

Herron Classical Schools Board Meeting
February 21, 2023

Board members present were Dan Roy, Brenda Roper, Dave Sternberg, Mindy Cunningham via zoom, Mary Ann Sullivan via zoom, Meggie Dials, Michael Allen, David Steele, Miguel Rodriguez, Keith Steiner, Mark Nottingham, Mac McWhirter, and John Watson via zoom. Staff present were Janet McNeal, Juli Woodrum, Karen Lalioff, Bethany Lowery, Casey Osterkamp, Lynn House, and Trevor Hill.

McNeal introduced Casey Osterkamp, HCS new Vice President, Operations. Osterkamp provided a summary of her work/life experience and where she derives her passion for education.

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

Minutes of the prior Board meeting were approved.

The Executive Committee provided an overview of the progress on the facilities for Herron Preparatory Academy's future home. Osterkamp reported that the work on phase one is on schedule to be completed by July 10, and the plans to break ground on the phase two is scheduled for May. A review was made of grants awarded and submitted to support HPA, as well as a grant submitted to provide technology upgrades to the HCS server and to provide HRHS students with essential technology devices. A discussion followed regarding plans to hold a ribbon cutting ceremony at HPA in August.

Reporting for the Fiduciary Committee, Woodrum provided a financial report, circulated vouchers, and gave a summary of certain financing options for HPA. She reported that she had met with Horizon to discuss the planned bond issuance and expected movement in the coming days. It was noted that the cost of steel continues to rise and it was important to sign a commitment with Brandt so the most cost-effective order could be placed before pricing climbs higher.

Sternberg and Lowery provided a report for the Development Committee. Lowery reported that the Annual Fund was behind compared to last year because most donations were going to the HPA campaign, but noted that total philanthropical giving was higher. She discussed plans to finalize a printed and digital Annual Report, and to upgrade the online giving portal to be more user-friendly. Lowery provided detail analysis of fundraising in relation to projected costs of completing the HPA campus. Watson noted the urgency of moving forward to ensure all funding is in place. Hill provided a report on Movie Night and the outreach for corporate sponsorships, noting that Cunningham Restaurant Group will be providing the food again this year.

The Education Committee provided an enrollment update for the coming school year. At the close of Enroll Indy's round one, enrollment was slightly down at both high schools compared to the same time period last year, while enrollment for HPA was nearly full. House reported that round two applications were coming in after families received their round one results. McNeal provided a report and a projection analysis of the spring mandated testing at all schools. She noted that HCA teacher, Reuben Benzel, had published a book on how to pass the SAT. She also summarized a partnership with The Mind Trust to provide test preparation to at-risk students. McNeal also reported on the charter leaders meetings she has been attending and the desire to have a formal organization to represent the interests of charter schools.

There being no more business, the meeting was adjourned.