

HAMMOND URBAN ACADEMY, INC.
School Board Meeting Minutes Noted

March 17, 2016

In Attendance:

Board Members:

Kris Sakelaris (Board President)
Howard Cohen (Board Member)
Owana Miller (Board Member)
Gus Lopez (Board Member)
Anne Herbert (Board Member)
Janet Venecz (Board Member)
Lori Lambert (Board Member)
Kevin Smith (Attorney)

School Representatives

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

Not in Attendance:

Mark McLaughlin (Board Member)
Sheldon Cutler (Board Member)
Dave Ryan (Board Member)
Heather Garay (Board Member)
Ross Smith (IT Director)
La Tysha Sanders (Vice Business Manager)

Board meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m by Board President Kris Sakelaris.

Motions Approved by School Board

- *Motion to approve Feb.11, 2016 meeting minutes-* Anne Herbert motioned; seconded by Owana Miller. All in favor motion approved 8-0.
- *Motion to approve February financial report-* Howard Cohen motioned; seconded by Anne Herbert. All in favor motion approved 8-0.
- *Motion to approve contract approvals for Sarah Pajkos (Guidance Counselor) & Kris Feitshans (Math/PLTW teacher)-* Gus Lopez motioned; seconded by Owana Miller. All in favor motion approved 8-0.
- *Motion to approve school calendar for 2016-17-* Janet Venecz motioned; seconded by Lori Lambert. All in favor motion approved 8-0.
- *Motion to approve budget for the 2016-17 school year-* Anne Herbert motioned; seconded by Howard Cohen. All in favor motion approved 8-0.
- *Motion to authorize attorney Kevin Smith to negotiate a license for space for 10 days in June/July-* Howard Cohen; seconded by Janet Venecz. All in favor motion approved 8-0.

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- *Motion to adjourn-* Owana Miller motioned; seconded by Janet Venecz. All in favor approved 8-0.

New Correspondence

- The HAST Athletic Director sent an email informing the Board about a golf outing fundraiser to be held on July 25th.

School Leader Report

Committee Reports

- **Fundraising Committee-** Committee met & is getting ready to send out a letter to almost 100 organizations for sponsorship for the spring fundraising event. They will be asking for volunteers to start calling on these companies to follow up on sponsorship. The event will be held on April 29th, 5:30pm at Lakeshore Chamber & 7pm at HAST for student talent show. 22 acts have already been auditioned & set to perform. Dave Ryan has been soliciting donations of food & drink for the event. Tickets can be purchased for \$20 in advance and \$25 at the door. Kris Sakelar is commends the group for doing a fantastic job so far. Dr. Egan will disburse tickets to board members to try & sell. Howard Cohen is asking for Board Members to consider being sponsors of the event.
- **Personnel Committee-** Kris Sakelar is asking the committee to prepare for Dr. Egan's annual evaluation.
- **Finance Committee-**

Discussion Notes

- Kris Sakelar is proposing a discussion of adding a teacher board member. The teacher position would be similar to the parent board member, in regards to it being a yearly position & not a calendar position. Speaking in support of the idea are Dr. Egan & Lori Lambert. Kris said the idea originally wasn't welcomed because of a conflict of interest. She would like feedback from other board members & to possibly put it on the agenda for the following month. Gus Lopez mentioned the idea of having the teacher member recuse themselves during any voting. Kevin Smith shares same concerns involving confidentiality matters. In protection of the board, he recommends safeguards be in place that the board could use. Kris suggested this member be excused from executive session. The meetings are open to the public so there isn't too much that they couldn't be a part of. The idea was then brought up on possibly having a student board member. Early on in HAST's creation, the idea of having a student & teacher board member was entertained but scrapped because there was simply too much going on. These ideas will be added to the May agenda. Lori Lambert gave the idea of not having parent, teacher & student members in the executive sessions. The Board can also reject any appointees.
- Other high schools in Hammond are having a voting registration drive. Kris & Dr. Egan would like to have this at HAST. March 29th, Tuesday after break, 11am to 1pm. Someone will come

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in that day to run the drive. Any student who is 18 years old before the November election is eligible to sign-up. We'll be using the federal form.

Board Financial Inquiries

- Mahdee Iqbal mentioned there would be a 15% decrease in bond expenses.
- Mahdee Iqbal sent board members an update to the 2015 Audit. Included in the minutes.
- \$2700 paid to Lansing Sports Shop for gym uniforms.

New Business

Public Comment

Meeting Adjourned at 5:13 p.m.