

**PSA BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
September 21, 2021  
6:00pm**

I. Administrative

- a. Meeting commencement and call to order at 6:00pm
- b. Board/Member Roll Call

Board Members	Bryan Coppage	X	Jason Colonna	X	Oriana Roumillat	X
	Joel Baughman	X	Susan Durand	X	Leslie Sarj	X
	Mary Brown	X	Liliana Hudescu	X*	Cameron Whitworth	X
Ex-Officio Members	Corrigan Rutherford	X	Destiny Grant	X	Amber Speights	X
	JBC Representative:					
Non-Board	Faculty Liaison: Terra Poetzsch	X	PCA: Christine LaRue	X		

\*arrived late

Also present: Rachel Crafton; Tyler Tuner

- 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: none
- e. Decision: Acceptance of Minutes from 08/17/2021 Regular Board Meeting  
Motion: to Accept the minutes from the 08/17/2021 Regular Board Meeting  
Made by: Mary  
Second by: Susan  
Vote:

Board Members	Bryan Coppage	X	Jason Colonna	X	Oriana Roumillat	*
	Joel Baughman	X	Susan Durand	X	Leslie Sarj	*
	Mary Brown	X	Liliana Hudescu	A	Cameron Whitworth	*

\*abstained

- f. Decision: Acceptance of Minutes from 08/17/2021 Emergency Board Meeting  
Motion to: Accept the minutes from the 08/17 Emergency Board meeting  
Made by: Joel  
Second by: Susan

Vote:

Board Members	Bryan Coppage	X	Jason Colonna	X	Oriana Roumillat	*
	Joel Baughman	X	Susan Durand	X	Leslie Sarj	*
	Mary Brown	X	Liliana Hudescu	A	Cameron Whitworth	*

\*abstained

g. Decision: Acceptance of Minutes from 08/31/2021 Special Board Meeting

Motion to : Accept the minutes from the 08/31 Special Board Meeting

Made by: Joel

Second by: Susan

Vote:

Board Members	Bryan Coppage	X	Jason Colonna	X	Oriana Roumillat	*
	Joel Baughman	X	Susan Durand	X	Leslie Sarj	*
	Mary Brown	X	Liliana Hudescu	A	Cameron Whitworth	*

\*abstained

h. Discussion/Decision: Acceptance of Agenda and Executive Session timing

Motion to: Accept the Agenda for today's meeting and Executive Session timing

Amended Motion to: Move Executive Session as Bryan just prescribed (see below).

Made by: Joel

Second by: Mary

Discussion: The Board discussed the timing of the Executive Session so as to try and limit the wait time by the PSA Community while the Board was in closed Executive Session. After discussion, Bryan suggested moving Old Business items B and C to the end of the meeting and for the Board to go to Executive Session before those items B and C.

Vote:

Board Members	Bryan Coppage	X	Jason Colonna	X	Oriana Roumillat	X
	Joel Baughman	X	Susan Durand	X	Leslie Sarj	X
	Mary Brown	X	Liliana Hudescu	*	Cameron Whitworth	X

\*abstained

i. The 45 Day Calendar Review was noted.

## II. New Business

a. Discussion/Decision: Approval of Financials

Joel briefly discussed the monthly financial reporting, which was previously sent to the board via email. He stated that there was nothing out of the ordinary for July financials.

Motion to: Accept the financials as presented

Made by: Mary

Second by: Leslie

Vote: unanimous

Board Members	Bryan Coppage	X	Jason Colonna	X	Oriana Roumillat	X
	Joel Baughman	X	Susan Durand	X	Leslie Sarj	X
	Mary Brown	X	Liliana Hudescu	X	Cameron Whitworth	X

