

HAMMOND URBAN ACADEMY, INC.
School Board Meeting Minutes Noted

September 18, 2014

In Attendance:

Board Members:

Kris Sakelaris (Board President)
Mark McLaughlin (Board Member)
Howard Cohen (Board Member)
Owana Miller (Board Member)
Anne Herbert (Board Member)
Janet Venecz (Board Member)
Rita Brusca-Vega (Board Member)

School Representatives

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

Not in Attendance:

Robert Lendi (Board Member)
Kris Kantar (City of Hammond, Legal Counsel)
Kevin Smith (Attorney)
Sheldon Cutler (Board Member)
Dave Ryan (Board Member)
Heather Cook (Board Member)

Board meeting was called to order at 4:02 p.m by Board president Kris Sakelaris.

Motions Approved by School Board

- *Motion to approve August 21, 2014 meeting minutes-* Owana Miller motioned; seconded by Mark McLaughlin. All in favor motion approved 7-0.
- *Motion to approve finance report-* Owana Miller motioned; seconded by Howard Cohen. All in favor motion approved 7-0.
- *Motion to approve Mr. Ross Smith as new IT Director-* Janet Venecz motioned; seconded by Anne Herbert. All in favor motion approved 7-0.
- *Motion to approve HAST Conflict of Interest Policy-* Anne Herbert motioned; seconded by Owana Miller. All in favor motion approved 7-0.
- *Motion to approve HAST Seclusion and Restraint Plan-* Howard Cohen motioned; seconded by Rita Brusca-Vega. All in favor motion approved 7-0.
- *Motion to approve HAST Criminal Background Policy-* Owana Miller motioned; seconded by Janet Venecz. All in favor motion approved 7-0.
- *Motion to adjourn board meeting-* Janet Venecz motioned; seconded by Owana Miller. All in favor motion approved 7-0.

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New Correspondence

none

School Leader Report
HAST Board Meeting

Discussion Notes

- Kris Sakelarlis reported on the presentation meeting she had, along with Mark McLaughlin, Mahdee Iqbal, Kevin Smith and Dave Ryan, with Calumet College for a possible partnership on our charter school reauthorization plan. The meeting focused primarily on our academic scores and our financials. All members reported walking out of the meeting feeling confident. Kris predicts a timeline of early January for finding out their response.
- The Indiana DOE reported the following letter grades for the previous year: B for HAST middle school and D for HAST high school. Dr. Egan has again asked the state for clarification on why several of our data points (graduation rate) are still not being counted towards the letter grade configuration. Dr. Egan reported that HAST is still seen as a case study for charter school grading for the state.
- New parent board member Rita Brusca-Vega introduced herself to the board. She has 2 daughters at HAST, a 10th and 12th grader. She is also a professor at Purdue University Calumet.
- Rita Brusca-Vega proposed the creation of an academic/curriculum group from the Board that would meet regularly to assist HAST teachers as well as work with Purdue University Calumet staff to bring more resources and support to HAST. The group would consist of Rita Brusca-Vega, Owana Miller and Howard Cohen. They would meet with Dr. Egan prior to any meeting with PUC.

Board Financial Inquires

- Mahdee Iqbal went over the following payments from the Accounts Payable Voucher:
 - \$20,100.00 to Hutton & Hutton for gym replacement
 - \$3,830.00 to Advantage Signs Inc for HAST wear
 - \$5,680.00 to Apple, Inc. for Special Education iPads; this is paid by special ed dollars
 - \$2,740.00 to Kuhn Specialty Flooring for gym floor coating
 - \$3,311.00 to Tri-Electronics for front door repair and scoreboard repairs
- Howard Cohen inquired if there were any looming financial issues. Mahdee reported we would be making our general insurance payment this September. Last year it was around \$70,000 and this year he's expecting a slight increase because of the gym floor flooding.

New Business

Meeting Adjourned at 5:19 p.m.