

Herron Classical Schools Board Annual Business Meeting
June 17, 2025

Board members present were Adrian Miller, Patrick Chittenden, Isaac Bamgbose, David Steele, Mindy Cunningham, Brian Brase, Mac McWhirter, Keith Steiner, Anne Ricchiuto, Brenda Roper via zoom, and Michael Allen. Staff present were Janet McNeal, Michelle Krauter, Karen Lalioff, Carroll Bilbrey, Katie Dorsey, Jennene Young, and Cody Whitesell. Guest Brielle Petty, OEI, also attended.

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

Minutes of the prior Board meeting were approved.

Cody Whitesell presented a year in review for HPA. He highlighted student achievement, the implementation of classical methodology at the grade school level and new cultural initiatives and community “parliaments”. He summarized the team’s efforts at the integration and curricular alignment for middle school to high school. He said the growth of HPA would have 53 staff/teachers in the 2025-2026 school year. Jennene Young related a story about a mother who drove her student all the way from Anderson and said that attending HRHS had saved her daughter’s life.

Miller reviewed the commitments from the previous board meeting, especially the exploration of expansion opportunities. Bamgbose shared his insights in navigating the political waters and Miller discussed the parameters of any future expansion.

McNeal gave the president’s report. She provided a review of the Class of 2025 graduation data. HHS graduated a record number of students who had diverse and far-ranging college plans. Seniors at HHS and HRHS were awarded over \$3 million in scholarships. McNeal stated that the Lilly Endowment Phase III grant application was moving forward. The plan for new construction, if awarded, includes state of the art science labs and a performing arts auditorium that will also be a multiuse space. Dorsey provided a hiring update for the 2025-2026 school year, saying all three campuses were almost fully staffed and that HPA’s teacher retention had been excellent. Bilbrey provided a summary of the challenges of the HRHS gym ceiling repair estimates and said it will be completed by the end of next summer. Bilbrey also discussed efforts to address long-term flood mitigation.

Miller provided the Executive Committee report. He reviewed the Expansion Planning Considerations statement. The board agreed that the focus should be on another K-8 and encouraged school leadership to be keep working on possible campuses that may become available. Miller reviewed OEI reports that had been previously distributed and requested board

members to sign OEI assurances documents. He said he would like the board to consider the structure of board committees and asked board member Anne Ricchiuto to prepare some future recommendations.

Bangbose provided the Fiduciary report. He asked Michelle Krauter to report on the budget. Krauter said the 403b contributions are being deferred to ease cashflow as permitted by policy. McNeal reported that staff are working on salary brackets which will be applicable next year.

There being no more business, the meeting was adjourned.