



Harmony Public Schools

Minutes

November 15, 2025 HPS Board Meeting

Date and Time

Saturday November 15, 2025 at 9:00 AM

Location

Harmony Public Schools - Central Office
1255 Enclave Pkwy
Houston, TX 77077

**We will serve breakfast after the board meeting is concluded.

Directors Present

H. Koc, H. Sherwood (remote), K. House, M. Argin, O. Celepcikay, S. Koch

Directors Absent

L. Gonzalez

Guests Present

Ailene Makalintal, C. Lambert, Celina Cereceres, E. Akyildiz, E. Cavusoglu, F. Ay, George Perez, Huseyin Sari, J. Hoffer (remote), N. Bayhan, Ramazan Coskuner, S. Aykac, U. Alpaslan

I. Opening Items

A. Call the Meeting to Order

O. Celepcikay called a meeting of the board of directors of Harmony Public Schools to order on Saturday Nov 15, 2025 at 9:00 AM.

II. Public Comments

A. Public Comments

None.

III. Consent Agenda

A. i. Consider Approval of Previous Board Meeting Minutes of October 25, 2025

S. Koch made a motion to approve the minutes from October 25, 2025 HPS Board Meeting on 10-25-25.

K. House seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

B. ii. Consider Approval/Ratification of the Minutes and of the Actions of the Finance Committee Meeting on November 1, 2025

S. Koch made a motion to approve the Minutes and of the Actions of the Finance Committee Meeting on November 1, 2025.

K. House seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

C. iii. Consider Approval/Ratification of the Minutes and of the Actions of the Academic Committee Meeting on November 1, 2025

S. Koch made a motion to approve the Minutes and of the Actions of the Academic Committee Meeting on November 1, 2025.

K. House seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

D. iv. Approval of Concussion Management Protocol

S. Koch made a motion to approve the Concussion Management Protocol.

K. House seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

E. v. Approval of Revised Crisis and Trauma Response Policy – HPS 1.20

H. Sherwood made a motion to remove this item from the consent agenda to discuss further.

O. Celepcikay seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

Ms. Sherwood states that the proposed policy states that a team may serve more than one Harmony School and asks why each school would not have their own team.

Ms. Jennifer Sabin, Director of Student Safety and Behavioral Counseling HPS states that the state does allow this but each campus has their own crisis response team. Ms. Sabin confirms this statement is in there because that's what the law states but we elected not to do this as each campus has their own team. This also allows our campuses that are feeder campuses and right next door to each other to have one team to have a broader picture for each student.

H. Koc made a motion to approve Revised Crisis and Trauma Response Policy – HPS 1.20.

M. Argin seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

F. vi. Approval of Revised Records Management Policy – HPS 1.9

S. Koch made a motion to approve Revised Records Management Policy – HPS 1.9.

K. House seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

IV. Board Recognition for 2025 The Lone Star Ribbon Schools Recipients:

A. V. Board Recognition for 2025 The Lone Star Ribbon Schools Recipients: i. Harmony Public Schools (North Texas) – Harmony Science Academy – Euless ii. Harmony Public Schools (Houston West) – Harmony Science Academy – Katy Elementary iii. Harmony Public Schools (Houston West) – Harmony Science Academy – Katy Middle iv. Harmony Public Schools (Houston West) – Harmony Science Academy – Sugar Land

Mr. Emin Cavusoglu, Deputy Superintendent of Programs for Harmony Public Schools, presented the 2025 Lone Star Ribbon Schools recognitions. He explained that the Lone Star Ribbon Schools program honors Texas public schools demonstrating outstanding academic achievement and notable progress in closing student performance gaps. Established by Governor Greg Abbott in 2025, the program replaces the former federal National Blue Ribbon Schools initiative, which transitioned to state leadership in August 2025.

Mr. Cavusoglu highlighted the district's 2025 Lone Star Ribbon Schools recipients, recognizing them for their exemplary academic performance and commitment to educational excellence. The honorees included:

Harmony Science Academy – Euless (North Texas)

Harmony Science Academy – Katy Elementary (Houston West)

Harmony Science Academy – Katy Middle (Houston West)

Harmony Science Academy – Sugar Land (Houston West)

The Board commended each campus for its achievements and expressed appreciation for the dedication of students, staff, and campus leadership in earning this prestigious recognition.

V. Review and approval of 2024-2025 Annual Financial

A. Review and approval of 2024-2025 Annual Financial and Compliance Report (AFR) as submitted and presented by the Independent Auditor, Whitley Penn

Ms. Celina Cereceres and her associate, Ms. Ailene Makalintal of Whitley Penn, presented the results of the audit for the 2024–2025 fiscal year. They reported that the audit was completed with no findings and that all financial data was presented as clean and in compliance with applicable auditing standards.

Whitley Penn issued an unmodified opinion over the financial statements, indicating that they are fairly presented in all material respects. Additionally, there were no internal control findings related to financial reporting and no compliance findings related to major federal programs. The audit was conducted in accordance with GAAS and GAGAS (Yellow Book).

A brief presentation highlighting audit procedures, areas of focus, financial statement results, federal program compliance, and required communications was provided to the Board. The presentation included FY 2025 consolidated financial statements, revenue and expense comparisons, attendance data, and general fund activity.

Ms. Makalintal and Ms. Cereceres answered Board-related questions. The Board acknowledged receipt of the audit results and expressed appreciation for the clean audit and the work performed by Whitley Penn.

M. Argin made a motion to approve the 2024-2025 Annual Financial and Compliance Report (AFR) as submitted and presented by the Independent Auditor, Whitley Penn.

