



BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

A meeting of the Board of Directors on May 5th at 6:00 pm via webex

I. Administrative

a. Meeting call to order at

b. Board Members Roll Call

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| i. Mark Bowden | X |
| ii. John Mulvey | |
| iii. Melissa Knight | X |
| iv. Kim Shultz | X |
| v. Bryan Copping | X |
| vi. Faith Bongiorno | X |
| vii. Cynthia Hall | X |
| viii. Patrick O'Neill | X |
| ix. Jason Colonna | X |
| x. Corrigan Rutherford [Ex-Officio] | X |
| xi. Joel Baughman [Ex-Officio] | X |
| xii. Destiny Grant [Ex-Officio] | |
| xiii. Amber Speights [Ex-Officio] | X |

c. Non-Board Members Roll Call

- i. Additional: Margaret Dullanty, Tyler Turner

d. Mission Statement: Palmetto Scholars Academy (PSA) exists to meet the distinctive academic, social, and emotional needs of students by utilizing best practices of gifted education.

e. Acceptance of Minutes from last meeting

f. Public Comment

- i. None

II. New Business

- Review Job Description of proposed new position of High School Coordinator and hiring process
- Review Job Description of proposed new position of Part Time PE/Health Teacher and hiring process, if such a position is needed to deliver Health Education
- Increase current Business Teacher from 0.25/0.50 FTE to 1.00 FTE
- Modify Middle School Counselor position to Director of Counseling with commensurate increase in responsibilities
- Review Budget Request for High School Coordinator and Conditional Budget Request for Part Time PE/Health Teacher

III. Old Business

- a. Regular meeting agenda item

IV. Principals Report – Corrigan Rutherford

- a. Regular meeting agenda item

V. Report from Foundation

- a. Regular meeting agenda item

VI. Committee Reports

- a. Regular meeting agenda items



VII. Executive Session

- a. Legal Matter: SC Charter Schools Lawsuit against SC High School Athletic League rule changes

VIII. Action Items

- a. Approved creation of High School Coordinator position and associated budget via unanimous voice vote
- b. Approved conditional creation of PE/Health Teacher position and associated budget via unanimous voice vote
- c. Approved Business Teacher increase to 1.00 FTE from 0.25/0.50 FTE via unanimous voice vote
- d. Approved Middle School Counselor position change to Director of Counseling via unanimous voice vote
- e. Approved PSA to join Public Charter School Alliance and other South Carolina Charter Schools in lawsuit against SC High School Athletic League regarding rule changes, contingent upon verification that the three athletics focused charter schools in the state are also involved, with up to \$5,000 in budget allocated for the purpose via unanimous voice vote

IX. Adjournment at 7:15pm

Your Governing Board



Dear Current and Prospective Palmetto Scholars Academy Families,

We hope you are all well and safe during these difficult times. Let us begin by saying how much we appreciate your interest in and support of our school and how privileged we feel that you have entrusted your student to our care. Palmetto Scholars Academy (PSA) exists to meet the distinctive academic, social, and emotional needs of students by utilizing best practices of gifted education, and in furtherance of that mission we have worked over the years to offer more choices and educational variety to our students. One of those areas of increased growth is athletics. We joined the South Carolina High School Athletic League several years ago as they provided the best opportunity for our students to participate in a competitive league with a minimum of travel.

However, as saddened as the Board is to add any additional possible distress to our community, we believe it is our responsibility to inform any potential student athlete of the South Carolina High School League's troubling actions that may affect them.

On March 11, 2020, the South Carolina High School League (SCHSL) passed amendments to its by-laws which dramatically and, we believe, illegally restrict the rights of public charter school students to participate in interscholastic athletics. The net effect of these amendments is that most students entering a new charter or private school after the seventh grade will be ineligible to participate in athletics – including junior varsity athletics – for an entire academic year. These amendments take effect on July 1, 2020.

What does this mean for your student athlete? If these amendments are allowed to stand, for new incoming students after the first day of 7th grade or above (except those qualifying under an eligibility exception such as a qualifying change of residence or, for 9th graders specifically, those residing within the league assigned attendance zone of the charter school which is the attendance zone of the student's home high school NOT the allowable attendance area for the charter school itself), your student will be required to sit out of athletics for one year (both varsity and junior varsity). For outgoing students, rising 8th graders and above that will be attending a new school in the Fall 2020, your student may likely be required to sit out of athletics for one year. If your student falls into any of the foregoing categories, please contact the athletic director of the school as well as the South Carolina High School League – **Jerome Singleton 803-798-0120** for questions about individual eligibility.

Please know the charter school community is taking legal steps to redress these amendments prior to any harm they can cause to our charter school families. However, it is also imperative to have your voice heard by the South Carolina elected state officials and the SCHSL. Please call the home office (the Senate and House are currently on furlough) of your local state legislators, the house and senate members of each chamber's Education Committee as well as SCHSL Commissioner Jerome Singleton.

Governor – <https://governor.sc.gov/contact-governors-office>
State Legislators – <https://www.scstatehouse.gov/legislatorssearch.php>
Jerome Singleton (SCHSL Commissioner) -803-798-0120

In your communications with the elected officials as well as the SCHSL, please be specific regarding:

- the school your child either attends or wishes to attend in the fall;
- why this is a meaningful choice for your student and family;



-the importance of school choice;

-the harm to your student and family for having such school choice restricted by the SCHSL.

Concerns regarding harms we are hearing voiced include:

- The importance of athletics to transitioning to a new school;
- The importance of athletics on self-esteem and physical and mental health;
- The effect of such an unforeseen ban on student mental health given the already uncertain and traumatic effects of the Covid 19 pandemic;
- The detrimental effect of athletic eligibility restricting school choice and academic opportunities;
- The delay in development in missing a year of high school athletics (and future opportunities tied to that)- possibly two years of athletics given the current cancellation of Spring sports;
- The burden, sometimes insurmountable, on families to divide children among schools (emotional as well as physical such as time and transportation issues);
- The fundamental unfairness of implementing these changes without notice to student athletes and families who were unaware of the impact of lawful and encouraged school choice would have on athletic eligibility;
- Any impacts unique to your student and family.

Together we can protect our children and our schools. Please contact me with any questions.

Palmetto Scholars Academy Board of Directors

- Kim Shultz (Chair)
- Mark Bowden (Vice Chair)
- John Mulvey (Secretary)
- Patrick O'Neil (Treasurer)
- Bryan Coppage
- Melissa Knight
- Cynthia Hall
- Faith Bongiorno
- Jason Colonna