

**Herron Classical Schools Board Annual Business Meeting**  
**April 15, 2025**

Board members present were Adrian Miller, Patrick Chittenden, Isaac Bamgbose, David Steele, Mindy Cunningham, Brian Brase, Mac McWhirter, John Watson, Keith Steiner, Meggie Dials, Anne Ricchiuto, Brenda Roper, and Michael Allen. Staff present were Janet McNeal, Michelle Krauter, Karen Laliuff and Carroll Bilbrey, as well as guest, former mayor Greg Ballard, Katie Barr, and Eric Nichols.

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

Minutes of the prior Board meeting were approved.

Miller introduced new board member Anne Ricchiuto. She shared her background and why her family chose a Herron Classical Schools education. She said her son wanted a strong college prep program in a new environment and said he is serious about sports and saw greater participation opportunities at Herron High School. She also noted that her family has been impressed with the way HHS athletes interact with their parents. Miller thanked Ricchiuto and stated his intent to be sure the board is fully utilizing the talents of all of its board members and said he would be reaching out to board members individually in the coming weeks.

Bamgbose and Krauter provided the Treasurer's report and fiduciary Committee report. Bamgbose noted that the fiduciary committee is supporting Krauter through the budget process, audits with checks and balances that meet standards. Krauter reported that both HPA and HRHS were eligible to apply for the IDOE's GAN grant and that both were awarded. The grants are nearly \$1 million each and will fund both educational programming and some urgently needed repairs. Bamgbose said the Center for Innovative Education Solutions (CIES) has been engaged under a short term arrangement to provide a financial analysis and noted that all board members were invited to participate in the meeting to deepen their understanding of fiscal matters and to promote long term financial stability.

Miller provided the Executive Committee report. Member Pat Chittenden was nominated to fill the open Board Secretary position and was elected by unanimous consent. Bilbrey presented the ongoing challenges to the White River flooding at HRHS. Past remedies have not solved the issue and that a major mitigation process is required. He said that no furniture was lost due to 2" of water in the basement, however, the sump pump needed to be replaced as well as new dry wall and carpeting installed.

McNeal provided the President's Report. She provided a high level report on curriculum alignment between HPA and the high schools in order to ensure middle school students who

eventually will matriculate to a Herron high school will be fully and seamlessly prepared and will have the opportunity to complete some high school credits in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Entering high school having already fulfilled required credits allows students to engage in college-level coursework. McNeal provided a reminder of the upcoming commencement ceremonies as well as HCS Movie Night and its sponsorship opportunities.

Miller introduced special guests and turned the floor over to former Mayor Greg Ballard. Mayor Ballard outlined an expansion opportunity for the board's consideration. Discussion followed. Key considerations expressed were strengthening the network and protecting the financial stability of its existing campuses. Miller proposed building structure around the conversation by collecting questions and comments, and the possibility of forming an ad hoc committee to pursue exploring the opportunity.

There being no more business, the meeting was adjourned.