

HAMMOND URBAN ACADEMY, INC.
School Board Meeting Minutes Noted

August 18, 2022

In Attendance:

Board Members:

Kris Sakelaris (Board President)
Marty Weilgos
Janet Venecz
Owana Miller
Jackie Perez (Parent Board Member)
Nicole Bazan (Parent Board Member)
Mira Projovic (Teacher Board Member)

In Attendance via Zoom:

Monica Rubio
Anne Herbert
Jakerria Reed (Student Board Member)

School Representatives

Dr. Sean Egan (School Leader)
Debbie Czmieł (Business Manager)

Not in Attendance:

Dave Ryan
Africa Tarver
Heather Garay
Kevin Smith (Attorney)
Joseph Guardiola (Human Resources Manager)

Board meeting was called to order at 4:09 p.m by Board President Kris Sakelaris.

- The President reported that the Board met in Executive Session immediately preceding this meeting to discuss a personnel matter. She further certified that this was the only subject discussed.

Motions Approved by School Board

- *Motion to approve June 2022 Meeting Minutes* — Owana Miller motioned; seconded by Marty Weilgos. All in favor motion approved 10-0.
- *Motion to approve Mira Projovic as the new Teacher Board Member & Jakerria Reed as the new Student Board Member* — Marty Weilgos motioned; seconded by Janet Venecz. All in favor approved 10-0.
- *Motion to approve a new contract for the Director of Fine Arts* — Marty Weilgos motioned; seconded by Janet Venecz. All in favor approved 10-0.
- *Motion to approve May 2022 Financial Reports* — Owana Miller motioned; seconded by Marty Weilgos. All in favor motion approved 10-0.
- *Motion to approve contracts for Walter Woghiren (Dean of Students), Sydney Smith (Athletic Director), Anthony Chester (PE/Health), Jenifer Novak (English 10) & Zachary Kizer (English 9)* — Janet Venecz motioned; seconded by Owana Miller. All in favor approved 10-0.
- *Motion to approve the Hammond Public Library proposal* — Owana Miller motioned; seconded by Marty Weilgos. All in favor motion approved 10-0.

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- *Motion to approve 94 Feet Elite gym renewal* — Mira Projovic motioned; seconded by Nicole Bazan. All in favor motion approved 10-0.
- *Motion to approve a \$100 meeting stipend for the Minutes Secretary* — Owana Miller motioned; seconded by Jackie Perez. All in favor motion approved 10-0.
- *Motion to adjourn* — Owana Miller motioned; seconded by Nicole Bazan. All in favor approved 10-0.

New Correspondence

- None

School Leader Report

Committee Reports

- **Finance Committee-** Did not meet.
- **Personnel Committee-** Did not meet.
- **Fundraising Committee-** Committee on hold until further notice.
- **COVID Task Force Committee-** Did not meet. However, Dr. Egan mentioned the revised COVID policies, which have been downsized to match the new CDC guidelines:
 - Infected students will stay home for 5 days. Exposed students no longer have to quarantine.
 - Lockers & water stations are back open.
 - No desk dividers.
 - Masks are optional & available for any students/staff who request one.

Discussion Notes

- Kris Sakelaris reminded the board that this will be Dr. Egan's last year as HAST principal & she thanked him for his many years of service.
- Rene Greenleaf from the Hammond Public Library gave a summary of the program the library is offering to all HAST students. The program has been giving every student in Hammond access to the Hammond Public Library. They eliminated old library cards, outstanding fees & issuing a new, free library card. Moving forward, students will not incur any late fees. Only fees for damaged or destroyed material will be issued. The Library would like to extend this program to all HAST students & staff. They ask the school to agree to give student information to the library so they can access the cards. This has been a very successful program with other Hammond public schools & they're now excited to be offering it to HAST.
- The board decided to extend the renewal for 94 Feet Elite gym rental from 6 months to 1 year.

Board Financial Inquiries

New Business

Public Comment

- Coach Holcomb spoke in support of needing vans for athletic events. He has a problem getting his team to events. Last year, he had to pay \$1200 out of his own pocket to cover a scratch on a rented van.
- Parent Flor Carranza spoke in support of needing vans for athletic events, the soccer field where the team plays is inadequate & the HAST lunch room is inadequate for all the students eating lunch.
- Daniel Escalante spoke in support of the previous Athletic Director, Lisa Sarwacinski.

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- Parent Griselda Landa spoke in support of needing vans for athletic events, the soccer field being inadequate as well as the bathrooms players must use as changing rooms.
- Parent Angelica Gonzalez inquired about school safety, the school lunch being underwhelming & why Open House didn't occur earlier to give parents an opportunity to meet teachers. She is also asking if emergency procedures & safety drill schedules can be sent to all parents.
- Student Gabriel Reyes & Coach Viane Landa spoke in support of needing vans for athletic events, poor field conditions & inadequate bathrooms players must use during events. Gabe suggested using the newly acquired land to build an athletic field.
- Parent Sylvia Salazar asked why students are sharing lockers. She thinks this is a safety concern. She also would like to see the training drills procedures & schedules for emergency situations. Finally, she expressed concern for the student lunchroom, if there enough tables & chairs to accommodate everyone.
- Student Natalia Gonzalez expressed issues she has had with Sydney Smith, the new Athletic Director, & would like to see communication improve between the AD & athletes.
- Parent Maribel Aguire spoke in support of needing vans for athletic events & what the \$250 athletic fee covers. She says she has paid the fee for her athlete but it doesn't cover uniform or transportation.
- Parent Marisol Manley spoke in support of the previous Athletic Director, Lisa Sarwacinski. She also would like better communication from the school leaders on questions regarding school fees & athletic concerns.

Meeting Adjourned at 5:14 p.m.