

HAMMOND URBAN ACADEMY, INC.
School Board Meeting Minutes Noted

May 19, 2016

In Attendance:

Board Members:

Kris Sakelaris (Board President)
Dave Ryan (Board Member)
Howard Cohen (Board Member)
Mark McLaughlin (Board Member)
Gus Lopez (Board Member)
Anne Herbert (Board Member)
Janet Venecz (Board Member)
Owana Miller (Board Member)
Kevin Smith (Attorney)
Heather Garay (Board Member)

School Representatives

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

Not in Attendance:

Sheldon Cutler (Board Member)
Lori Lambert (Board Member)
Ross Smith (IT Director)
La Tysha Sanders (Vice Business Manager)

Board meeting was called to order at 4:06 p.m by Board President Kris Sakelaris.

Motions Approved by School Board

- *Motion to approve April 28, 2016 meeting minutes-* Howard Cohen motioned; seconded by Dave Ryan. All in favor motion approved 10-0.
- *Motion to approve Finance Committee's recommendation for staff pay raises-* Heather Garay motioned; seconded by Anne Herbert. All in favor motion approved 10-0.
- *Motion to approve April Finance Reports—* Owana Miller motioned; seconded by Heather Garay. All in favor motion approved 10-0.
- *Motion to approve contract for Therese Narusis, new music teacher-* Howard Cohen motioned; seconded by Dave Ryan. All in favor motion approved 10-0.
- *Motion to adjourn-* Janet Venecz motioned; seconded by Dave Ryan. All in favor approved 10-0.

New Correspondence

- Email sent to all board members & will be put on file.

School Leader Report

Committee Reports

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- **Finance Committee-** Heather Garay spoke on behalf of the committee & gave their recommendation for staff raises: a total amount of \$76,175 to be allocated to teachers, administrations & support staff. Teachers would receive a raise of \$2,000 this year rather than the bonus that was given last year.
- **Fundraising Committee-** Did not meet.
- **Personnel Committee-** Kris Sakelaris reported that she has gathered all the evaluations submitted for Dr. Egan. She will have the information for review in June.

Discussion Notes

- The first HAST Talent Show Fundraiser was a huge success that raised \$7,643 in donations.
- In regards to the idea of creating new positions of teacher/student board members, Kris Sakelaris asked Kevin Miller to review the current HAST bylaws & look to see if & how this can be done. Dr. Egan recommends the teacher board member have 3+ years experience at HAST & the student be a junior or senior. Kris Sakelaris anticipates this process would include several drafts before voting. These positions would likely go into affect sometime next school year. She says the biggest issue is still what those members would be allowed to vote on & if they could recuse themselves from meetings when specific voting is conducted. Kris told board members to send any further suggestions to Kevin.

Board Financial Inquiries

- Mahdee Iqbal has included a new report detailing all grant revenues & expenses.
- In regards to the 2015 audit, Mahdee sent a draft to the old auditing company, which they will review & hopefully accept so we can set a date for the exit interview. The new auditing company has already begun the process for the 2016 audit.

New Business

Public Comment

- Keith Smith, senior at HAST, brought letters from his peers & teachers & read a letter that he wrote out loud. He is asking the board to reconsider the decision to not let him walk at graduation as punishment for an offense he made the last week at school.
- Destiny Smith, student at HAST, spoke in support of her brother.
- Priscilla Smith, mother of Keith Smith, also brought letters of support for Keith to be allowed to walk the stage at graduation.
- Keith C. Smith, father of Keith Smith, also spoke in support of Keith being allowed to walk the stage at graduation.
- Alex Rodriguez, student at HAST, read a letter he gave in support of Keith.
- Julian White, student at HAST, spoke in support of Keith.
- Victor Lopez, student at HAST, spoke in support of Keith.

Meeting Adjourned at 5:10 p.m.