

HAMMOND URBAN ACADEMY, INC.
School Board Meeting Minutes Noted

Nov 19, 2015

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)
Janet Venecz (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:

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

Motions Approved by School Board

- *Motion to approve Oct. 15, 2015 meeting minutes-* Sheldon Cutler motioned; seconded by Howard Cohen. All in favor motion approved 11-0.
- *Motion to approve Lori Lambert as the new parent board member-* Mark McLaughlin motioned; seconded by Dave Ryan. All in favor motion approved 11-0.
- *Motion to approve October financial reports & payments-* Sheldon Cutler motioned; seconded by Dave Ryan. All in favor motion approved 11-0.
- *Motion to approve the HAST Student Travel Policy-* Howard Cohen motioned; seconded by Owana Miller. All in favor motion approved 11-0.
- *Motion to adjourn-* Sheldon Cutler motioned; seconded by Gus Lopez. All in favor approved 11-0.

New Correspondence

None

School Leader Report

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Committee Reports

- **Fundraising Committee-** Owana Miller & Howard Cohen met with South Shore Arts & reported discouraging news for their art auction idea. The idea would involve too much work for too little of a payout. Kris Sakelaris suggested they contact politicians & celebrities for a personal “doodle” & auctioned those off. The committee will meet again to discuss this idea as well as others.
- **Personnel Committee-** The committee has selected Lori Lambert as the new parent Board Member.
- **Finance Committee-** Did not report.

Discussion Notes

- The old auditing firm of McGladry & Fitzgerald is in communication with the new auditing firm to exchange past files. Kevin Smith gave approval for the \$5,000 settlement.
- Dr. Egan reported HAST received the highest monetary award from the state than any other charter school.
- Gus Lopez, Kris Sakelaris & Howard Cohen created a Student Travel Policy for all educational travel done by HAST students as a school activity. The policy states HAST will sponsor educational trips that go thru certified educational vendors, but they the vendor will accept all liability as well as organize & implement any/all financial arrangements.
- Ross Smith, HAST IT Director, gave a detailed report on the cyber security system the school has in place. Kris Sakelaris inquired if there was any private information retained by HAST that outsiders could tap into. Ross replied no. He has taken extra measures to make sure our system is as protected as possible. (Report included in the minutes)
- The lease for Faith Church is set to expire at the end of January & they have inquired about a reduction in rental payment for the next lease. Church membership has declined considerably & they can no longer afford to pay the monthly rent at HAST. The current lease is for \$5,000 a month. The board approved the plan to negotiate with the church in hopes that they stay as tenants to HAST.
- Kris Sakelaris requested no December board meeting.

Board Financial Inquiries

- \$77,852.00 paid to Hammond National Company for insurance. Sheldon Cutler implored for HAST to shop around for other insurance carriers when this contract has terminated.
- \$680.00 paid to Mechanical Concepts for the repair of 2 moving classroom walls.

New Business

Public Comment

None

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Meeting Adjourned at 5:07 p.m.