive Session by Kevin Murray

Seconds: Joel Black

All in favor

Executive Session Closes at 10:14 pm By  
phone to make a vote is Charles Lowe.

Item #1: A motion to change the order to HBC to retain Davis Painting to paint the exterior and to proceed with Phase 2 of the gym construction with HBC pursuant to the estimate and to execute a change order

Kevin Murray makes a motion

Joel Black Seconds

Motion passes, All in favor

Item #2: A motion to proceed with Phase 2 of the gym construction with HBC pursuant to the estimate and to execute a change order.

Kevin Murray makes a motion

Joel Black Seconds

Motion passes, All in favor

Item #3: A motion to build the 2016 budget including increasing teacher salaries to move toward parity with the Aiken County Public School District.

Suzanne Rye makes a motion

Kevin Murray Seconds

Motion passes, All in favor

Item #4: A motion to authorize the Board Chairperson to enter into an employment contract with Dr. Frank Roberson as Executive Director of Horse Creek Academy said contract having been prepared by HCA's attorney and providing for a term of employment through June 30, 2019, at an annual salary of \$70,000 to be reviewed annually.

Jake Edwards makes a motion

Joel Black Seconds

Motion passes, All in favor

Joel makes a motion to close open session

Kevin Murray seconds

Motion passes, All in favor

Open Session Closes at 10:20 pm

Board President Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Approved Board Minutes Date: \_\_\_\_\_