

HAMMOND ACADEMY

OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY



REGULAR MEETING

of the

Board of Directors

Hammond Urban Academy, Inc.

**To be held at Hammond Academy of Science and
Technology conference room**

33 Muenich Ct.

Hammond, Indiana 46320

219-852-0500

This meeting is a meeting of the School Board in public for the purpose of conducting the School business and is not to be considered a public community meeting.

There will be a time for public participation.

Public Meeting
A G E N D A
April 16, 2026

I. Call to Order

II. Roll Call to Establish a Quorum

III. Conflict of Interest Reminder

Board members are reminded to disclose any potential conflicts of interest related to items on the agenda prior to discussion and to recuse themselves as appropriate.

IV. Approval of Minutes

A. [March Minutes](#)

V. Correspondence

VI. School Board Committee Reports

- Finance Committee
- Personnel Committee *(includes recommendation for appointment of new board member)*
- Community Relations Committee
- By Laws Committee – Met on March 26, 2026

VII. Administration Reports

A. [School Leader Updates](#)

B. [CCSJ Monthly Report](#)

C. Assistant Superintendent/Principal

D. Technology Director

E. Athletic Director/Dean

F. CFO – Financial Reports

VIII. Approval of Payments (Consent Agenda)

IX. Personnel

(Employment is contingent upon new hire screening and required certification)

A. Retirement – Title I Teacher

X. New Business

A. Approval of Appointment of New Board Member

→ *Upon approval, the Board President will seat the new member.*

B. By Laws First Reading

XI. Public Comment



School Leader Report HAST Board Meeting April 16, 2026

Mission Moment

This past month has provided several opportunities to celebrate our students and staff.

We hosted a very successful Career Fair, giving our students valuable exposure to career pathways and community connections. Thank you to all of our partners and staff who participated, and a special shout out to Ms. Mis for her leadership and organization in making this event possible.

We also held our Middle School Dance on Friday night, and it was a fantastic event for our students. The energy and behavior of our students were outstanding. This was truly a team effort, with 13 staff members and all administrators present, helping to create a safe and fun environment. A huge thank you to our social worker, Mrs. Lisa James, for organizing such a successful event for our students.

Student Outcomes

As we enter an important time in the academic calendar:

- We have received preliminary SAT score reports. While these results are not yet public, we have begun reviewing the data to inform next steps and supports.
- ILEARN testing will begin next week, and we are emphasizing the importance of attendance, focus, and student effort during this testing window.

Financial Oversight

- We have begun initial budget discussions for the 2026–2027 school year, working with departments to align needs and priorities.

Leadership / Personnel Updates

We are continuing to expand opportunities for our students through future-focused programming:

- We are actively developing a Work-Based Learning Program for implementation in the 2026–2027 school year.
- This initiative is being led by Mr. Byron Clark.
- HAST is participating in a grant that includes career coaching and a new tracking platform to support student experiences and outcomes.

Strategic Discussion / Operations Updates

- We are preparing for the start of ILEARN testing next week, ensuring systems and supports are in place for a smooth administration.

Enrollment 2025-2026

Current

6 - 100
7 - 99
8 - 97
9 - 81
10 - 71
11 - 69
12 - 74 Total 591

2026-2027

6 - 89
7 - 97
8 - 98
9 - 90
10 - 80
11 - 69
12 - 68 Total 591

Waitlist 25-26

6 - 64
7 - 123
8 - 86
9 - 188

10 - 55
11 - 177
12 - 277 Total 980

Notified not registered:

7 - 3
8 - 1
9 - 1
10 - 1
11 - 1 Total 7

Class of 2026 Data

Current scholarships: \$3,923,091

April 13, 2026

Dr. Snedden, Ms. Czmiel, and HAST Board of Directors,

I am writing to formally resign from my position at Hammond Academy of Science & Technology, with my last working day being Friday, May 29, 2026.

I have genuinely valued the opportunities, experiences, and relationships I've built during my time here as an 8th-grade classroom teacher and team leader, and Title 1 team leader. HAST is truly a school that looks at the whole child while supporting innovation and autonomy for its staff. It was a pleasure spending the last 15 years of my 35 years in education at HAST.

