



“A Pre - College Academy for Precocious School Children”

1200 Toolebeck Road | Aiken, SC 29803

O: 803.226.0160 | F: 803.226.0202

www.horsecreekacademy.org

Minutes

HCA Executive Open Session Board Meeting

4/26/2016

6:00 p.m.

HCA Commons Area

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

Members Not Attendance: Charles Lowe

Start of Meeting: 6:00 p.m.

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 introduces administrators to parents and gives floor to Mrs. Blystone for her parent presentation.

Mrs. Blystone takes the floor, hands a copy of presentation to the board and begins. Presentation consists of her concern as a parent regarding the letter that was sent home with students of the computer username breach and calls for members of the administration team to become more vigilant on matters of the security of the school and children.

Presentation ends

Mr. Brown takes the floor and assures parents and Mrs. Blystone that administration is concerned about the safety of the school, the local sheriff office was contacted upon notice and they are continuing to investigate. He reassures parents that administration is working for ways to streamline communication to parents in such incidents as this one.

Parent comment ensues

Beth Bilson, President
Joel Black, Board Member
Jason Shealy, Board Member

Suzanne Rye, Vice President
Jake Edwards, Board Member

Charles Lowe, Secretary
Kevin Murray, Board Member



“A Pre - College Academy for Precocious School Children”

1200 Toolebeck Road | Aiken, SC 29803

O: 803.226.0160 | F: 803.226.0202

www.horsecreekacademy.org

Parent: Heard from their student that there were two students responsible.

Mr. Brown: The IP Address came from another country and he cannot discipline a child(ren) unless he has evidence.

Parent: Was the website a hoax?

Mr. Brown: No. The usernames and passwords from www.typing.com were compromised.

Parent: Was it one grade or one class?

Mr. Brown: It was one class in one grade that was accessed

Parent: How can you determine what level of safety is considered important when it comes to our children?

Mr. Brown: The doors are locked as a first line of defense. The administration team is always open for suggestions that could be implemented to help with the safety of the school.

Parent: Are any staff members active duty trained?

Mr. Brown: No but that is something that is being looked into. Hopefully the school could have someone from SLED do a special training with staff members.

Parent: Are safety drills being done?

Mr. Brown: We do have a safety/lockdown procedure

Parent Follow Up Question: Were there drills prior to this?

Mr. Brown: HCA is required by state law to perform drills. He encourages parents to talk with the teachers to inquire as to the procedure of the drills.

Parent: There are inconsistencies in what is in the policies and procedure manual versus what the teachers are telling us. Why?

Mr. Brown: The administration staff is working on making sure everyone is on the same page when it comes to drills and procedures. Proper training will help with this and communication devices were purchased to further locate each student and staff member during a lockdown.



“A Pre - College Academy for Precocious School Children”

1200 Toolebeck Road | Aiken, SC 29803

O: 803.226.0160 | F: 803.226.0202

www.horsecreekacademy.org

Parent: Why wasn't the administration staff in constant daily contact with Aiken County Sheriff's Department?

Mr. Brown: We have been in total cooperation with them to give them details as they arrive and we are still in a learning system but have the overall security of HCA in mind. We are trained to not overreact and continue to function but in the same sense access the situation to make sure kids are safe.

Beth takes the floor to follow the agenda with timeliness.

Dr. Roberson takes floor to speak on “Pitching the Vision.”

Dr. Roberson thanks the parents for their attendance and the concern of the most valuable thing they hold dear. He assures the crowd that discussions are taking place so in the future, the parents will know what is taking place before the children.

The administration team is working together to communicate efficiently and effectively to have a system in place to advise parents on what is of concern and what is not. Any issue will not be taken lightly and if there is something that needs to be worked out, it will be worked out.

Dr. Roberson speaks on his vision, school growth, families with students who are helped where they are to continue to excel further in order to form talented, gifted, and bright students. He ends his speech with speaking about the vision of a high school, curriculum, homework, and parent interaction.

Dr. Roberson ends speech and tanks the parents for their attendance.

Beth continues on the agenda items and gives floor to Natonia Sullivan to speak on the school improvement plan.

Natonia speaks on school achievement for the 2016-2017 school year, SC Ready testing, baseline data goals.

Beth calls for a motion to vote on the 2016-2017 HCA School Improvement Plan

Kevin Murray makes motion

Jake Edwards seconds motion

Beth Bilson, President
Joel Black, Board Member
Jason Shealy, Board Member

Suzanne Rye, Vice President
Jake Edwards, Board Member

Charles Lowe, Secretary
Kevin Murray, Board Member



“A Pre - College Academy for Precocious School Children”

1200 Toolebeck Road | Aiken, SC 29803

O: 803.226.0160 | F: 803.226.0202

www.horsecreekacademy.org

All in favor – Passed and approved

Beth notates to parents that the board would like to revise the number of board meeting to once per month. The board no longer needs two meetings per month to be advised on financials and such.

Carol Grealish takes the floor to present the 2016-2017 school calendar for board approval. The school calendar, once approved, will be available for print and online. Carol discusses the holidays, break weeks and beginning and end of the school year.

Beth calls for a motion to approve the 2016-2017 school calendar.

Jason Shealy makes a motion

Kevin Murray seconds motion

All in favor- Passed and Approved.

Dr. Roberson takes the floor and a notification piece was handed out to parents to update on the future of Montessori. Dr. Roberson would like to have further research performed and have hard data available to make a fair and accurate determination of how the Montessori program would continue. Snapshot observations cannot determine this at the present time. Parent ask to speak, Dr. Roberson allows.

Parent: Parent has child in the Montessori program and chose this program over St. John's who is considered the upmost and respected pre-K program in Aiken. She is well pleased with the outcome of her child and wishes to see that it is continued.

Dr. Roberson: The aim is not to discontinue the program at this time but to collect hard data in determining if it is feasible to continue.

Parent: When will hard data be finalized in making that determination?

Fall of 2016 is when there will be data collected and determined.

Beth calls for a motion to continue Montessori as a conditional program until funding information is gathered.

Jason Shealy makes a motion

Jake Edwards seconds motion



“A Pre - College Academy for Precocious School Children”

1200 Toolebeck Road | Aiken, SC 29803

O: 803.226.0160 | F: 803.226.0202

www.horsecreekacademy.org

All in favor

Parent needed clarification on why funding would be an issue.

Suzanne calls to amend the motion for administration to conduct their studies.

Suzanne Rye makes a motion

Kevin Murray seconds motion

All in favor

Beth calls for a motion to approve the prior board meeting minutes

Jake Edwards makes a motion

Joel Black seconds motion

All in favor

Beth calls for a motion to move into Executive Session

Suzanne Rye makes a motion

Jake Edwards seconds motion

All in favor

Open Session closes at 7:24 p.m.

Executive Session begins at 7:30 p.m.

Kevin calls for a motion to move to Open Session

Jake makes a motion

Joel seconds motion

Open Session opens at 8:25 p.m.

No items voted on

Meeting Adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Beth Bilson, President
Joel Black, Board Member
Jason Shealy, Board Member

Suzanne Rye, Vice President
Jake Edwards, Board Member

Charles Lowe, Secretary
Kevin Murray, Board Member