

**Hmong College Prep Academy  
Board of Directors Meeting  
February 18, 2016  
4:30 PM  
Board Meeting Minutes**

Present: Jason Helgemoe, Vue Thaow, Kalc Vang, Lucas Yang, James Cave and Christy YongVang:

Ex-Officio Board Members: Dr. Christianna Hang

Guest(s): Pao Yang Sandy Horn  
Danijela Duvnjak Jenee Nordstrom  
Lisa Bonko

**Opening:**

Hmong Academy School Board convened for a Regular Board Business Meeting on Thursday, February 18, 2016 in the Board conference room at Hmong College Prep Academy 1515 Brewster Street, Saint Paul, Minnesota 55108. *Mr. Kalc Vang*, called the meeting to order at 4:21 PM. He opened the meeting with the reading of Hmong College Prep Academy mission and vision.

**Consent Agenda Items:**

February 18, 2016 Board Agenda and January 21, 2016 Meeting Minutes – Review/Approve

- Motion to approve the February 18 agenda and January 21, 2016 Meeting Minutes were so moved by *Mr. James Cave* seconded by *Mr. Vue Thaow*. **Motion passed unanimously.**

AMAO Title Program Presentation – Dr. Hang, Mrs.D. and Ms. Nordstrom

- Dr. Hang, Mrs. D. and Ms. Nordstrom gave a presentation on understanding ELL assessments and AMAO's.
- Ell testing review:
- W-APT - During the enrollment process, if a parent indicates their child's home language is something other than English the student will be given the W-APT test. This test will indicate if a student needs ESL services.
- ACCESS - This test is given to every student who is currently receiving ESL services. It assesses the students' language acquisition in four domains : reading, writing, listening and speaking. The results indicate if the student is ready to exit ESL services. The test is administered between Feb. 8 and March 18.
- Title III
- Federal grants require accountability. HCPA receives approximately \$35,000 from this grant.
- AMAO (Annual Measurable Achievement Objectives) are the way Title III and NCLB get accountability from school systems.
- Failure to meet any AMOA two years in a row puts a school district in Title III Improvement.
- HCPA has failed to meet AMAO two years in a row and in Title III Improvement.
- Testing Changes
- In 2013 HCPA made AMAO but the test has changed and become more difficult for students.
- During the upcoming testing period the entire test (reading, writing, listening and speaking) will be on line.
- There was considerable discussion regarding potential issues that may result from the test becoming completely computer-based.
- AMAO #1 (Progress) Each LEP student must achieve a .5 gain in their composite (overall) proficiency score from the prior year to the current year. 45.5% of our LEP students showed an increase in at least

- one of the four language domains. The goal was 46.39%
- AMAO #2 (Proficiency) The % of LEP students who show proficiency on the ACCESS test and exit LEP status. (Proficiency equates to a score of 5.0 overall: 4.0 in all four domains.) 8.1% of HCPA's LEP students show proficiency and exited the program. Goal was 14.63%
- AMAO #3 (AYP for the LEP Subgroup) Students must meet proficiency on the MCAs in both participation and proficiency. HCPA made proficiency in participation, graduation and attendance but not proficiency. Consequently, HCPA did not make AMAO #3.
- HCPA Improvement Plan
- Speaking based strategies that support comprehension across all content.
- Improve fluency. All students will be receiving baseline fluency and decoding assessments. Teachers in all grade levels will receive professional development and coaching to improve student fluency.
- Standards based benchmark assessments
- Curriculum alignment - last summer a member of the ELL team reviewed curriculum and examined alignment to WIDA and Common Core standards. Pacing was also analyzed.
- Data folders - all teachers receive a folder which highlights all standardized testing results for each student.
- HCPA has 1364 students, 520 of whom are classified as ELL (40%). The vast majority of the ELL students are in the younger grades: 275 in grades K-5, 128 in grades 6-8 and 117 in grades 9-12. Of our 520 ELL students the native languages represented are: Hmong (85%), Karen (15%), and Vietnamese (.1%).

#### Phase 4 Bond Project Updates – Dr. Hang & Mr. Yang

- Dr. Hang updated the board on the projected Phase IV project sources and uses of funds based on the two offers that have been presented.
- Option 1 - \$6,000,000 land price and the seller would remediate (clean-up) the site.
- Option 2 - \$5,000,000 land price and the buyer would remediate (clean-up) the site.
- Dr. Hang and Mr. Yang presented the lease termination clauses that are currently tied to the parcels. Currently there are six businesses with lease agreements varying from 30 days to 9 months.
- The board discussed several next steps and options related to the staggered lease agreements.

Motion to adjourn the meeting was moved by *Mr. Lucas Yang* at 5:48 PM and seconded by *Mr. Vue Thaow*.

**Motion passed unanimously.**

#### GREAT NEWS....

HCPA won the MDE Financial Award again in 2016. This marks the 13th year that our district has won this award for being excellent in our financial management and reporting.

Our High School is Celebration School eligible. This marks the 4th year that our district has won this recognition. It means HCPA placed in the top 20th percentile of ALL Title 1 high schools.