b. Principal's Monthly Report

- Principal Rutherford discussed her report - see attached below.
- The Administration is working on a slide show presentation for the October board meeting to show test trends but noted there is limited testing data from 2020 due to Covid and testing that was performed did not include the entire student population as many families opted out.
- Overall, our middle and high school students performed above the average for the District and the State in the majority of areas.
- There is a substitute shortage problem.
- Principal Rutherford discussed school end of day dismissal and also reported that the school's request for an officer at the road intersection for traffic problems was denied due to law enforcement staffing shortages.
- The school recently had a leak in the middle school hallway, which was temporarily repaired, and the roofer will return to fully repair when the rain ends.
- Principal Rutherford also noted the Administration has sought out input about logo/mark protections and procedures for use.
- The school's annual audit is underway and all documents have been submitted to the auditor with the process to be completed by mid-October.
- There will not be any trips to Kanuga this Fall due to staff/community concerns over Covid-19 and these trips will be delayed until next year.
- There is an upcoming Spring break 2022 trip to Spain and Morocco, which was approved in 2019, which may need to be discussed at the next Board meeting. This trip was a carryover and was planned prior to the current Field Trip policy implementation. It is being conducted by Explorica.
- The Back to School guide continues to be updated as needed.
- Mr. Lamina will be back next week from his military leave of absence.
- Teachers have been asked to pin to their Schoology their process for those in quarantine/isolation due to Covid.
- Regarding Covid, the school is working with a vendor with onsite testing and will host an additional vaccination clinic.
- PSA participates in a weekly meeting of nurses across the state to help stay up to date.
- PSA provides generally 50 masks a day to students requesting them..
- Nurse Rachel Crafton and Principal Rutherford spoke about current PSA Covid statistics as well as isolation and quarantine requirements/procedures.

Bryan asked about the latest group of students in quarantine and whether most were in the 6-foot range for quarantining or the 3-foot range and, if most were in 6 feet, would the number have been reduced with masking. Nurse Crafton stated that with masking, many more students would not have been identified as close contacts (using the 6-foot quarantining protocol) and less would have been placed in quarantine. Nurse Crafton additionally reported that 82 additional students would have had to

quarantine but were exempt due to vaccination or prior infection status. There was additional discussion regarding safety protocols and Leap Day.

Principal Rutherford also discussed Apps with Admin, Featured Family Fridays, and the First Friday Fun events (including Fall Fest on 10/01). She reminded the Board of the upcoming Kids First conference.

Principal Rutherford discussed the new House system after a question from Mary.

Bryan asked about how teachers are handling instruction for students in quarantine and isolation. Principal Rutherford reported the majority of teachers are offering screencastify, livestream, or office hours. She noted there are some situations without communication and they are working individually as needed to close that gap.

Liliana praised the consistent leadership of teachers, the school nurse, staff, and school leadership based on her exposure to quarantine and the related procedures and that they felt a sense of inclusion. From the procedures perspective, she reported all of the steps were there and it was a successful experience. She asked if the school had identified kids at risk and whether steps were being taken to assist and protect these students. Principal Rutherford stated kids at risk have been identified via MAP and testing data from last year that was available. She noted they were working at the grade levels to address those specific needs. She stated a step by step plan had not yet been devised. Liliana asked about the appropriate level of intervention (combination with grade level, class level, parents). Principal Rutherford agreed. She also reported that more middle schoolers were identified as at risk and that one of the purposes of the SEAM classes was to provide a more proscriptive assistance, along with parents being circled in. Principal Rutherford also reported the implementation of a social emotional learning tv program at the school, which teachers received training on the prior week.

Oriana asked about requesting the MAP/student data and Principal Rutherford discussed it could be sent as a group with masked data.

- c. PCA Monthly Report - Christine LaRue spoke about the PCA. She noted the new PCA meeting time was on the second Monday of the month, and Zoom meeting information will be posted on the Community page. She stated the organization retained a \$23k bank balance (with additional revenue added from memberships and spiritwear). Spirit wear will be sent home with students soon. A few PCS Officer positions remain open and PSA community members should consider joining this organization. The 501c3 application process is ongoing. The PCA has received teacher funding requests and hopes to get more with the virtual club fair. The Rock the Walk will be pushed off until the Spring as the PCA still has funding leftover from last year. The PCA has switched from Jotform to Chatterup as their platform for secure forms, funding, and data.
- d. Discussion/Decision: Election of Board officers  
Bryan discussed the need for Board officer elections for the 2021-2022 school year.

Motion: For Bryan to be Chair for the following Board year.

