



Polaris Tech

CHARTER SCHOOL

News Release

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Polaris Tech announces new Board of Directors

Three people new to the Polaris Tech Board of Directors will take office in July, joining returning incumbents Kim Statler and retired four-star Air Force Gen. Lloyd “Fig” Newton.

Statler, a workforce development leader with the S.C. Department of Commerce, and Newton, recently accepted into the International Air & Space Hall of Fame, were appointed by the Board this week to two-year terms. Both were founding members of the state charter school in Ridgeland.

Joining them are newcomers Nadia Paez of Ridgeland, R. Morrison Payne of Walterboro, and Reginald White of Ridgeland, all elected by Polaris Tech families and staff.

“We are a growing school and it is wonderful to have new people step up to help with Board business,” said Sandra Chavez, chair of the Board of Directors and a founding member of Polaris Tech. “For continuity, it’s a pleasure to have Mrs. Statler and General Newton returning to the Board for full two-year terms.”

Paez is a community volunteer and also owns and operates a local business, La Potosina. Payne is a lawyer and city judge for Walterboro. White is a corrections officer and community volunteer.

They join Shirley Mears, Sammie Brown and Scott Hanna. Board members Brandon Wright, Vickey Hanley and Jennifer Reyes will complete their one-year terms on the Polaris Tech Board of Directors this spring.

“We are excited to have our new board coming in to take Polaris Tech into a second year of growth, and we appreciate the stability and expertise that our first board brought to the school,” said Newton, who chaired the Governance Committee. “Together, we are setting the table for some amazing work by these incredible young people at Polaris Tech.”

Polaris Tech is a state-approved charter school serving middle and high school students from Jasper County and the Lowcountry. It is a free school (no tuition), that focuses on preparing young people for successful work and college.

Dr. Melissa Crosby, executive director at the school, said the new board will have an important role as Polaris Tech rolls into its second year.

“We are adding the Aerospace curriculum and we are strengthening our other areas of instruction based on what we have learned in our first year,” she said. “We have excellent training for our faculty this summer, we continue to enroll new students on a weekly basis, and we are happy to welcome the new and returning board members.”

The Polaris Tech academic emphasis is on six career areas, starting with: Aerospace, Health Sciences, and Business Management. Polaris Tech continues to accept student applications for the upcoming 2019-2020 school year for students who will be in grades 6-11. Applications are available online at www.polaristech.org.

The newly-constructed school is located on Grays Highway across from the Ridgeland Airport.

To keep updated about Polaris Tech Charter School, follow them on Facebook and at www.polaristech.org. For specific questions, email info@polaristech.org or call 843-645-0605.

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