

HAMMOND URBAN ACADEMY, INC.
School Board Meeting Minutes Noted

November 17, 2016

In Attendance:

Board Members:

Kris Sakelaris (Board President)
Sheldon Cutler (Board Member)
Anne Herbert (Board Member)
Gus Lopez (Board Member)
Lori Lambert (Board Member)
Heather Garay (Board Member)

School Representatives

Dr. Sean Egan (School Leader)
Mira Projovic (Staff Member)
Dennis Small (Business Manager)
Ross Smith (IT Director)

Not in Attendance:

Dave Ryan (Board Member)
Howard Cohen (Board Member)
Janet Venecz (Board Member)
Mark McLaughlin (Board Member)
Kevin Smith (Attorney)
Owana Miller (Board Member)
Arthur Young (Dean of Students)

Board meeting was called to order at 4:20 p.m by Board President Kris Sakelaris.

Motions Approved by School Board

- *Motion to approve amended Oct 20, 2016 meeting minutes-* Sheldon Cutler motioned; seconded by Heather Garay. All in favor motion approved 6-0.
- *Motion to approve Sept. Finance Reports-* Sheldon Cutler motioned; seconded by Gus Lopez. All in favor motion approved 6-0.
- *Motion to approve Oct. Finance Reports-* Sheldon Cutler motioned; seconded by Gus Lopez. All in favor motion approved 6-0.
- *Motion to approve schedule for the 2017-18 school year-* Gus Lopez motioned; seconded by Lori Lambert. All in favor motion approved 6-0.
- *Motion to approve Mira Projovic for the teacher Board Member position-* Sheldon Cutler motioned; seconded by Lori Lambert. All in favor motion approved 6-0.
- *Motion to approve Gabriel Nava for the student Board Member position-* Anne Herbert motioned; seconded by Gus Lopez. All in favor motion approved 5-1. Sheldon Cutler opposed the motion of having a student serve as a member of the Board.
- *Motion to approve Patrick Funchion as new building engineer effective December 12, 2016-* Sheldon Cutler motioned; seconded by Heather Garay. All in favor motion approved 6-0.
- *Motion to adjourn-* Sheldon Cutler motioned; seconded by Heather Garay. All in favor approved 6-0.

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New Correspondence

- None

School Leader Report

Committee Reports

- **Finance Committee-** Did not report.
- **Fundraising Committee-** Did not report.
- **Personnel Committee-** Mark McLaughlin met with candidates for the 2 new board member positions & gave his recommendations to Kris Sakelaris. Board will vote on these motions during this meeting.

Discussion Notes

- No Board Meeting scheduled for the month of December. Board will reconvene in January.
- NWEA/Test Performance data review: Dr. Egan gave samples of the ISTEP test administered to 8th graders to Board Members to review for themselves. Board members were also provided with results from this year's testing. All in all, HAST is looking good compared with other schools in Indiana. We are at or above grade level with the state, with the exception of the dip in 8th grade. We are well above the scores compared to other schools in Hammond. HAST is showing growth in all areas of Math & Reading. However, Jennifer from the DOE confirmed to Dr. Egan that NWEA is not a good predictor of ISTEP performance.
- Ross Smith presented a new iPad replacement plan for the Board to consider. His presentation:

Previous Plan:

- Update one grade level a year. This would never end with the speed at which technology improves.
- So far we've upgraded iPads in 2015-2016 school year & 2016-2017 school for incoming 6th graders.
- With iOS 10 update not being compatible with all of our iPad 3s, we need to replace 410 iPads as soon as possible.
- Current plan does not work.

New Plan:

- Sell off our existing iPad 3s & use that money towards replacement of iPads.
- Start 4 year lease plan with Apple where the total cost is divided over 4 years, allowing us to update all 410 iPads at once.
- At the end of the lease, we're able to trade in those iPads & start a new 4 year lease with new updated hardware.

Benefits:

- Cheaper than paying outright for all iPads
- We will have the most up-to-date hardware every 4 years

Board Financial Inquiries

- Sheldon Cutler inquired about the charges made from the athletic department on the HAST credit card. Dennis Small explained the school account paid for these athletic purchases, not realizing that it was to be paid from a different account. Mr. Speers has since reimbursed the school in full for these charges.

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- Sheldon Cutler inquired where we stand in regards to a \$90 missing check recorded on the HAST ledger. Dennis Small reported that since taking over responsibilities from Mahdee Iqbal, he has thoroughly reviewed all records, both receipts & deposits, & cannot find any trace of this check. He thinks this is more than likely an iPad insurance payment. The bank told Mahdee that they never received this check.
- Sheldon Cutler made 2 recommendations:
 1. Investigate the possibilities of the school utilizing RDC “Remote Deposit Capture”
 2. Request from First Merchant’s Bank an account analysis for the last quarter to determine if the school is getting all the benefits from the bank & is in the right account type.
- \$84 for scissors. Dennis Small explained this was a purchase of packs of scissors, not a single pair.

New Business

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Public Comment

- None

Meeting Adjourned at 5:42 p.m.