H. Koc seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

VI. Review and Approval of 2025-26 Fiscal Year 1st Quarter Budget Amendments

A. Review and Approval of 2025-26 Fiscal Year 1st Quarter Budget Amendments

Mr. George Perez, Budget Director for Harmony Public Schools, presented the 2025–26 Fiscal Year First Quarter Budget Amendments. He reported that the overall budgeted change in net assets increased by \$1.9 million from the initial budget approved in June, primarily due to construction-related donations received since July. This adjustment increases the projected change in net assets to \$12 million. Mr. Perez reminded the Board that the year began with a budgeted surplus of \$10 million, achieved by setting aside 2% of State Aid revenue, and noted that this reserve remains intact.

Mr. Perez reviewed the federal and state grant funding included in the “All Funds” functional schedules. These amounts total approximately \$30.7 million and include Title I, ESSA grants, IDEA B, Perkins, the \$4 million State Instructional Materials Allotment, and

the \$1 million Interactive Online Learning grant. He also noted the \$4 million in Activity Fund budgets, which represent campus-generated fundraising and club activity revenues. An amendment related to a \$1.8 million safety grant carryover from the prior year was also included.

The presentation further detailed General Fund (Fund 420) activity, including a \$3.8 million increase in revenues. This total includes \$2.7 million in donation revenue allocated for construction projects, alumni advocacy, and student leadership initiatives, as well as \$1.1 million in miscellaneous district requests funded through the State FSP program.

Mr. Perez reported that several amendments occurred within Q1 across functional expenditure categories. Adjustments were made in instruction, curriculum and staff development, and guidance and counseling services. Additional amendments were completed in transportation, security, maintenance, and general administration to reflect operational needs and updated funding allocations.

Following the presentation and review Mr. Perez addressed board questions.

H. Koc made a motion to approve the 2025-26 Fiscal Year 1st Quarter Budget Amendments.

K. House seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

VII. Review of HPS Quarterly Investment Board Report of September 30, 2025

A. Review of HPS Quarterly Investment Board Report of September 30, 2025

Ms. Ebru Akyildiz, Chief Financial Officer of Harmony Public Schools, presented the Quarterly Investment Board Report for the period ending September 30, 2025. She explained that, in accordance with the Public Funds Investment Act (Texas Government Code 2256) and the HPS Investment Policy, investment officers are required to prepare and submit a written quarterly report detailing investment transactions and performance for all funds.

Ms. Akyildiz reported that Harmony Public Schools earned \$1,983,055 in interest income during Quarter 1. The ending market value of all investments as of September 30, 2025, was approximately \$183.4 million. The report summarized beginning balances, inflows, outflows, interest received, unrealized gains and losses, and changes in accrued income, all of which demonstrated compliance with board-approved investment strategies and statutory requirements.

The presentation also included detailed information on investment maturities, diversification across permitted instruments—such as commercial paper, agency bonds, treasury bonds, certificates of deposit, and repurchase agreements—and distinctions between unrestricted and restricted investment categories. Ms. Akyildiz confirmed that all investments remained fully compliant with the HPS Investment Policy and the Public Funds Investment Act.

Ms. Akyildiz addressed Board questions regarding investment performance, market value changes, and portfolio diversification. The Board reviewed the report as submitted.

VIII. Review and Consider Approval of Contract Award

- A. Review and Consider Approval of Contract Award for RSP #HPS2528_SPSW for Special Education Software Solution to the proposed offering the best value to Harmony Public Schools, meeting the specifications outlined in the proposal, and authorize the CEO or designee to negotiate, finalize, and execute the agreement(s), amendment(s), renewal(s), and other necessary documents through July 31, 2031.**

Mr. Emin Cavusoglu, Deputy Superintendent of Harmony Public Schools, presented the recommendation for the contract award for RSP #HPS2528_SPSW. He explained that the current software being used (Easy IEP) and that program has retired servicing in Texas and thus our evaluation committee sought proposals from highly qualified vendors capable of providing a comprehensive, web-based Special Education Software Solution designed to support the efficient management of Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) and Section 504 Plans. The proposed solution is intended to streamline pre-referral processes, eligibility determination, plan development, service documentation, state reporting, and Medicaid billing within a single centralized platform.

Mr. Cavusoglu reported that, following the evaluation process, the administration recommended awarding the contract to the vendor offering the best value to Harmony Public Schools and meeting all specifications outlined in the proposal. The Board was asked to authorize the CEO or designee to negotiate, finalize, and execute the agreement(s), amendment(s), renewal(s), and any other necessary documents associated with this contract through July 31, 2031.

Mr. Cavusoglu addressed board questions.

S. Koch made a motion to approve the Contract Award for RSP #HPS2528_SPSW for Special Education Software Solution to the proposed offering the best value to Harmony Public Schools, meeting the specifications outlined in the proposal, and authorize the CEO or designee to negotiate, finalize, and execute the agreement(s), amendment(s), renewal(s), and other necessary documents through July 31, 2031.

M. Argin seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

IX. Closed Session Pursuant to Govt. Code

- A. Closed Session Pursuant to Govt. Code 551.076 (Deliberation Regarding Security Devices or Security Audits) i. District Vulnerability Assessment Full Report – Houston West**

Dr. Celepcikay announces that the board members will be going into closed session as permitted by Govt. Code 551.076 (Deliberation Regarding Security Devices or Security Audits) to discuss District Vulnerability Assessment Full Report – Houston West

Closed Session Begins 10:06AM

Dr. Celepcikay starts regular session at 10:21AM. Dr. Celepcikay states in closed session the board discussed the item announced and no action was taken.

X. Closing Items

A. Adjourn Meeting

M. Argin made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

H. Koc seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 10:21 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,

C. Lambert