

HAMMOND URBAN ACADEMY, INC.
School Board Meeting Minutes Noted

June 19, 2014

In Attendance:

Board Members:

Kris Sakelaris (Board President)
Mark McLaughlin (Board Member)
Sheldon Cutler (Board Member)
Dave Ryan (Board Member)
Heather Cook (Board Member)
Janet Venecz (Board Member)

School Representatives

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

Not in Attendance:

Owana Miller (Board Member)
Jerry Gomez (Board Member)
Howard Cohen (Board Member)
Robert Lendi (Board Member)
Kris Kantar (City of Hammond, Legal Counsel)
Kevin Smith (Attorney)

Board meeting was called to order at 4:17 p.m by Board president Kris Sakelaris.

Motions Approved by School Board

- *Motion to approve April 9th, 2014 meeting minutes-* Janet Venecz motioned; seconded by Dave Ryan. All in favor motion approved 6-0.
- *Motion to approve May 15th, 2014 meeting minutes-* Janet Venecz motioned; seconded by Dave Ryan. All in favor motion approved 6-0.
- *Motion to approve finance report-* Sheldon Cutler motioned; seconded by Heather Cook. All in favor motion approved 6-0.
- *Motion to approve 2014-15 budget-* Sheldon Cutler motioned; seconded by Dave Ryan. All in favor motion approved 6-0.
- *Motion to approve 2% pay raise for current HAST staff-* Sheldon Cutler motioned; seconded by Dave Ryan. All in favor motion approved 6-0.
- *Motion to use RDS raw data to change grades for all students affected-* Heather Cook motioned; seconded by Dave Ryan. All in favor motion approved 6-0.
- *Motion to earmark \$500 for grade adjustments from RDS raw data-* Dave Ryan motioned; seconded by Sheldon Cutler. All in favor motion approved 6-0.
- *Motion to appoint Ann Herbert to the board as a new member replacing Rick Calinski's departure-* Dave Ryan motioned; seconded by Sheldon Cutler.

HAMMOND URBAN ACADEMY, INC.
School Board Meeting Minutes Noted

- *Motion to approve current staff teacher contracts as well as new contracts for Angela Hehn and Adam Erier for 2014-15 school year-* Sheldon Cutler motioned; seconded by Janet Venecz. All in favor motion approved 6-0.

New Correspondence

- Correspondence received from board member Jerry Gomez that he wishes be included in the minutes. Jerry is urging the board to approve the purchase of the raw data for our current and next year's senior class. This data will allow the school to recalculate the students GPA's and give them the same opportunities that other district students have.

School Leader Report
HAST Board Meeting

Discussion Notes

- LaTysha Sanders reported that she has so far collected \$27,600 in past dues. For current dues, she has collected \$91,101.47. The outstanding balance currently hovers around \$60,000. The collection process involves sending electronic letters as well as notifying parents notified that they would be unable to register students for the upcoming school year unless dues were paid in full or payment plans were in place. Graduating seniors were notified they would not receive diplomas without full payment of all dues.
- Faith Church has moved in and they will now be receiving invoices for their monthly rental. The sound in the gym has greatly improved with the addition of equipment purchased by them for their Sunday services.
- Dr. Egan informed the board that he will be out of the country for the next 2 weeks.
- The Finance Committee last week met with Ziegler who gave a presentation as to the future refinancing of the bond in 2015.
- Raw data from RDS has been purchased. Board discussed where to use the data and agreed to change the grades for all students affected. The old grading scale (100-92 A, 91-83 B, 82-78 C, 77-66 D, 65 F) was harder than the traditional 10 point scale. The new grading scale (100-90 A, 89-80 B, 79-70 C, 69-60 D, 59 F) is more in line with other district schools. The student percentages will remain as is but their letter grade will be adjusted to reflect the new data.
- Motion was also discussed and passed as to the payment for these changes. Dr. Egan suggested guidance counselors come in and work on an hourly basis until all adjustments have been made. Board earmarked \$500 to be used to pay counselors.
- Mark McLaughlin nominated Ann Herbert as a potential board fill in for Rick Calinski's vacancy. She is an active member of the community as well as HAST. She is African-American and the board feels its important to maintain its diversity. Janet Venecz vouched for Ann's character, informing the board that she is a volunteer with the Red Cross and is frequently deployed to areas of disaster. She also volunteers at the soup kitchen and is an all-around civil minded person.
- Dr. Egan reported the reduction of 2.5 staff positions for 2014-15 school year. No staff members were let go, one teacher left to pursue other interests and Doug Kman is replacing Carrie Hutton's departure. He also puts before the board contracts for new staff members Angela Hehn and Adam Erier.

HAMMOND URBAN ACADEMY, INC.
School Board Meeting Minutes Noted

- The June board meeting will be changed from July 17th to July 14th in lieu of the Festival by the Lakes taking place the week of July 17th.

Board Financial Inquires

- Sheldon Cutler inquired why we are paying 2 monthly phone bills (Midwest Telecom of America is listed twice in the monthly report.) Mahdee Iqbal reported that it takes us approximately 10 days to issue a check and depending on when the invoices arrive, some get paid late. Midwest Telecom has a 30 day grace period for payments so no late fee was attached to the bill.
- Sheldon inquired as to the trustee fee of \$1700. Mahdee explained this was the annual bond trustee fee.

New Business

-No public comments

Meeting Adjourned at 4:55 p.m.