Sincerely,
Kelli Lucito

CCSJ Charter

AUTHORITY LLC

2400 New York Avenue
Whiting, Indiana 46394

(219) 473-7770

ccsj.edu



Charter School Monthly Report

School:

March, 2026

Please Submit by April 15, 2026

Attendance Rates

MONTH: March 2026

GRADE:	ATTENDANCE RATE BY COHORT
6th	93.55%
7th	91.77%
8th	92.36%
9th	93.46%
10th	92.82%
11th	94.06%
12th	91.20%
Total:	92.72%

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DISCIPLINE

MONTH: March 2026

TOTAL NUMBER OF ENROLLED STUDENTS ELEMENTARY (K-5)	NUMBER OF UNIQUE STUDENTS THAT RECEIVED REFERRAL(S)	PERCENTAGE

TOTAL NUMBER OF ENROLLED STUDENTS MIDDLE SCHOOL (6-8)	NUMBER OF UNIQUE STUDENTS THAT RECEIVED REFERRAL(S)	PERCENTAGE
296	45	15%

TOTAL NUMBER OF ENROLLED STUDENTS HIGH SCHOOL (9-12)	NUMBER OF UNIQUE STUDENTS THAT RECEIVED REFERRAL(S)	PERCENTAGE
296	71	23.9

TOTAL NUMBER OF ENROLLED STUDENTS ELEMENTARY (K-5)	NUMBER OF SUSPENSIONS	PERCENTAGE

TOTAL NUMBER OF ENROLLED STUDENTS MIDDLE SCHOOL (6-8)	NUMBER OF SUSPENSIONS	PERCENTAGE
296	15	5.06%

TOTAL NUMBER OF ENROLLED STUDENTS HIGH SCHOOL (9-12)	NUMBER OF SUSPENSIONS	PERCENTAGE
296	1	0.3%

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HAMMOND URBAN ACADEMY, INC.
School Board Meeting Minutes Noted
March 24th, 2026

In Attendance

Board Members:

- Kris Sakelaris (Board President)
- Melissa Campbell
- Janet Venecz
- Nicole Bazan (Parent Board Member)
- Mira Projovic (Teacher Board Member)
- Megan Moore

School Representatives:

- Dr. Deb Snedden (Superintendent / School Leader)
- Jeff Wood (School Principal / Assistant Superintendent)
- Tracy Mis (Asst. Principal)
- Debbie Czmil (Chief Financial Officer)

Not in Attendance

- Lynette Montes (Student Board Member)
- Dave Ryan
- Cynthia Rangel (Parent Board Member)
- Owana Miller
- Victor Lopez
- Kevin Smith (Attorney)
- Ross Smith (Technology Director)
- Walter Woghiren (Dean of Students / Athletic Director)

The board meeting was called to order at 4:04 pm by Board President Kris Sakelaris.

- The President reported that the Board met in Executive Session on March 17th to train school board members with an outside consultant about the performance of the role of the members as public officials.

Motions Approved by School Board

- *Motion to approve February 2026 Meeting Minutes* — Janet Venecz motioned; seconded by Melissa Campbell. All in favor motion approved 6-0.
- *Motion to approve February Financials* — Megan Moore motioned; seconded by Melissa Campbell. All in favor motion approved 6-0.
- *Motion to approve the retirement of Susan Leonard-Balchak from Special Education*— Mira Projovic motioned; seconded by Janet Venecz. All in favor motion approved 6-0.
- *Motion to approve the employment of Michelle Burkholder as Instructional Aide for the remainder of the 2025-26 school year* — Melissa Campbell motioned; seconded by Megan Moore. All in favor motion approved 6-0.
- *Motion to approve the Teacher Appreciation Stipend Funding*— Megan Moore motioned; seconded by Janet Venecz. All in favor motion approved 6-0.
- *Motion to approve request for bus funding for Science Olympiad competition*— Nicole Bazan motioned; seconded by Janet Venecz. All in favor motion approved 6-0.

- *Motion to adjourn* — Megan Moore motioned; seconded by Janet Venecz All in favor approved 6-0.

New Correspondence

School Leader Report

Committee Reports

- **Finance Committee-** Committee did not report but will schedule a date to work on the annual budget.
- **Personnel Committee-** Committee did not report.
- **Community Relations Committee-** Committee did not report.
- **By Laws Committee-** Committee met on February 19th & will meet again tomorrow. They will have a report to present at the next school board meeting.

Discussion Notes

Board Financial Inquiries

New Business

Public Comment

Meeting Adjourned at 5:10 p.m.