

## **BOARD AGENDA ITEM**

**March 23, 2021**

### ***SUBJECT:***

Closure of Lloyd-Kennedy Charter School and Aiken Performing Arts Academy Charter School

### ***BACKGROUND INFORMATION:***

The South Carolina Department of Education requires school board action when the determination of a school closure is made. The Superintendent has received school closure notification for Lloyd-Kennedy Charter School (June 30, 2021) and Aiken Performing Arts Academy Charter School (June 30, 2019). Notification of the closure of Aiken Performing Arts Academy Charter School was received on April 14, 2019, but school board action was not taken.

### ***ADMINISTRATIVE CONSIDERATION:***

The Superintendent has accepted the notification of school closure for Lloyd-Kennedy Charter School and Aiken Performing Arts Academy Charter School and supports the decision to close the schools.

### ***RECOMMENDATION:***

Approve the school closure of Lloyd-Kennedy Charter School and Aiken Performing Arts Academy Charter School.

### ***ATTACHMENTS:***

Notification letter for Aiken Performing Arts Academy Charter School  
Notification letter for Lloyd-Kennedy Charter School

### ***PREPARED BY:***

Salvatore Minolfo

## PUBLIC SCHOOL CLOSINGS

For any public school that is being closed, please complete this form. The form must be signed by the Superintendent and submitted along with a copy of the district board of trustee meeting minutes noting when the decision was made to close the school. The form and minutes can be sent electronically by e-mail to [dnjones@ed.sc.gov](mailto:dnjones@ed.sc.gov).

If you have any questions, please contact Dana Jones at [dnjones@ed.sc.gov](mailto:dnjones@ed.sc.gov).

District: The Consolidated School District of Aiken County

Superintendent: King Laurence

Address of School District: 1000 Brookhaven Drive  
Aiken, South Carolina 29803

The following school(s) will close:

Name of School Closing	SIDN of School	Where will the students attend school when this school closes?	Date and Year Effective
Lloyd-Kennedy Charter	0201601	Various schools throughout the district	June 30, 2019
Aiken Performing Arts Academy Charter	0201603	Various schools throughout the district	June 30, 2021

Superintendent's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date Submitted: \_\_\_\_\_



**AIKEN PERFORMING ARTS ACADEMY**  
**Performing Our Way Into Your Hearts . . .**

April 14, 2019

Dr. Sean Alford, Superintendent  
Aiken County School District  
1000 Brookhaven Drive  
Aiken, S.C. 29803

**RE: APAA Notice of Closure**

The purpose of this correspondence is to provide written notification to the Consolidated School District of Aiken County that the Aiken Performing Arts Academy's (APAA) will close on June 30, 2019.

In past conversations and communications with the District Superintendent, Dr. Alford, I disclosed the charter high school would close after the completion of our 2018-2019 school term. The APAA has been working with our Attorney, David Pagliarini, and Executive Board Members to that end; focused on helping our students, families and staff with the transition.

The impending closure is the result of a personal health crisis which prohibited me from working at the same level I had in previous years. Unfortunately, during my absences, student enrollment and retention saw a marked decline. The financial impact associated with our small student count resulted in a grave operating situation for the APAA. To compensate for the loss in revenue the APAA contingency savings were used. This was done in hopes student enrollment would increase before the 45<sup>th</sup> Day Report, thereby increasing our revenue. However, the APAA did not see a significant increase in enrollment and our monthly income saw an additional decrease in December 2018.

It was at this time I began communicating with the APAA Board President, Dr. Alford and Mr. Pagliarini, about our financial situation. At the same time, with our savings depleting, the APAA Accountant, Ms. Mulrain, and I came up with a second financial plan using funds from the school's reserve account to complete the school year. But on February 19<sup>th</sup> CPA, Nicole Hillman, informed us our financial plan was not viable as it would require the use of restricted funds allocated for the USDA loan.

This new information resulted in an Emergency APAA Board Meeting, so Board Members could vote on a Revised Financial Plan that did not require the use of restricted funds. This plan was approved by the Board and contained revisions meant to ensure the APAA remained in operation for the remainder of this school year. What the financial plan did not do was give the APAA financial solvency for future years. Since S.C. Charter School Law requires existing charters to prove financial viability, the APAA cannot remain open beyond this fiscal year without major

changes that would greatly impact our mission. So, in keeping with this law, the Board also made the official determination to close the APAA on June 30, 2019 in a unanimous vote.

As the Founder and Director of the school, please know I am committed to working with School District Administrators to ensure a smooth closure. Additionally, Mr. Pagliarini may submit his own correspondence to the School District. It has been my privilege to operate the only performing arts high school in Aiken County. I look forward to focusing all future efforts on the Lloyd Kennedy Charter School (LKCS).

If you have any questions, please contact me at the number listed below.

Sincerely,

Keisha Lloyd Kennedy  
APAA Founder and Director

**C: File**

**CC: David Pagliarini, APAA Attorney**



**LLOYD KENNEDY CHARTER SCHOOL**  
Providing a World of Opportunities...

January 28, 2021

Aiken County Public School District & Board  
Attention: Superintendent King Laurence  
1000 Brookhaven Drive  
Aiken, SC 29803

**RE: Lloyd Kennedy Charter School (LKCS)**

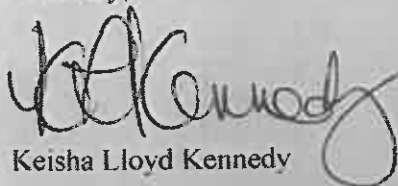
Dear Mr. Laurence,

The purpose of this correspondence is to notify the Aiken County Public School District & Board of my intent to retire at the end of the 2020-2021 school year for health reasons. As a result of my retirement, the LKCS Executive Board Members have voted to terminate the charter and sell the educational complex. Please be aware the LKCS attorney, David Pagliarini, will be in contact with you.

Additionally, Mr. Pagliarini will need to work with the District's legal counsel to review all accounts/assets, and turn over all excess funds/assets, at the end of year. The LKCS CPA, Avery Ziegler, will be in contact with the District's Chief Financial Officer, Tray Traxler, to review and certify all account balances at the end of year. The LKCS Guidance Counselor, Aubrey Pompey, and Educational Consultant, Brenda Lloyd, will work with District designees to turn over records.

The LKCS will continue to follow its Academic Plan for this school year with the assistance of our SDE Coach, Patricia Woods, to ensure implementation and consistency. Although I am dealing with health limitations, I am happy to work with District designees during this transition.

Sincerely,



Keisha Lloyd Kennedy

CC: David Pagliarini, Attorney  
Tray Traxler, District CFO  
Avery Ziegler, CPA  
Aubrey Pompey, Guidance Counselor  
Brenda Lloyd, Educational Consultant  
Patricia Woods, SDE Coach  
Salvatore Minolfo, District Liaison  
Kristy Cansler, Director of Federal Programs  
Jeanie Glover, Chief Instructional Officer

C: LKCS Executive Board  
File