

Herron Classical Schools Board Meeting
October 17, 2023

Board members present were Dan Roy, John Watson, Caryl West, Meggie Dials, Michael Allen, Keith Steiner, Mindy Cunningham, Mac McWhirter, David Steele, Dave Sternberg and Mark Nottingham. Staff present were Janet McNeal, Juli Woodrum, Karen Lalioff, Bethany Lowery, and Casey Osterkamp.

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

Minutes of the prior Board meeting were approved.

As part of the executive committee report, Roy and McNeal summarized on the consolidated network charter renewal process. Herron Classical Schools is scheduled to present to the OEI staff at a public charter renewal hearing on December 6th. Roy reviewed the OEI compliance items acknowledging Indiana Open Door Law and confirmation that board members read the Incident Communication Policy. Signature affirmation documents were distributed, signed, and collected for compliance submission.

Roy thanked board members for attending the ground-breaking celebration at HPA. The stakeholder turnout was high, the speeches given were meaningful and well-received and the weather was beautiful. During the celebration, it was revealed that the building was being named in honor of board member John Watson, whose inspiration and support helped make the elementary campus a reality. Board members took a moment to recognize Watson's contributions throughout the network's history.

Osterkamp provided a summary of the progress of Phase II for the HPA campus. She noted that construction was on track to meet the schedule for opening at the start of the 2024-2025 school year. She also provided an update to the ongoing renovations at the former Merchant's building which will house administrative offices as well as additional classrooms for HHS. The renovations are on track to be completed before the start of second semester. Osterkamp also reported on the schedule for removal of the modular units.

Woodrum provided the Treasurer's report. She noted that auditors will be on-site all week. She noted that the CPS grant which was awarded in January was finally paid out in September. Woodrum said she expected the line of credit should be paid off in January. HPA financing closed on September 29th. The interest expense was slightly over what had been budgeted due to the economic landscape.

The Development Committee report was provided by Sternberg and Lowery. Sternberg praised the development team for their efforts on the HPA ribbon-cutting event and noted that the capital campaign was progressing well. Lowery distributed a report on where philanthropic funding stood to date. She noted that the submitted AWCF grant would be determined in the next month and reported that her team was working with a new grant foundation that an HHS parent was associated with and was helping to walk the team through the process of applying for a grant. She reported on the success of Classical Cocktails and said a new online giving platform was being launched for donations. She informed the board that the Cunninghams were being recognized for their generous philanthropy at the upcoming Indiana Philanthropy Awards Luncheon.

McNeal reported on PSAT and benchmark exams, noting that with we have baseline reports soon. She said The Mind Trust was providing support to students who were on the cusp of passing the PSAT.

McNeal reported on the restructuring of Enrollment Department with Lowery providing oversight to the experienced enrollment team. She noted that Open Enrollment for 24-25 begins on November 1st and provided a summary of enrollment outreach events. She reported that our partners at CSGF were helping to support the costs of conducting a perception study which was underway. Discussion followed.

There being no more business, the meeting was adjourned.