

HAMMOND URBAN ACADEMY, INC.
School Board Meeting Minutes Noted

Oct 15, 2015

In Attendance:

Board Members:

Dave Ryan (Board Member)
Howard Cohen (Board Member)
Sheldon Cutler (Board Member)
Owana Miller (Board Member)
Gus Lopez (Board Member)
Anne Herbert (Board Member)

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:

Kris Sakelaris (Board President)
Mark McLaughlin (Board Member)
Janet Venecz (Board Member)
Heather Garay (Board Member)
Kevin Smith (Attorney)

Board meeting was called to order at 4:03 p.m by Board member Dave Ryan.

Motions Approved by School Board

- *Motion to approve Sep. 17, 2015 meeting minutes-* Anne Herbert motioned; seconded by Howard Cohen. All in favor motion approved 6-0.
- *Motion to approve September financial reports & payments-* Sheldon Cutler motioned; seconded by Owana Miller. All in favor motion approved 6-0.
- *Motion to have Kevin Smith look into the settlement offer from McGladry Auditing Firm-* Sheldon Cutler motioned; seconded by Owana Miller. All in favor motion approved 6-0.
- *Motion to adjourn-* Sheldon Cutler motioned; seconded by Anne Herbert. All in favor approved 6-0.

New Correspondence

None

School Leader Report

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Committee Reports

- **Fundraising Committee-** Howard Cohen & Dave Ryan reported taking the next step in the Art Raffle Event by setting up a meeting with South Shore Arts as a possible partner. The event would be held at the Hammond Innovation Center.
- **Personnel Committee-** The committee has met with 3 possible candidates but they have no recommendations yet.
- **Finance Committee-** Did not report.

Discussion Notes

- The demographics of HAST students has shifted with 56% Hispanic, 20.4% White, 19% African-American & 3.4% Multi-racial. Dr. Egan noted that other Hammond schools are reflecting the same changes as well.
- For 1st quarter report cards, 38% of all students made honor roll, specifically, 36% of middle schoolers & 54% of high schoolers. Dr. Egan said the teachers & administrators are looking to create reward systems for these students, particularly since school rules have increased considerably this year.
- Audit update: While asking for the school documents, the new auditing firm was informed by the old auditing firm that HAST has an outstanding balance of \$8,000. However, they are offering a settlement proposal of \$5,000. They are requiring this payment be made in full in order for the debt to be cleared & all documents be released. Sheldon Cutler suggested Kevin Smith look into this matter as well as the possibility of future legal recourse. The Board motioned for payment pending on Kevin's review of the matter.
- Sheldon Cutler inquired if HAST was doing enough to protect itself in our online banking. He suggested a separate computer to be used strictly for banking. He also suggested the Board look into cyber insurance as he sees this as the next big crime wave to hit the country.
- HAST received a \$1,000 grant from the Hammond Optimist Club to be given to the science Olympiad teachers as a stipend for sponsoring the club.
- Ms. Mace, 6th grade Global Studies teacher, presented a proposal to the Board for all interested students to take an 8-day, educational trip to Costa Rica in June 2017. Dave Ryan recommended the Board take a closer look at the trip & the policy offered from the travel agency before making a determination. Dr. Egan said the travel agency, EducationFirst, is a great company & he gives his personal green light. Gus Lopez, Howard Cohen & Dave Ryan volunteered to look into the trip more closely.

Board Financial Inquiries

- \$52,576.88 spent on Stipends, up 175%. Mahdee Iqbal reports this amount is not in the regular budget & will be reimbursed by the State.
- \$7,925.00 spent on Testing & Evaluation Supplies. Mahdee says this was for NWEA testing & he has filed a reimbursement from the State. Previously, Ball State paid this fee but now HAST is responsible for it. However, Indiana has a grant that HAST is eligible for.
- \$26,978.95 for Computer Hardware/Technology. This amount is covered by a grant from Nextec for a new cart w/ laptops.

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New Business

Public Comment

None

Meeting Adjourned at 5:12 p.m.