

HAMMOND URBAN ACADEMY, INC.
School Board Meeting Minutes Noted

April 16, 2015

In Attendance:

Board Members:

Kris Sakelaris (Board President)
Sheldon Cutler (Board Member)
Dave Ryan (Board Member)
Howard Cohen (Board Member)
Heather Garay (Board Member)
Heather Cook (Board Member)

School Representatives

Dr. Sean Egan (School Leader)
Mahdee Iqbal (Business Manager)
La Tysha Sanders (Vice Business Manager)
Mira Projovic (Staff Member)

Not in Attendance:

Mark McLaughlin (Board Member)
Owana Miller (Board Member)
Anne Herbert (Board Member)
Rita Brusca-Vega (Board Member)
Kris Kantar (City of Hammond, Legal Counsel)
Kevin Smith (Attorney)

Board meeting was called to order at 4:05 p.m by Board president Kris Sakelaris.

Motions Approved by School Board

- *Motion to approve March 10, 2015 meeting minutes-* Sheldon Cutler motioned; seconded by Dave Ryan. All in favor motion approved 6-0.
- *Motion to approve March 18, 2015 meeting minutes-* Dave Ryan motioned; seconded by Heather Garay. All in favor motion approved 6-0.
- *Motion to approve March financial report-* Howard Cohen motioned; seconded by Heather Garay. All in favor motion approved 6-0.
- *Motion to adjourn-* Heather Cook motioned; seconded by Heather Garay. All in favor approved 6-0.

New Correspondence

None

School Leader Report

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Discussion Notes

- Board tabled the Barnes & Thornburg legal services proposal because Kevin Smith was not in attendance.
- There will be 2 parent board member openings at the end of June with the departure of Heather Cook (her student is graduating at the end of May) & Rita Brusca-Vega (student will be leaving HAST at the end of this school year).
- Kris Sakelaris recommended turning over the \$8,000 Fitzgerald invoice to the finance committee for further review.
- Per the Discipline Report Dr. Egan prepared for the Board, Howard Cohen asked how we can use this to try & curb future problems. Dr. Egan replied that currently he has discussions with each perpetrator to better understand what the problems are & how they can be better solved.
- Kris Sakelaris reported on the Appeals on Wheels argument that was brought to HAST a few weeks back. She said all 3 judges were very complimentary about the experience, particularly how respectful & engaged the students were. She wants HAST to work with Judge Harkin for the yearly mock trial he is involved in.
- The Nutritional Rental Agreement, submitted by LaTysha Sanders after researching what other schools districts do for lunch services, was sent to finance committee by Kris Sakelaris.
- In regards to the Search/Alcohol Policy for school sponsored events, Kris Sakelaris & Heather Cook proposed no formal policy be put in place right now. For the upcoming senior prom, Dr. Egan would send out a strongly worded email to all students & parents advising that there would be police presence at the banquet facility & that students should adhere to the law of no under-age drinking & drug use.
- In regards to the 2015-16 budget draft, anyone with questions was advised to meet with Sheldon Cutler or come to the next finance committee meeting.
- LaTysha Sanders gave an update on fee collections & concluded that the school was in a much better position currently than last year at this time. Sheldon Cutler asked what the plan would be for any outstanding balances moving forward. He asked the Board to adopt a policy on how long we would try privately collecting before moving accounts to a collection agency. Mahdee Iqbal & LaTysha Sanders said they would sit down together & finalize the current procedure & write out a formal plan to present to the Board.

Board Financial Inquiries

- \$984.00 paid out to J. Walker for science supplies: teacher awarded grant from the city of Hammond
- \$24.71 paid out to Al Vargas: a mistaken charge on the school credit card by Mr. Vargas & Mr. Vargas has since reimbursed the school
- \$14,585 paid out to BT Video Systems: this is half of the total bill for full surveillance system
- \$251.00 & \$423.33 both paid out to Rebecca Goreham: Science Olympiad competition in IU Bloomington
- \$421.16 paid out to Jessica Walker: Science Olympiad competition in IU Bloomington
- \$1802.82 & \$323.28 both paid out for Title 1 calculators

New Business

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Public Comment

None

Meeting Adjourned at 5:29 p.m.