

**PSA BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
**SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES**  
**August 31, 2021**  
**6:00pm**

I. Administrative

- a. Meeting commencement and call to order at 6:01pm.
- 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                      | X | Jason Colonna           | X |                 |   |
| Ex-Officio Members | Corrigan Rutherford                  | X | Destiny Grant           | X | Amber Speights  | A |
|                    | JBC Representative:                  |   |                         |   |                 |   |
| Non-Board          | Faculty Liaison:<br>Terra Poetzscher | X | PCA:<br>Christine LaRue | X |                 |   |

X = Present/yes

A = Absent

Also present: Rachel Crafton, nurse; Oriana Roumillat; Cameron Whitworth

- 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: Brian Hamilton
- e. Decision: Acceptance of the Agenda  
 Motion to: Accept the Agenda  
 Made by: Mary  
 Second by: Joel  
 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 | X | Jason Colonna | X |                 |   |

II. Executive Session

Motion to: Enter Executive Session at 6:04pm

Made by: Mary

Second by: Faith

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 | X | Jason Colonna | X |                 |   |

Those present: Bryan, Joel, Faith, Susan, Jason, Mary, Liliana, Principal Rutherford, AP Grant

- a. Student matter update
- b. Personnel matter update
- c. Legal advice regarding Covid

Motion to: Exit Executive Session at 6:57pm

Made by: Mary

Second by: Faith

Vote:

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

III. New Business

- a. Discussion/Decision: Covid update
  - i. To include current status at PSA with current legislative framework/boundaries, mitigation updates, school Covid teaching/academic updates; quarantine discussion.

-Principal Rutherford discussed the school’s [Covid dashboard](#) and numbers. She noted that the Administration discussed the 3 options given to teachers regarding instruction for those students in quarantine and isolation, as also reported in a community message (attached). Principal Rutherford noted that nurse Rachel Crafton is contact tracing as needed. The school has scheduled a virtual practice day and is working on preparing students and staff.

-Bryan asked about contact tracing, whether it is overwhelming and if anything is needed from the Board. He also asked if contract tracing services are available. Principal Rutherford noted the Administration is having an open discussion regarding whether an additional support person is needed, to be used in a variety of ways, including contact tracing. She noted that while nurse Rachel is doing a great job, we do not want contract tracing to become overwhelming. Principal Rutherford reported we have the ability to amend our ESSR budget to help in this way.

-Bryan asked about what would send the school into a virtual format. Principal Rutherford and nurse Crafton discussed how this is determined by the establishment of spread in the school community and that 3 or more positive cases together will require a DHEC notification. They reported that triggers include if the school's operations become significantly hindered due to staff absences, student absences, and school spread. They explained that when there are 3 positive cases that can be linked together in a "cluster," PSA has to notify DHEC, as it shows school spread. After such a notification, the Administration and DHEC will look at the entire situation but there is no specific formula for "going virtual."

-Joel asked about the current thoughts on how to address the 70 quarantined students, which is a pretty substantial portion of the population. He wanted to know the current thought on the way to serve them as effectively as possible while they are learning from home. Principal Rutherford discussed the 3 options given to teachers, which take into account the different content areas. She did not have the numbers on how many students were learning each particular way: live stream, screencastify, schoology and also noted some teachers offered office hours. She stated that currently the middle school was impacted more than high school. Principal Rutherford and nurse Carfton did not have the numbers breakdown for each population on hand. Joel noted that he had been told by his child that in one class they were just doing a review as the teacher did not want to leave kids in quarantine behind, which he felt was not a sustainable strategy for how to deal with having significant numbers of students out of class. Joel recognized that different solutions were likely necessary for different subjects but he was hopeful we could come up with strategies to help students at home and out of in person instruction for a couple of weeks. He noted this was a step back from the situation they were in last year virtually. He felt this is something that should be in order. Principal Rutherford encouraged parents with such concerns to reach out directly with such information to AP Speights with specifics regarding particular concerns.

