

Herron Classical Schools Board Annual Business Meeting
March 24, 2025

Board members present were Dan Roy, Adrian Miller, Patrick Chittenden, Isaac Bamgbose, David Steele, Mindy Cunningham, Miguel Rodriguez, Brian Brase, Mac McWhirter, John Watson, Keith Steiner and Mary Ann Sullivan. Staff present were Janet McNeal, Michelle Krauter, and Karen Laliuff, and guest, Luke Lennon

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

Minutes of the prior Board meeting were approved.

Roy provided the Executive Committee report. He introduced the bio of HHS parent and prospective board member Anne Ricchiuto which had been distributed in advance. He said he has worked alongside her for several years and praised her talent and abilities as well as her dedication to the school. Prior to holding a vote on term renewals and the proposed slate of officers, Roy announced Mary Ann Sullivan's and Dave Sternberg's resignations from the HCS board, as well as his own. By unanimous consent, all members up for term renewal were re-elected, and Ricchiuto was elected to the board. The following board members were elected executive officers: Adrian Miller was elected board chair, Isaac Bamgbose was elected treasurer, and Mindy Cunningham was re-elected as Vice Chair. The position of Secretary remains open.

Roy and Miller introduced the importance of keeping former board members engaged and involved with the network after their resignations. Roy suggested that in the coming months the board might choose to review its bylaws and discuss any revisions to the schedule of board terms. He emphasized the importance of maintaining institutional knowledge while also making room for new members. Roy said the network has grown so much over the years and he wanted to initiate these conversations as he prepares to roll off the board himself. Miller said in the coming days he would be reaching out to each board member to learn if there are any members with unknown special knowledge or talents that could be better utilized and where they saw themselves in a year or two. Steiner suggested that retired board members will still have insights and talents to share and would be welcome to attend board meetings as a non-voting advisory role. Discussion followed.

Roy discussed the annual summary of Indiana's open door laws which had be shared with members in advance, reviewed the commitment to OEI's communication expectations, and asked board members to review any conflicts of interest. The annual board evaluation was distributed to members who were asked to complete it by the April board meeting. McNeal offered thanks and appreciation for Roy's service, compassion and support during his time on the board.

McNeal introduced guest Luke Lennon from The Mind Trust. Lennon shared his experience in the field of education and stated that HCS has a tremendous board, adding that he works with a lot of charter school boards and the HCS board is a real standout. He discussed the challenging post-ESSER financial landscape shared by all schools and how TMT engages as “thought partners” in overcoming these challenges. Miller expressed gratitude for TMT support over the years and Lennon responded that TMT recognizes the excellence of HCS and wants them to thrive. Lennon said the entire sector is struggling and that schools are facing the challenge of growing enrollment or cutting staff, and that TMT is trying to address the school funding challenges. TMT supported HCS by providing service of Orbital Consulting/Bondry to help the network clarify future need. Roy stated that the growth at HPA shows that all spaces will be filled but there are spaces remaining at HRHS, and that the network has already made thoughtful cuts to address the budget. Miller stated that the pro forma shows long term stability but short term challenges. Roy said that the cyclical nature of school funding makes the fall months more challenging but that the network is in a better position than the previous year. Miller said the continued services of Orbital were unaffordable and Bamgbose provided information on alternative consulting services. McNeal said the athletics program has grown stronger and is attracting more highly prepared students who have maintained stronger GPAs as needed for sports participation. McNeal also discussed transportation initiative at HRHS designed to help address student transience and retention. Roy said that as retention improves, students make better buy-in to school culture. Board members agreed that the school has excellent school leadership and a powerful story to tell that will attract investment. Miller provided a review of legislation currently in the State House and the impact it would have if passed.

McNeal provided the president’s report. She reminded members of the commencement ceremonies and said that former Mayor Greg Ballard has agreed to be the keynote speaker. She provided a brief review of pending grant submissions and distributed information about the annual Movie Night fundraising event and available sponsorship opportunities. Due to time constraints, the discussion about curriculum planning to align HPA middle school coursework with the high school curriculum was postponed until the next meeting.

There being no more business, the meeting was adjourned.