

Indianapolis Classical Schools Board Meeting
Via Zoom
August 17, 2021

Board members present were Patrick Chittenden, John Watson, Keith Steiner, Dave Sternberg, Adrian Miller, Mindy Cunningham, Dan Roy, Mark Nottingham, Caryl West, David Steele, Brenda Roper, Mary Ann Sullivan, Mac McWhirter, Carolyn Mosby, and Meggie Dials. Staff present were Janet McNeal, Katie Dorsey, Jonathan Harris, Anne Deckard, Tenika Holden-Flynn, Juli Woodrum, Jennifer Neher Sommers, and Karen Lalioff.

Mr. Watson called the meeting to order and a quorum of the Board was present.

The leaders of each school, Herron High School, Riverside High School, and Herron Preparatory Academy, provided a report on the start of the school year.

Ms. Deckard reported that HHS students are excited to be back, though some are apprehensive given they have not been in school full-time in over a year. Freshman and Sophomore students are becoming acclimated to being in the facility, which is largely unfamiliar to them, but they are doing well. Some classes are taking place at the Harrison Center.

Dr. Holden-Flynn reported on HPA's opening. Parents were contacted individually about the need to start temporarily at RHS and were very supportive. Students are learning processes and procedures for school. HPA is off to a strong start with 119 students. Staff has worked incredibly hard to adjust to the temporary location.

Ms. Dorsey provided a report for RHS. Students are excited to be back in person and showing good engagement. Teachers are continuing to perform well. The school's enrollment is good.

Ms. Dorsey also provided an overview of updated Covid protocols. Because social distancing is largely impossible, there is a need for contact tracing and longer periods of quarantine for those who are unvaccinated and are exposed to someone with Covid. We are following CDC guidance on the issue. Given the learning loss, disruption, health consequences, and overall negative effects of Covid exposure, and the benefits of vaccination, the Board discussed whether it would be possible to incentivize staff to provide proof of vaccination. It is estimated that more than 80 percent of staff already are fully vaccinated, but it is helpful with logistics when Covid exposure occurs to know who is fully vaccinated. The Board voted unanimously to approve an incentive program that will provide \$100 to staff who provide proof of full vaccination by September 30, with such program also to include education regarding vaccination and information about how to get vaccinated.

The June 2021 minutes were approved.

Mr. Nottingham led an update regarding the HPA permanent location. We have continued to work with potential partners on sites downtown. Our timeline and the timelines of the potential partners may not be the same, as we would like to begin planning and permitting as soon as we are able to do so. Other potential sites have been evaluated, but have not worked for one reason or another.

Mr. Watson provided an update on the modulars for HPA. The out-of-pocket costs are projected to be approximately \$700,000, which is roughly \$400,000 more than expected. These additional costs were due largely to soil and underground utility issues that were not anticipated.

Ms. Lalioff presented the Board with assurances forms from OEI related to Open Door Law and policy on reporting incidents to OEI. Mr. Roy expressed his concern with the ODL certification, as it would require Board members to certify both that they read and understood the statute, which he said can be difficult even for lawyers to understand. Ms. Sullivan expressed similar concerns. Mr. Roy will prepare a modified certification to be distributed to members of the Board, and Board members who are comfortable signing the current assurance form may do so. The Board understands that our charters require us to comply with the ODL, and we wish to do so.

Mr. Miller and Ms. Woodrum provided a financial report. PPP loan forgiveness is anticipated, but not yet official. The federal funding related to the pandemic has had a positive impact on our financials. Our audit is starting, and it needs to be completed by November 30, 2021. The process for approval of vouchers was explained.

Mr. Sternberg and Ms. Summers provided a Development Committee report. We had our most successful fundraising year ever, with more than \$300,000 in traditional philanthropy, which is in addition to certain other grants we received. Board giving was 100%. All Board members are asked to give an amount that is meaningful for them, though there is no specific dollar amount requirement. Classical Cocktails will be reimaged this year with a focus more on engagement rather than giving.

Mr. Roy provided an Education Committee report, including an overview of enrollment and transportation. RHS has exceeded its enrollment projection and reports that freshman students are particularly engaged. Families were more likely to seek out RHS this year as a first choice. HHS and HPA have strong enrollment figures. Total enrollment at all three schools is currently around 1590 students, which is above budget.

Ms. McNeal provided the President's Report. The staff did a wonderful job adjusting to all the changes – on short notice – that happened this summer. The rebranding of Indianapolis Classical Schools to Herron Classical Schools that has been in process for some time is nearly ready to roll out.

The meeting was adjourned.