

PSA BOARD OF DIRECTORS
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
July 27, 2021
6:00pm

I. Administrative

- a. Meeting commencement and call to order at 6:01pm. This meeting is being recorded.
- b. Board/Member Roll Call

Board Members	Bryan Coppage	X	Cynthia Hall	A	Mary Brown	X
	Joel Baughman	X	Susan Durand	X	Liliana Hudescu	X
	Faith Bongiorno	A	Jason Colonna	A		
Ex-Officio Members	Corrigan Rutherford	A	Destiny Grant	X	Amber Speights	X
	JBC Representative					
Non-Board	Faculty Liaison: Terra Poetzscher	X	PCA: Christine LaRue	A		

X = Present A = Absent

- c. Mission statement: Palmetto Scholars Academy (PSA) will provide a differentiated program designed to meet the educational needs of intellectually gifted learners, address their distinctive social and emotional needs, promote individual character development and instill a life-long love of learning. Our students will engage with leading innovative organizations in higher education, business and science, to empower them to make original and impactful contributions toward the elevation of South Carolina in the areas of education, commerce, arts, and science.
- d. Public Comment
- e. Motion to accept the agenda:

(Amended) Motion to: Accept the Agenda, for this meeting

Made by: Joel

Second by: Mary

Vote: unanimous of those present

Board Members	Bryan Coppage	X	Cynthia Hall	A	Mary Brown	X
	Joel Baughman	X	Susan Durand	X	Liliana Hudescu	X
	Faith Bongiorno	A	Jason Colonna	A		

II. New Business

- a. Discussion/Decision: Administration request for Board approval of Student/Parent handbook with Organizational Chart
- b. Discussion/Decision: Administration request for Board approval of Employee handbook -tabled

Principal Rutherford discussed the request for the Board to approve the handbooks

Motion to: approve the parent and student and employee handbooks as presented by the Administration

Made by: Joel

Second by: Liliana

Discussion:

-Most Board members discussed their limited ability to participate in any discussion or approval process of the handbooks due to an inability to review the lengthy materials.

-Some limited suggestions were made regarding the parent/student handbook.

-Liliana asked about the ease of finding contacts and information for parents/students and employees (how easy it is for them to navigate the handbook to find meaningful information); the Deans and whether they were in the organizational chart; and the nexus/alignment between Board policies and the handbooks. Principal Rutherford stated that the Dean positions were not in the organizational chart. She indicated that in May/June after looking at the roles and responsibilities, (although the Board had approved the positions), that with the clear lines with grade level chairs and the support of the TAs and the academic enrichment, that they were able to build in time with the current staff to really focus on some of the outstanding tasks. She stated this was in a Principal's report in May or June.

-Principal Rutherford also stated that AP Grant and AP Speights are working on a Back to School Guide that includes links, Questions & Answers, forms, and other helpful information for families. She stated the questions and answers were developed from communications including repeated questions on social media, email traffic, gaps in prior communication the Administration answered repeatedly, as well as information from withdrawal surveys (areas needing additional explanation). She indicated she would share this Guide with the Board as a supplemental material to the Student/Parent handbook.

Vote:

Board Members	Bryan Coppage	no	Cynthia Hall	A	Mary Brown	yes
	Joel Baughman	no	Susan Durand	*	Liliana Hudescu	no
	Faith Bongiorno	A	Jason Colonna	A		

*absent from vote Motion did not pass

- Principal Rutherford asked for an additional meeting to approve the handbooks once the Board has had enough time to review.
- The Board discussed an additional Special Board meeting to be held on Monday, August 2 to discuss these items.
- Joel clarified his objection was that while he did not have any strong objections, that his objection to approving the motion was that he could not put a rubber stamp to something he did not understand very well as he did not have a chance to read through the handbooks.
- Principal Rutherford discussed how the handbooks were more robust than in the past.
- Liliana asked about the differences between the old handbook and the new and Principal Rutherford stated she would create a very brief comparison.

c. Discussion/Decision: Administration request for vendor engagement for the 2021-2022 school year

Principal Rutherford discussed the Administration’s request to engage with a technology vendor to ensure compliance with best practices for the State DOE as well as comparable small entities. She noted this was not a budget request as it was within the budget using some of the ESSR funds and other budgeted items. She asked whether this needed to come to the Board as information or for approval.

- the Board discussed the need for approval as it was a contract and Principal Rutherford would require authorization to sign the contract.
- the Board discussed the need for this discussion to be an Executive Session item at the next Special meeting in order to discuss the specific vendor and contract terms.
- Liliana asked for a one page document on the new vendor situation with additional information that the Board could read ahead of time.

IV. Adjournment at 6:37 pm

Motion to: Adjourn tonight’s meeting

Made by: Joel

Second by: Mary

Vote: unanimous of those present

Board Members	Bryan Coppage	X	Cynthia Hall	A	Mary Brown	X
	Joel Baughman	X	Susan Durand	X	Liliana Hudescu	X
	Faith Bongiorno	A	Jason Colonna	A		

***This public meeting was recorded.