



Polaris Tech

CHARTER SCHOOL

News Release

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Slate set for Polaris Tech board of directors election May 5-6 for school families, staff

The list of candidates for Polaris Tech Charter School in Ridgeland includes two incumbents and a newcomer, and two other incumbents were appointed to serve two-year terms.

Candidates on the ballot for Polaris Tech Board of Directors, for selection by the student families and staff, are incumbents Gen. Lloyd “Fig” Newton and municipal judge Morrison Payne, and newcomer Gloria Baker. There are three seats open and three candidates.

Polaris Tech is a state-approved charter school serving fifth grade through 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.

The election process is managed by the Public Charter School Alliance for South Carolina and the entire process is conducted online. Those eligible to vote will receive information electronically and the election is open May 5-6.

Gloria Baker, of Gillisonville, earned her bachelor’s degree from Fordham University and owns SLJ Management. She was born in the Lowcountry but moved to New York when she was 15. Before returning to the Lowcountry 12 years ago, Ms. Baker worked as a researcher for Columbia University in New York City.

Morrison Payne serves as the Chief Municipal Judge for the City of Walterboro. She earned her bachelor’s degree in psychology from the University of South Carolina BA and her law degree from the USC School of Law. She also serves on the Board of Directors for the SC Artisans Center.

General Newton, chair of the Polaris Tech board and a school founder, is a retired four-star General with the US Air Force and Executive Vice President, Pratt & Whitney Military Engines. The General is a command pilot with more than 4,000 flying hours in the T-37, T-38, F-4, F-15, F-16, C-12 and the F-117 stealth fighter. He was born in Ridgeland, South Carolina, where he graduated from Jasper High School.

Re-appointed by the board Governance Committee April 29 to two-year terms were incumbents Kim Statler and Reginald White.

Mrs. Statler is the Regional Workforce Advisor in the Lowcountry for the South Carolina Department of Commerce. Prior to working for the state, Kim led economic development efforts in the Lowcountry for eight years.

Mr. White is a correctional officer with the South Carolina Department of Corrections. He is well known in the community and is a frequent volunteer for local efforts.

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 5-12 at www.polaristech.org.

The newly constructed school is located on Grays Highway across from the Ridgeland Airport. Young people from Jasper, Colleton, Hampton and Beaufort counties attend.

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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