



**Polaris Tech**  
CHARTER SCHOOL

.....  
*Reach.  
Rise.  
Soar.*

## **News Release**

Friday, May 1, 2020

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### **Polaris Tech appoints three new board members, sets slate of candidates for May 20-21 election**

The future at Polaris Tech Charter School in Jasper County looks bright with a strong group of incoming people for the Board of Directors, Chairman Gen. Lloyd “Fig” Newton said.

Families of enrolled students and all staff will receive a digital link to vote for the slate between May 20 and May 21 at 8 p.m. when the election closes. Results will be tallied and shared May 22. The new board will be sworn in at the board’s first meeting in July.

Candidates appointed to the Polaris Tech Board of Directors for a two-year term are Dr. Catherine Smith, a longtime educator and incumbent board member; Bob Norwood, a retired business executive and incumbent board member; and Cary Schoener, who brings a wealth of education experience including student data analysis, teaching and administration.

The current Board of Directors unanimously approved those appointments April 28, and also approved the slate of candidates after a lengthy public nomination process, candidate interviews and SLED background checks.

The slate of candidates to be presented to Polaris Tech families and staff includes Nancy Carter, a career teacher and administrator in the Colleton County School District; Johan Derrick, experienced in aviation and aviation safety, which will support the aerospace career path at Polaris Tech; and Roger Sullivan, a Colleton County EMS/firefighter.

“Our appointments and slate of candidates bring expertise from a number of fields to help Polaris Tech move forward. That’s especially important as we enter our third year, when we will have not only our first graduating class but also our first class of entering fifth graders,” said Newton, one of the school’s founders, a Jasper County native and a retired four-star Air Force general.

Kim Statler, vice-chair of the board and also a Polaris Tech founder, said the high quality of candidates speaks well to the school’s growing reputation.

“I am extremely comfortable with the appointments and candidates we have to continue to guide Polaris Tech into a bigger, brighter future,” she said. “That is essential for the current students, for those families who will be enrolling at Polaris Tech in coming years, and also for those of us who poured our hearts into the original dream and plans for this school.”

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. Young people from Jasper, Colleton, Hampton and Beaufort counties attend.

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 school year for students in grades 5-11.

Student applications are available online at [www.polaristech.org](http://www.polaristech.org).

Board members with expiring terms include Norwood, Smith, Sammie Brown, Sandra Chavez, Scott Hanna and Shirley Mears.

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](http://www.polaristech.org). For specific questions, email [info@polaristech.org](mailto:info@polaristech.org) or call 843-645-0605.

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