

HAMMOND URBAN ACADEMY, INC.
School Board Meeting Minutes Noted

October 20, 2016

In Attendance:

Board Members:

Kris Sakelaris (Board President)
Howard Cohen (Board Member)
Gus Lopez (Board Member)
Janet Venecz (Board Member)
Lori Lambert (Board Member)
Mark McLaughlin (Board Member)
Kevin Smith (Attorney)

School Representatives

Dr. Sean Egan (School Leader)
Mira Projovic (Staff Member)
Dennis Small (Business Manager)

Not in Attendance:

Dave Ryan (Board Member)
Sheldon Cutler (Board Member)
Owana Miller (Board Member)
Anne Herbert (Board Member)
Heather Garay (Board Member)
Arthur Young (Dean of Students)
Ross Smith (IT Director)

Board meeting was called to order at 4:06 p.m by Board President Kris Sakelaris.

Motions Approved by School Board

- *Motion to approve amended September 15, 2016 meeting minutes-* Gus Lopez motioned; seconded by Janet Venecz. All in favor motion approved 7-0.
- *Motion to approve Aug. Finance Reports-* Gus Lopez motioned; seconded by Howard Cohen. All in favor motion approved 7-0.
- *Motion to approve teacher contract for Jason Meyer, new 10th grade Global Studies teacher—* Howard Cohen motioned; seconded by Gus Lopez. All in favor motion approved 7-0.
- *Motion to approve HAST Facility Use Agreement contract with Respite Care Services—*Howard Cohen motioned; seconded by Gus Lopez. All in favor motion approved 7-0.
- *Motion to adjourn-* Sheldon Cutler motioned; seconded by Janet Venecz. All in favor approved 7-0.

New Correspondence

- None

School Leader Report

Committee Reports

- **Finance Committee-** Did not report.

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- **Fundraising Committee-** Did not report.
- **Personnel Committee-** Did not report.

Discussion Notes

- The Board discussed proper protocol for members voting on motions. An amendment was made to the September minutes & approved by board members.
- Howard Cohen & Sheldon Cutler are requesting monthly financial reports be sent to board members with more time for review. Currently, HAST is using an outside service which doesn't issue reports until after the 15th of the month. Depending on which day of the week this falls on, it sometimes leaves only a few days for reports to be sent to members for review. This system is unacceptable to Dr. Egan who would like the information to arrive at HAST by the Monday of the week of the school board meeting. If the information is submitted later than Monday, board members do not have enough time to thoroughly review. A suggestion was made to delay ratification of the financial reports to the following month & Kris Sakelaris inquired if this would be acceptable protocol. Sheldon Cutler wasn't present at the meeting therefore he couldn't answer the question. Mr. Small spoke to someone at the service agency who reported they handle several other schools who all have the same timeline. Dr. Egan is asking that Mr. Small be given 1 more month to try & rectify this problem. Kris Sakelaris is requesting a deferment of voting on September payments until next month's meeting.
- Kris Sakelaris would like to have her annual staff/board holiday party at her house on Saturday December 17th.

Board Financial Inquiries

- In response to a correspondence from the president of the local Chamber of Commerce inquiring as to how much of HAST spending is actually spent in Hammond as opposed to outside sources (ex: Amazon), Dr. Egan reported \$3600 of last month's spending was with Amazon while \$45,000 was spent locally. This amount does not include payroll (many employees live in & around Hammond.)

New Business

Public Comment

- Dr. Samantha Francis spoke on behalf of her Philanthropy Club who is selling T-shirts for \$15.

Meeting Adjourned at 4:56 p.m.