

HAMMOND URBAN ACADEMY, INC.
School Board Meeting Minutes Noted

Jan. 14, 2016

In Attendance:

Board Members:

Kris Sakelaris (Board President)
Mark McLaughlin (Board Member)
Dave Ryan (Board Member)
Howard Cohen (Board Member)
Sheldon Cutler (Board Member)
Gus Lopez (Board Member)
Anne Herbert (Board Member)
Heather Garay (Board Member)
Owana Miller (Board Member)
Kevin Smith (Attorney)

School Representatives

Dr. Sean Egan (School Leader)
Mahdee Iqbal (Business Manager)
La Tysha Sanders (Vice Business Manager)
Mira Projovic (Staff Member)
Ross Smith (IT Director)

Not in Attendance:

Janet Venecz (Board Member)

Board meeting was called to order at 4:31 p.m by Board President Kris Sakelaris.

Motions Approved by School Board

- *Motion to approve Nov. 19, 2015 meeting minutes-* Sheldon Cutler motioned; seconded by Dave Ryan. All in favor motion approved 10-0.
- *Motion to approve Kris Sakelaris as a continued board member-* Sheldon Cutler motioned; seconded by Howard Cohen. All in favor motion approved 10-0.
- *Motion to approve Dave Ryan as a continued board member-* Anne Herbert motioned; seconded by Sheldon Cutler. All in favor motion approved 10-0.
- *Motion to approve November financial report-* Sheldon Cutler motioned; seconded by Dave Ryan. All in favor motion approved 10-0.
- *Motion to approve Memorandum of Understanding with Hammond Park District-* Sheldon Cutler motioned; seconded by Gus Lopez. All in favor motion approved 10-0.
- *Motion to approve Common School Loan application-* Sheldon Cutler motioned; seconded by Owana Miller. All in favor motion approved 10-0.
- *Motion to approve Resolution for Bond Refinance-* Anne Herbert motioned; seconded by Owana Miller. All in favor motion approved 10-0.

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- *Motion to approve contract for Eric Speer as new HAST gym teacher-* Anne Herbert motioned; seconded by Howard Cohen. All in favor motion approved 10-0.
- *Motion to approve Sheldon Cutler as HAST board treasurer-* Dave Ryan motioned; seconded by Mark McLaughlin. All in favor approved 10-0.
- *Motion to approve Owana Miller as HAST board secretary-* Sheldon Cutler motioned; seconded by Gus Lopez. All in favor approved 10-0.
- *Motion to approve Kris Sakelaris as HAST board president-* Sheldon Cutler motioned; seconded by Dave Ryan. All in favor approved 10-0.
- *Motion to adjourn-* Sheldon Cutler motioned; seconded by Howard Cohen. All in favor approved 10-0.

New Correspondence

- Mayor McDermott sent a letter requesting the continued appointment of Kris Sakelaris as a HAST board member. Board motioned & approved the appointment.
- South Shore Chamber of Commerce sent a letter requesting the continued appointment of Dave Ryan as a HAST board member. Board motioned & approved the appointment.

School Leader Report

Committee Reports

- **Fundraising Committee-** The Committee met on December 15th & created a plan to establish a fundraising event at HAST to occur this spring. There would be a social hour between 6 to 7pm at the HUB followed by a talent show at HAST. Anne Herbert & Lori Lambert volunteered to be part of the activities committee.
- **Personnel Committee-** Did not meet.
- **Finance Committee-** Did not report.

Discussion Notes

- Kris Sakelaris passed out terms for individual board members.
- After reporting a slight dip in student enrollment currently, Lori Lambert asked Dr. Egan if we call to recruit new students mid year. Dr. Egan replied, yes, we typically call after the 1st semester.
- After much conversation, Dr. Egan was informed by Faith Church that they will not be renewing their lease when it ends January 31. They will be moving into a much smaller location because their enrollment declined significantly. They will be taking all equipment not currently installed in the gym. However, they will continue their philanthropic relationship with HAST.
- Common School Loan Approval- The board motioned & accepted a loan from the State to restructure the current bond. This restructuring would reduce the current payments as well as adjust the interest rate from 6.5% to 1%. The restructuring would result in significant savings for the school.
- The board motioned & approved the contract for Eric Speer as the new gym teacher. He will also be taking over the position of Athletic Director.

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- Kris Sakelaris welcomed Lori Lambert as the new Parent board member.

Board Financial Inquiries

- Audit Report- Mahdee Iqbal reports there is still a weekly email requesting more information from the auditing firm. He is confident this matter will be wrapped up next week.

New Business

Public Comment

- Michael & Michelle Elliot, parents to sophomore Hannah Elliot, spoke about their disappointment in the cancellation of the girls basketball season. They would like to know why the season was cancelled & whether fees would be reimbursed for parents that paid. Also, Michelle inquired about PSAT scores. She would like a clarification as to why she still hasn't received her daughter's scores.

Meeting Adjourned at 5:16 p.m.