

Herron Classical Schools Board Meeting
April 18, 2023

Board members present were Dan Roy, Adrian Miller, Mindy Cunningham, Mary Ann Sullivan, Meggie Dials, Michael Allen, David Steele, Patrick Chittenden, Mark Nottingham, Mac McWhirter, Caryl West, and John Watson. Staff present were Janet McNeal, Juli Woodrum, Karen Lalioff, Bethany Lowery, Katie Dorsey, and Casey Osterkamp.

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

Roy introduced Patrick McAllister of the Office on Education Innovation. Mr. McAllister presented information on OEI's pilot program for a consolidated renewal process for charter networks. If HCS decided to participate, all three campuses would apply to renew in the autumn of 2023 with renewal decisions announced in December. No new site visits would be required, but it would otherwise be similar to the prior renewal process. Discussion followed. Watson made a motion to participate in the consolidated renewal process and the Board voted to approve.

Minutes of the prior Board meeting were approved.

Roy provided the Executive Committee report. Roy reviewed the current status of Board composition and noted the desire to recruit new members. Discussion followed regarding what types of skills and talent are most needed on the Board. Members were asked to consider their contacts and email Roy with suggestions for potential Board members. Addressing annual business, all Board members who were up for renewal were approved unanimously. Annual Conflict of Interest statements were completed.

Reporting for the Fiduciary Committee, Woodrum provided a financial report and circulated vouchers. She reported the audit with new auditing firm, Donovan CPA, is progressing smoothly and to date has identified no significant issues. Woodrum stated that the budget is the main priority this month, but a final budget cannot be prepared until we know the details of final legislation passed by the General Assembly. She expects to present the final budget at the May fiduciary committee meeting.

Miller led a discussion about philanthropy and leveraging the power of community connections. A discussion on strategies to cultivate and build relationships with stakeholders followed.

Ostercamp, VP of Operations, provided an update on plans to hire a School Resource Officer (SRO) who will build relationships with students and families, support traffic flow during pick-up and drop-off times at Herron Prep, and support the high school campuses. A school safety grant will help support the salary of an SRO. Ostercamp also provided a timeline for renovations

to occur at the Merchants Building to include three classrooms and five more administrative offices. Work will begin in August and be completed in December, with classes to be held beginning in January.

Woodrum provided a report on the financing package and presented the sources/uses and cash flow projections. August is the targeted date for to close on the tax exempt bonds. Discussion followed. Watson moved to approve going forward with the term sheet and to empower Roy and the executive committee to sign previous loan documents. The motion was approved unanimously by the Board. Woodrum provided a summary of current vendors and entities related to HCS.

Lowery provided an update on current giving levels. McNeal noted that over \$2 million in grants have been awarded this year. Lowery provided a summary of plans and strategies for ongoing philanthropic giving and plans for the annual Movie Night to take place in May.

Student Lauren Island provided the Mission Moment. She related her positive experiences as a Herron High School student.

Katie Dorsey provided an overview of the state's Graduation Pathways requirements and how Herron Classical Schools students will fulfil these requirements.

Jonathan Harris provided a summary of teacher hiring and retention, graduation projections, and AP testing and SAT testing plans. Harris said that due to the grade expansion at Herron Prep, several new positions will need to be filled. Hiring is underway for these positions. He reported that network wide staff/faculty retention for this year was 89%.

Cody Whitesell provided a report of I-READ spring testing and predicted that HPA results will be above the state average.

McNeal provided a legislative update and a review of the testimony she gave before the House Education Committee. She reported that at this time, all three funding options that are a priority are still in play, including a bill to provide charter schools with funds from property taxes, referendum sharing, and facility/capital funding. Discussion followed.

An enrollment update was provided. At the close of 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. Lynn House reported that round two applications were coming in. McNeal provided a report and projection regarding spring testing and resources being used to prepare students.

There being no more business, the meeting was adjourned.