

HAMMOND URBAN ACADEMY, INC.
School Board Meeting Minutes Noted

October 20, 2022

In Attendance:

Board Members:

Kris Sakelaris (Board President)
Marty Weilgos
Janet Venecz
Dave Ryan
Jackie Perez (Parent Board Member)
Nicole Bazan (Parent Board Member)
Mira Projovic (Teacher Board Member)
Jakerria Reed (Student Board Member)
Kevin Smith (Attorney)

School Representatives

Dr. Sean Egan (School Leader)
Debbie Czmiel (Business Manager)
Joseph Guardiola (Human Resources Manager)

Not in Attendance:

Heather Garay
Owana Miller
Monica Rubio
Anne Herbert
Africa Tarver

Board meeting was called to order at 3:04 p.m by Board President Kris Sakelaris.

Motions Approved by School Board

- *Motion to approve September 2022 Meeting Minutes* — Dave Ryan motioned; seconded by Marty Weilgos. All in favor motion approved 8-0.
- *Motion to approve a new contract for Sarah Jones, 8th grade Science teacher* — Mira Projovic motioned; seconded by Marty Weilgos. All in favor approved 8-0.
- *Motion to approve August & September 2022 Financial Reports* — Janet Venecz motioned; seconded by Jackie Perez. All in favor motion approved 8-0.
- *Motion to adjourn* — Janet Venecz motioned; seconded by Jackie Perez. All in favor approved 8-0.

New Correspondence

- None

School Leader Report

Committee Reports

- **Finance Committee-** Did not meet.
- **Personnel Committee-** Did not meet.

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- **Community Relations Committee-** Committee prepared notes read by Nicole Bazan & included in the minutes
- **COVID Task Force Committee-** Did not meet.
- **Fundraising Committee-** Committee on hold until further notice.

Discussion Notes

- Student Board Member Jakerra Reed introduced herself to the Board.
- Dr. Egan updated the board on the status of the newly acquired school vans. Currently, the vans are fully insured w/ a list of staff members approved for driving. According to the insurance company, only approved HAST employees are allowed to drive the vans. He is applying for license plates, however, vans have temporary plates on them so they can be used. Any sport, club or teacher utilizing a van will pay a mileage fee, currently at \$1 a mile. This fee will go towards the maintenance & fueling of the vans.
- Nicole Bazan frequently substitute teaches in the building & gave a glowing review of the schools emergency drills. She has been in the building & witnessed several of these & is impressed with the performance of the students & staff.
- Mira Projovic brought up the soccer teams final sectionals game, where 5 players were ineligible to play because of low grades. She is grateful that the new Athletic Director, Sydney Smith, is holding players accountable for the academic standards set by the IHSAA & HAST Athletics. In the future, she would like to see more participation from coaches & parents in helping uphold these standards.

Board Financial Inquiries

New Business

Public Comment

- Evie Rimkus, HAST parent- Spoke in regards to the grade check policy for student athletes & she does not like to see them penalized for teachers who do not input grades in a timely fashion. She thinks if a student does not have the grades to participate, coaches should contact teachers to make sure all grades are in the system.
- Griselda Landa- Thanked Dr. Egan for coming to the soccer teams 1st sectionals game. She also spoke on the grade check system for student athletes & thinks some students need extra attention in academics & would like to see teachers notify coaches & players as soon as they notice grades start to slip. She said in this last instance, the coaches weren't notified until the night before the game that players were ineligible.
- Lisa Upshaw, girls Varsity Basketball coach- She did not sign up to be a driver of the school vans because as a head coach she has too many other things to worry about & does not feel comfortable driving the team. She also thinks the school needs to do a better job at retaining good coaches. She believes coaches should get a stipend increase.
- LaTanya Wright, HAST parent- She believes coaches should be considered official HAST employees so they may be qualified to drive the school vans. Driving kids to events should not fall on the parents but rather the coaches & the school.

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Meeting Adjourned at 4:12 p.m.