-Mary noted the thought that the Delta wave would crest toward the end of September and asked if the Administration has been given any guidance from the DOE as to when this wave of Delta may lessen. Principal Rutherford stated that to the best of her knowledge, the Administration has not been given any guidance regarding this but noted they do access MUSC, which is also predicting the same - that this is temporary with lessening towards mid to late September.

-Mary offered appreciation for our teachers, staff, and Administration and asked about whether teachers would receive additional compensation for engaging in the 3 options. Principal Rutherford noted that they have encouraged as well as offered compensation for hosting office hours as a virtual alternative. She noted they have not discussed additional compensation for live streaming or streamcastify as this would not be an increased modability but noted they can absolutely come back to the table regarding that.

b. Discussion/Decision: Appointment of Joel Baughman as Board member

Mary discussed that it was understood that Joel had agreed to remain on the Board until 02/28/2022 as an appointed board member. Mary noted Joel's history of commitment to

the PSA Board and the PSA community and his special skills, including performance of the role of Treasurer.

Motion to: Appoint Joel Baughman as a PSA Board member until the close of February 28, 2022.

Made by: Mary

Second by: Faith

Joel remarked that this was intended to help the Board bridge to our next treasurer, whoever that might be, but he was happy to help until that time.

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 | X | Jason Colonna | X |                 |   |

- c. Discussion/Decision: Authorization of PSA Principal to implement a mask requirement for students, staff, and visitors inside school facilities and on school grounds until at least October 15, 2021.

No motion made/no subsequent discussion.

#### IV. Adjournment

Motion to: Adjourn at 7:15pm

Made by: Faith

Second by: Joel

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 | X | Jason Colonna | X |                 |   |

\*\*\*This public meeting was recorded.

Hello PSA Families,

After much deliberation regarding the current need to provide additional support for Covid related absences, teachers will implement one or more of the following options within their classrooms. Teachers will make available one of the following options. Please be advised that differentiation WILL take place. Please be patient and understanding as our phenomenal PSA teachers are working to devise the best solution to provide instruction to ALL students.

1 - **Livestream.** Teachers will livestream their direct classroom instruction. Please note during live streaming, teachers will not be able to directly interact with the students at home. This is not the same as a zoom or google meet. Teachers will conduct class in person as usual. This option allows the students at home to see and hear the instruction they are missing in person.

2- **Screencastify.** Screencastify allows teachers to record their computer screen (powerpoint presentations etc.) as they provide instruction. Teachers may or may not choose to be on camera as well. The screencastify recordings will be posted on the class Schoology page.

3 - **Schoology** only. Teachers may choose not to livestream or utilize screencastify. If a teacher chooses to strictly utilize Schoology then instructional materials and assignments will be posted on Schoology on a weekly basis. Students will be expected to reach out to their teachers via email with individual questions or concerns.

Please be patient as we are working to obtain and implement the technology necessary to execute these options successfully.

**Virtual Practice Day:**

Next Tuesday, August 31st, 2021 - During the advisory period we will conduct a Virtual Practice Day. During this time, advisory teachers will assist students with the following: logging in to chromebooks, accessing email, accessing Power School and assisting them with locating class content and submitting assignments through Schoology. We want to ensure our students are prepared if the need arises.

**Covid Related Absences (including quarantine):**

Please note that Covid related absences are excused and students will be given adequate time to complete missed assignments upon their return. Students are not required to complete work during their absences. Utilizing livestream, Screencastify, Schoology and/or completing assignments during the excused absence is OPTIONAL. Due to the rigor of PSA curriculum it is recommended that students who are able to complete work during their absence do so. Students will be expected to complete the missed coursework upon their return. In addition, some assignments may be excused or exempted, due to the collaborative nature of the classroom.

Thank you to our families for their continued support and patience. We are working diligently to provide the resources needed for our students to remain academically and emotionally successful during these times. We are continually looking to improve. We understand that this is a difficult time for everyone.

Please view the following video if you would like more information regarding [Covid-19 and PSA!](#)

Thank you,  
The PSA Admin Team