

Herron Classical Schools Board Meeting
August 16, 2022

Board members present were Dan Roy, Adrian Miller, Brenda Roper, Mark Nottingham, Dave Sternberg, Mindi Cunningham, Mary Ann Sullivan, Miguel Rodriguez, Meggie Dials and John Watson via zoom. Staff present were Janet McNeal, Juli Woodrum, Karen Lalioff, Emanuel Harper, Lynn House, Bethany Lowery, and Domonique Wickware-Kelly. Guests were Adam Clevenger and Nick Parkevich of Loring, Sternberg and Associates.

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

Emanuel Harper, Head of School, Herron-Riverside High School spoke about the importance of letting students know they are safe and loved ins. Instruction is the second component which will allow our students to go to college with the most scholarship dollars possible. He said he was excited to lead Herron-Riverside.

Minutes of the prior Board meeting were approved.

Mr. Roy proposed a guest policy at board meetings. His proposal included to require guests who wish to address the board to sign up prior to the start of the meeting. Allowable topics are to be limited to an agenda item. A written policy will be created for board approval.

John Watson provided the executive committee's report on the K-8 Update on the former Salvation Army building including financing plans.

Adrian Miller and Juli Woodrum provided the Treasurer's report/Fiduciary Committee Report. Woodrum reported on referendum funding from IPS and a philanthropic gift from The Mind Trust. She provided information on a new healthcare plan. Woodrum also presented information of the selection of a new audit firm that is familiar with charter school financing.

Mr. Sternberg and Bethany Lowery provided the Development Committee's report to explain the findings of the feasibility study. The findings demonstrated that HCS diversity is seen as a particular strength. Particular challenges identified include the public's lack of understanding on the state's charter school funding model, the fact that the broad geography of HCS families created made building a sense of community challenging, and the need for greater resources for extracurricular activities/sports. Ms. Lowery outlined planned steps to provide potential donors with renewed vision and to capitalize on momentum. She also reported on recently awarded grant funding and a new position being created to support fundraising events and corporate fundraising.

Mrs. McNeal provided the Education Committee's report on enrollment. HHS is fully enrolled, HRHS has good enrollment for incoming freshmen, and HPA also good numbers. She reported on participation rates for Summer Academy and that current state funding for the summer program only funded 60% of the costs. McNeal reported on staffing efforts. Recruitment was underway for a counselor and a new Head of School at HPA. SAT test results were in, with HHS ranking top in the state for black student performance and HRHS top in the state for ELL students.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

An Executive Session immediately followed to discuss the network leader's annual review. All board members were pleased by Mrs. McNeal's leadership over the last year.