Herron Classical Schools Board Meeting
August 19, 2025

Board members present were Adrian Miller, Patrick Chittenden, Isaac Bamgbose, David Steele, Mindy Cunningham, Brian Brase, Mac McWhirter, Meggie Dials, Michael Allen, and Anne Ricchiuto, Brenda Roper, and John Watson via zoom. Staff present were Janet McNeal, Katie Dorsey, Michelle Krauter, Karen Lalioff, Emanuel Harper, Carroll Bilbrey, and Robin Knop.

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

Minutes of the prior Board meeting were approved.

Emanuel Harper presented Senior Sunrise, a student-led event that brought graduating seniors together to witness the sunrise at Taggart Memorial. Harper said these students had really stepped up as leaders during their time at Herron-Riverside High School and that he hopes the event becomes an annual tradition for soon-to-be graduates. Harper also reviewed recent changes to his leadership team with a new Assistant Head of School, Nolan Duffy, and Director of Student Experience & Culture, Crystal Walker. He said they both "have hit the ground running" in their new roles which has allowed him to broaden his focus as Head of School.

McNeal provided the President's report. She provided an update on the Lilly Endowment Phase III grant opportunity. The grant proposal is for new construction on the HHS campus and an expansion to the Fesler building. McNeal said a pre-grant submission meeting was held with IHPC to share an overview of construction plans and that it seemed to be a very positive meeting. If the grant is awarded, the project is expected to be completed over a 24-month time frame.

Katie Dorsey provided an overview of Herron High School's 20th Anniversary celebration events for the coming school year, including a very special Classical Cocktails this fall. Miller suggested the staff create a community impact report including the number of lives impacted over those 20 years. Dorsey said the team would work on gathering the data.

McNeal reported that the HCS human sexuality curriculum was being revised and will be reviewed by the Education Committee when completed. The curriculum will be presented to the board for approval before being posted online.

Bilbrey reported on the planning process for 2026 Faculty Forum to be held in January. He explained that the forum is an internal conference for all staff and provides leadership opportunities through 45-minute sessions on topics of relevance, as well as a keynote speaker. He invited the board to offer suggestions for the keynote speaker.

Brase provided a report on the work of the athletics committee. He said they reviewed the programs of competing teams and made recommendations to improve HCS athletics program should funding become available. The recommendations included more intentional hiring and increased pay for coaches, a team bus for transportation, and facility improvements. Watson suggested a booster club could help fund the program. Steele added that he was impressed with the facilities at Carmel High School and considered that a benchmark.

Miller gave the Executive Committee report which included a review of Indiana Open Door laws and OEI compliance in finance, board attendance, and incident reporting. Board members signed the OEI assurances. A discussion followed on possible changes to the board meeting schedule. Allen said that there is real value in board members being physically present on the campuses and said the board should consider rotating meeting locations.

Bamgbose provided the fiduciary committee report. He reviewed finances and cash-on-hand, and praised Krauter for her clear and concise financial reporting. The board voted to approve the budget as presented at the June board meeting.

Knop presented information on the upcoming Classical Cocktails event and said it will be much larger than previous years as a tribute to HCS 20th year serving students. The event will honor past donors and will recognize the contributions of all those who have help ensure the network's success through the years. The event offers sponsorship opportunities and a silent auction.

There being no more business, the meeting was adjourned.