



# Polaris Tech

## CHARTER SCHOOL

### News Release

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## **Polaris Tech announces new Board of Directors for 2020-2021 school year**

Three people appointed and three elected to the Polaris Tech Board of Directors will take office in early July and begin their work as the Ridgeland charter school grows into its third year – and its first with fifth graders and first with graduating seniors for 2021.

Candidates appointed to the Polaris Tech Board of Directors for a two-year term were 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.

Elected by Polaris Tech parents and staff in late May were 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 school is reaching for new heights, and we expect our board to stretch just as far. This incoming board has big shoes to fill, but I think we’ve got all the right people to make that happen,” said Board Chair Gen. Lloyd “Fig” Newton, one of the school’s founders, a Jasper County native and a retired four-star Air Force general.

The six incoming members join current Polaris Tech board members Newton, Kim Statler, R. Morris Payne, Jenny Byrd and Reginald White.

“The election went smoothly, and our families are so comfortable with technology that the electronic voting wasn’t a big deal, just like our students learning from home on their laptops wasn’t that much of a change,” said Dr. Melissa Crosby, executive director at Polaris Tech.

“As a school, and with this new board of directors, we have a lot of work ahead to bring in the new class of fifth graders, prepare for our first class of graduating seniors, and continue to plan for both in-class and remote learning possibilities,” she said.

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. About 300 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).

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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