

HAMMOND URBAN ACADEMY, INC.
School Board Meeting Minutes Noted

November 18, 2021

In Attendance:

Board Members:

Kris Sakelaris (Board President)
Marty Weilgos
Steve Grimm (Teacher Board Member)
Jackie Perez (Parent Board Member)
Jessica Moreno (Student Board Member)
Monica Rubio
Heather Garay
Nicole Bazan (Parent Board Member)
Kevin Smith (Attorney)

School Representatives

Dr. Sean Egan (School Leader)
Mira Projovic (Minutes Secretary)
Debbie Czmieł (Business Manager)

Not in Attendance:

Janet Venecz
Africa Tarver
Anne Herbert
Dave Ryan
Owana Miller

Board meeting was called to order at 4:07 p.m by Board President Kris Sakelaris.

Motions Approved by School Board

- *Motion to approve October 2021 meeting minutes* — Marty Weilgos motioned; seconded by Monica Rubio. All in favor motion approved 8-0.
- *Motion to approve October 2021 Financial Reports* — Monica Rubio motioned; seconded by Heather Garay. All in favor motion approved 8-0.
- *Motion to approve FMLA Policy* — Marty Weilgos motioned; seconded by Monica Rubio. All in favor motion approved 8-0.
- *Motion to approve the audit results as presented to the finance committee* — Heather Garay motioned; seconded by Marty Weilgos. All in favor motion approved 8-0.
- *Motion to approve employee contract for April Flores (7th Grade ELA)* — Marty Weilgos motioned; seconded by Steve Grimm. All in favor motion approved 8-0.
- *Motion to approve continuing virtual learning on Wednesdays for the 3rd Quarter* — Marty Weilgos motioned; seconded by Heather Garay. All in favor motion approved 8-0.
- *Motion to adjourn* — Marty Weilgos motioned; seconded by Monica Rubio. All in favor approved 8-0.

New Correspondence

- No correspondence

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School Leader Report

Committee Reports

- **Finance Committee-** Did not meet however Heather Garay sent members the updated version of the FMLA Policy. Board voted to approve the policy. Steve Grimm requested time to allow teachers to look over the policy.
- Committee met with the Auditors to discuss the Bad Debt policy.

- **Personnel Committee-** Committee did not meet.

- **Fundraising Committee-** Committee on hold until further notice.

- **COVID Task Force Committee-** Committee did not meet.

Discussion Notes

- Ms. Taskoff, HAST Special Education director, presented to the board. She gave a summary of her roll at HAST.
- Members from the CLA Audit Firm gave board members a proposal for providing future professional services.
- Ashley Lund, HAST Guidance counselor, presented to the board a proposal for a HAST suicidal ideation protocol. Kris Sakelaris will give the policy to Kevin Smith to look over. Heather Garay inquired if Lund has looked into policies utilized by other schools & if so, to please forward them to Kevin for further inquiry.
- In the attempt to purchase the 3 vacant lots adjacent to the parking lot, Kris Sakelaris reported the judge has approved the commissioners sale. because of the outstanding taxes belonging to the buildings. HAST has paid these taxes & should be getting the deeds in 30-40 days.
- On Monday, November 15, HAST students & staff collaborated with the Food Bank of Northwest Indiana to host a mobile market. Community families were able to receive turkeys, preserved foods & produce to increase food security & celebrate Thanksgiving. In total, 577 individuals across 166 households were served.

Board Financial Inquiries

New Business

Public Comment

- Nia Lett, HAST senior, spoke on behalf of the Cheerleading team who have been denied the purchase of new uniforms for the season from the Athletic Director. They are unhappy because they have offered to fundraise & even pay the fees themselves.
- Mrs. Lett, Nia Lett's mother also spoke on the issue of cheerleading uniforms. She believes her daughter & other girls have been bullied & body shamed by the AD. She is asking for Lisa Sarwacinski, the current AD, to step down in her role.
- Miles Roberts, Middle School Basketball Coach, spoke on the decline he has seen in HAST athletics. He believes the passion & enjoyment has slowly been leaving. Athletes are allowed to play with Ds & Fs & behavior problems. He's seen a decline in the grade point average. Last season, he had 19 players & 12 were ineligible to play. But he was told to play them anyway. He also asks that the AD steps down from her position.

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Meeting Adjourned at 6:05 p.m.