Made by: Mary  
 Second by: Joel  
 Vote: unanimous

Board Members	Bryan Coppage	X	Jason Colonna	X	Oriana Roumillat	X
	Joel Baughman	X	Susan Durand	X	Leslie Sarj	X
	Mary Brown	X	Liliana Hudescu	X	Cameron Whitworth	X

Motion to: consider Mary Brown to be the PSA Board Vice Chair

Made by: Joel  
 Second by: Bryan  
 Vote: unanimous

Board Members	Bryan Coppage	X	Jason Colonna	X	Oriana Roumillat	X
	Joel Baughman	X	Susan Durand	X	Leslie Sarj	X
	Mary Brown	X	Liliana Hudescu	X	Cameron Whitworth	X

Motion to: consider Susan Durand to be the PSA board secretary for the upcoming board year

Made by: Joel  
 Second by: Mary  
 Vote: unanimous

Board Members	Bryan Coppage	X	Jason Colonna	X	Oriana Roumillat	X
	Joel Baughman	X	Susan Durand	X	Leslie Sarj	X
	Mary Brown	X	Liliana Hudescu	X	Cameron Whitworth	X

Motion: Joel to be Treasurer

Made by: Bryan  
 Second by: Mary  
 Vote: unanimous

Board Members	Bryan Coppage	X	Jason Colonna	X	Oriana Roumillat	X
	Joel Baughman	X	Susan Durand	X	Leslie Sarj	X
	Mary Brown	X	Liliana Hudescu	X	Cameron Whitworth	X

e. Discussion/Decision: Board members and their committee membership/chair positions

The Board discussed the current Board committee framework and general duties, the committee chairs, and vacancies. Following discussion, the following committee membership changes were made: Oriana

joined the Academic Excellence committee and the Policy & HR Committee and will chair the Nominating Committee; Leslie will Chair the Development & Fundraising committee and will join the Communications Committee and the Finance committee; Susan will join the Nominating Committee; and Cameron will join the Finance Committee. Liliana is to remain the chair of the Academic Committee; Mary will remain chair of the Policy & HR committee; Joel will remain chair of the Finance committee; Jason will continue to chair the Facilities committee and the Grievance Committee (as needed); Bryan will remain chair of the Military committee, and Susan will remain Chair of the Communications committee.

III. Old Business

a. Discussion: strategic planning update

Susan spoke about an orientation the Strategic Planning Commission had with the Board consultant, Mr. Davis. The orientation will be similar to the upcoming Board orientation, which will be scheduled soon. Mr. Davis will attend Board meetings beginning in October to give strategic planning updates. The upcoming board orientation will be virtual but a board retreat will hopefully be in person, subject to Covid circumstances.

b. Onboarding new members - Mary noted the second meeting for new Board member orientation will take place on Thursday.

III. Executive Session

Motion: Enter Executive Session at 7:19pm

Made by: Mary

Second by: Joel

Vote: unanimous

Board Members	Bryan Coppage	X	Jason Colonna	X	Oriana Roumillat	X
	Joel Baughman	X	Susan Durand	X	Leslie Sarj	X
	Mary Brown	X	Liliana Hudescu	X	Cameron Whitworth	X

Present: all board members, AP Speights, AP Grant, Principal Rutherford, attorney Tyler Turner (Tyler left meeting at 8:21pm)

a. Legal Advice regarding Covid

b. Personnel/contract discussion

Motion: to Exit Executive Session at 8:41pm

Made by: Jason

Second by: Leslie

Vote: unanimous

Board Members	Bryan Coppage	X	Jason Colonna	X	Oriana Roumillat	X
	Joel Baughman	X	Susan Durand	X	Leslie Sarj	X
	Mary Brown	X	Liliana Hudescu	X	Cameron Whitworth	X

IV. Old Business

- c. Discussion/Decision: Covid mitigation efforts at PSA (current and future - to include potential discussion on masking and/or mask requirements).

Motion to: Discuss covid mitigation efforts at PSA

Made by: Joel

Second by: Leslie

Vote: unanimous

Board Members	Bryan Coppage	X	Jason Colonna	X	Oriana Roumillat	X
	Joel Baughman	X	Susan Durand	X	Leslie Sarj	X
	Mary Brown	X	Liliana Hudescu	X	Cameron Whitworth	X

-Joel noted the current legal Covid regime for schools had not changed, there was no guidance to suggest the Board has any leeway to create a mandate or ask the Administration to enforce it, and the Board needed to discuss options to encourage mitigation efforts, including masking, to ensure we can keep the school open with as many students attending as possible.

-Bryan discussed how mask wearing helps to limit those in quarantine.

-Mary asked Principal Rutherford about masking at school. Principal Rutherford stated the majority of the school population is masking - from 70% to 80% - but she noted the masking level did tend to ebb and flow based on current Covid rates in the community. She stated students go through 40-50 masks per day, provided by the school. These masks are requested by students because they need a mask or want to replace theirs. Principal Rutherford indicated that for the most part, students are cautious and careful regarding Covid-19 and related protocols.

