

HAMMOND URBAN ACADEMY, INC.
School Board Meeting Minutes Noted

Sep 17, 2015

In Attendance:

Board Members:

Kris Sakelaris (Board President)
Mark McLaughlin (Board Member)
Dave Ryan (Board Member)
Howard Cohen (Board Member)
Anne Herbert (Board Member)
Janet Venecz (Board Member)
Heather Garay (Board Member)

School Representatives

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

Not in Attendance:

Sheldon Cutler (Board Member)
Owana Miller (Board Member)
Gus Lopez (Board Member)
Kevin Smith (Attorney)

Board meeting was called to order at 4:04 p.m by Board president Kris Sakelaris.

Motions Approved by School Board

- *Motion to approve July 23, 2015 meeting minutes-* Dave Ryan motioned; seconded by Anne Herbert. All in favor motion approved 7-0.
- *Motion to approve Aug. 20, 2015 meeting minutes-* Janet Venecz motioned; seconded by Anne Herbert. All in favor motion approved 7-0.
- *Motion to approve July & August financial reports & payments-* Mark McLaughlin motioned; seconded by Dave Ryan. All in favor motion approved 7-0.
- *Motion to approve textbook rental fees 2015-16-* Anne Herbert motioned; seconded by Dave Ryan. All in favor motion approved 7-0.
- *Motion to approve HAST application for Charter School Innovation Loan-* Anne Herbert motioned; seconded by Heather Garay. All in favor approved 7-0.
- *Motion to approve Arthur Young as Dean of Discipline-* Janet Venecz motioned; seconded by Mark McLaughlin. All in favor approved 7-0.
- *Motion to approve McGladry as the new audit firm for HAST-* Anne Herbert motioned; seconded by Janet Venecz. All in favor approved 7-0.
- *Motion to approve staff performance bonus payout schedule December 2015/May 2016-* Heather Garay motioned; seconded by Dave Ryan. All in favor approved 7-0.

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- *Motion to approve policy of no outside agency being allowed to use the HAST name without expressed approval from the Board-* Dave Ryan motioned; seconded by Janet Venecz. All in favor approved 7-0.
- *Motion to approve expenditures for initial disbursement of \$272,000 DOE grant-* Heather Garay motioned; seconded by Mark McLaughlin. All in favor approved 7-0.
- *Motion to adjourn-* Janet Venecz motioned; seconded by Heather Garay. All in favor approved 7-0.

New Correspondence

None

School Leader Report

Committee Reports

- **Fundraising Committee-** Did not report.
- **Personnel Committee-** Reported there were no replies to the parent email sent in regards to the Parent Board Member opening. Kris Sakelaris recommended re-advertising the position.
- **Finance Committee-** Did not report.

Discussion Notes

- All board members need to complete background checks.
- Dave Ryan brought up the after school pick-up situation to the Board, asking for ideas on how to alleviate the congestion of cars waiting to pick up students, inconsistent traffic flows, & students gathering in areas where they are becoming a nuisance to other businesses. He suggested Dr. Egan give the problem to students to come up with a possible solution.
- The finance committee made the formal recommendation for McGladry to become the new auditing firm for HAST because they came in with the lowest bid.
- Heather Garay further explained the staff performance bonus payout. The 2 payouts will be December 11, 2015 & May 27th 2016. All staff currently making less than \$33,000 per year were bumped up to that amount permanently. The finance committee recommended bonuses be paid out twice a year since it is still not known if these will be recurring.
- In regards to the first virtual day, Howard Cohen inquired how successful were the academics in that type of learning environment. Dr. Egan replied students overwhelmingly preferred coming to school. They found virtual day at home to be stressful & not enough time given for assignments to be completed. He said adjustments will be made for further virtual days which should make them much easier & more conducive for students & teachers.
- In regards to PUC not sending staff mentors to HAST for the 1st semester of 2015-16, Howard Cohen suggested a meeting be called between the 2 schools to see what the future holds in the partnership.

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Board Financial Inquiries

- La Tysha Sanders reported that as of Sept 17, 2015, the total amount collected in student fees is \$71,020.18. Total amount still outstanding is \$33,680,62.

New Business

Public Comment

None

Meeting Adjourned at 5:12 p.m.