

Herron Classical Schools Board Meeting
December 9, 2025
Polk Stables Green Room

Board members present were Adrian Miller, Patrick Chittenden, David Steele, Mindy Cunningham, Brian Brase, Keith Steiner, Mac McWhirter, Michael Allen, Miguel Rodriguez, Anne Ricchiuto, and John Watson via zoom. Staff present were Janet McNeal, Katie Dorsey, Michelle Krauter, Karen Laliuff, Carroll Bilbrey, Robin Knop, and Austin Hauser.

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

Minutes of the prior Board meeting were approved.

McNeal provided the President's report. She gave a summary of the Lilly Endowment Marion County K-12 Public Schools Initiative grant HCS was awarded. She said the grant award will provide for new state of the art science labs, additional classrooms, and a much needed multiuse auditorium. Dorsey shared images illustrating the challenges of the current science classrooms and images of the conceptual structures the grant will provide, adding that ArchTrio, who provided the conceptual plans, had be very helpful in the grant writing process. Dorsey reported that the science department teachers and chair are very enthusiastic, and that new science rooms would allow more students to engage in AP science courses. Currently, students might find themselves waitlisted for higher level courses due to inadequate facilities. The new construction will benefit all three campuses. The need for a gymnasium was also discussed but the allowable build space was inadequate for regulation size facilities. Ricchiuto, who is also a Herron parent, said concerns of athletic parents develop in the dark and expressed a need for more outreach and good community ambassadors to our athletic families. Finding a solution to the lack of athletic facilities remains a high priority.

McNeal continued her report and provided an update on 2026/27 enrollment status. HPA will be fully enrolled early in the open enrollment process. She reported that the athletic directors were interviewed on TV which resulting in a boost to enrollment. McNeal then summarized the ongoing work of the ILEA to provide proposals to the legislature by the end of December. Dorsey provided the education committee's approval of the sex education curriculum at HPA in accord with SB. 442. The curriculum at HPA is the same curriculum used by IPS. The board voted unanimously to approve the use of the curriculum.

Miller provided the Executive Committee report. He summarized a recent meeting with members of the Whitestown town council. He reiterated the board statement on future expansion opportunities and said he made it clear that HCS is interested in expansion but would not be the "tip of the spear," and that Whitestown would need to build the foundation and framework.

Krauter provided the Treasurer's report. She summarized the previously distributed restatement of the 403b plan and distributed the document for signatures. The board voted to approve the document. Krauter then stated that the funds from the Lilly Endowment grant would be provided in one lump sum before year's end. Miller discussed the need for an investment policy statement to manage the funds that allow for necessary liquidity and interest earnings. The board voted to authorize the fiduciary committee to open new accounts to hold the funding.

There being no more business, the meeting was adjourned and was followed by a holiday luncheon.