-Susan discussed ensuring volunteers and visitors to the school are required to socially distance with students and teachers. Principal Rutherford noted this is possible. She stated that for the most part, PSA does not have that many volunteers or visitors at the school.

-Mary asked what the Board could do to help the Administration with the Covid mitigation efforts, including encouraging mask wearing, as well as other additional safety measures. Principal Rutherford indicated the letter from the Board to the community regarding Covid 19 was well received and she encouraged an additional letter. She stated that the Administration encourages the Board and the community to offer suggestions to help with masking and safety and that the Administration will receive suggestions and consider what they could do to effectively implement additional measures. She indicated additional funds were not needed at this point due to current funding and donations.

-Bryan asked about air purifiers in classrooms and Principal Rutherford reported some classes do have air purifiers. She stated that additional air purifiers would be purchased with the next round of ESSR funds. -Jason remarked that he thought the Covid task force was being reconstituted. He thought this might be a good task for them - to determine how to promote and encourage masking as part of a public education program. He offered several suggestions that the school could use to help promote masking during this time period: house competitions, signs, a mascot. He reported he was also happy to help with this effort. The board additionally discussed additional suggestions for the Administration to vet.

-Principal Rutherford reported she met with the lead of the Covid task force around a week ago and the lead was reaching out to see interest and they were getting it on the books.

V. Committee Reports

- b. Academic Excellence - Lilana stated they are preparing to redefine their membership in light of a gain of a new understanding of how the academic committee could best support the school operation and fulfil its role to the board (serve as a link) and in light of new members from the board. They plan to meet on 09/23 with the Administration. They are also waiting on Strategic planning to see if some of the ideas they have would be involved or encompassed into the strategic planning of the school.
- c. Policy & Human Resources - did not meet. They are preparing for their meeting on 10/6.
- d. Human Resources Sub Committee - n/a
- e. Finance - Joel stated this committee worked on July financials and will discuss some topics with the Facilities Committee, including seal coating of the parking lot and learning cottages.
- f. Nominating - n/a
- g. Development & Fundraising - n/a
- h. Grievance Committee - nothing current
- i. Military - nothing to report
- j. Facilities - They are working on several items, including those noted by Joel above. Additionally, they are working on tasks related to the Reserve study.
- k. Communications - Susan stated this committee is reforming and will meet in October.

VI. Adjournment

Motion to: Adjourn at 9:02pm

Made by: Joel

Second by: Mary

Vote: unanimous

Board Members	Bryan Coppage	X	Jason Colonna	X	Oriana Roumillat	X
	Joel Baughman	X	Susan Durand	X	Leslie Sarj	X
	Mary Brown	X	Liliana Hudescu	X	Cameron Whitworth	X

\*\*\*\*This meeting was recorded\*\*\*\*



## Principal's Report September Board Meeting

### Academics

- One National Merit Semi-Finalist, Two Letters of Commendation
- Schedule adjustments to meet needs of our students
  - MAP Data
  - Student/Teacher Input
  - Elective Offerings
- Intentionality when students are making course selections for dual enrollment. Early College options.
- IGP's have begun!
- [School Report Card Link](#)

### School Management

- A few new faces: Mr. Jenkins (English 2), Ms. Padilla (computer/elective), and Ms. Monsky (TA).
- Substitute availability
- Morning, lunch routine monitored and adjusted
- Retention ponds are being addressed. Third party vendor.
- Seeking input regarding logos, protection, and procedures for use.
- **Annual audit process is underway. Likely completed beginning/mid of October.**
- **No Kanuga this year.**
- **Information: Spain/Morocco--Approved 2019--Explorica--Spring Break 2022**
- Reminder that information shared with families via [Back to School Guide](#). Intention to update throughout the school year.
- Instructional Options--Teachers to pin method in Schoology for ease of access.
  - Live stream
  - Screencastify
  - Solely Schoology/Office Hours
- COVID update and dashboard
  - [www.psaschool.org](http://www.psaschool.org) (nurse tab)

### Culture/Community

- LEAP Day
- House System/Competition
- Apps with Admin
- Featured Family Fridays
- **First Friday Fun--Fall Fest on October 1, 2021**

**Reminder: Kids First Conference next week. Email Corrigan for the link if interested.**