



Harmony Public Schools

Minutes

January 31, 2026 HPS Board Meeting

Date and Time

Saturday January 31, 2026 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, L. Gonzalez, M. Argin, O. Celepcikay, S. Koch

Directors Absent

None

Guests Present

Agil Sharifov, Amine Elhiyat, C. Lambert, E. Cavusoglu, Eric Abaci, F. Ay, J. Hoffer (remote), Jennifer Sabin, M. Baca, N. Bayhan, Omer Toyucu, Serena Jackson, 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 Jan 31, 2026 at 9:00 AM.

II. Public Comments

A. Public Comments

None.

III. Consent Agenda

A. i. Consider Approval of Previous Board Meeting Minutes of December 13, 2025

K. House made a motion to approve the minutes from December 13, 2025 HPS Board Meeting on 12-13-25.

L. Gonzalez 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 January 10, 2026

K. House made a motion to approve the Minutes and of the Actions of the Finance Committee Meeting on January 10, 2026.

L. Gonzalez seconded the motion.

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

C. Consider Approval/Ratification of the Minutes and of the Actions of the Academic Committee Meeting on January 10, 2026

K. House made a motion to approve the Minutes and of the Actions of the Academic Committee Meeting on January 10, 2026.

L. Gonzalez seconded the motion.

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

IV. Class of 2026 QuestBridge Report and Questbridge Scholars Board Recognition.

A. Class of 2026 QuestBridge Report and Questbridge Scholars Board Recognition.

Mr. Emin Cavusoglu, Deputy Superintendent of Harmony Public Schools, presented the Class of 2026 QuestBridge Report and recognized the QuestBridge Scholars. He provided an overview of QuestBridge, a national non-profit organization that connects high-achieving, low-income students with top colleges and universities through a highly competitive application and matching process. To become a QuestBridge Finalist, students must meet rigorous eligibility criteria, including exceptional academic achievement in challenging coursework, strong standardized test scores, demonstrated financial need, leadership experience, extracurricular involvement, work experience, awards, and strong written essays and recommendations.

Mr. Cavusoglu highlighted that students selected as QuestBridge Match Scholars receive a full four-year scholarship valued at more than \$350,000, covering tuition, room and board, and the full cost of attendance at one of the program's partner institutions. He reviewed the QuestBridge application timeline, finalist selection process, and outcomes for Harmony Public Schools students.

The presentation included the list of Class of 2026 Matched Students, celebrated their achievements, and showcased the district's continued growth in QuestBridge participation and success over the years. Mr. Cavusoglu commended the Scholars for their dedication, perseverance, and academic excellence, and the Board formally recognized these students for earning this prestigious national honor.

V. Approval of Amendments to the 2025-2026 HPS Student & Parent Handbook.

A. Approval of Amendments to the 2025-2026 HPS Student & Parent Handbook.

Ms. Jennifer Sabin, Director of Student Safety and Behavior Counseling for Harmony Public Schools, presented a recommended amendment to the 2025–2026 Student & Parent Handbook. She explained that the amendment was proposed as a corrective action in response to a District Vulnerability Assessment Review conducted by the Texas Education Agency (TEA). Based on the findings and the recommendation of HPS legal counsel, additional language regarding Gang Free Zones must be added to the current handbook, effective immediately.

Ms. Sabin reviewed the proposed language, which states:

“Gang Free Zone

Certain criminal offenses, including gang-related crimes, will be enhanced to the next-highest category of offense if they are committed in a gang-free zone. Gang-free zones include a school bus and any location in, on, or within 1,000 feet of any school-owned or leased property or campus playground. Harmony believes the presence of gangs and/or gang activities can cause a substantial disruption of or material interference with school and school activities.”

Joseph Hoffer, Board Attorney emphasized that adding this language aligns the handbook with state expectations regarding student safety and ensures that families are informed about the legal implications of gang-related activity on or near school property. M. Argin made a motion to approve Amendments to the 2025-2026 HPS Student & Parent Handbook as presented.

L. Gonzalez seconded the motion.

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

VI. Approval of “Harmony Welcome Box” Project.

A. Approval of “Harmony Welcome Box” Project.

Mr. Agil Sharifov, Director of Operations for Harmony Public Schools, presented the “Harmony Welcome Box” Project for Board approval. He explained that the Operations Department plans to mail a custom-designed Welcome Box to 12,000 newly registered families prior to the start of the school year. The box will include a personalized welcome card, Harmony brochure, school backpack, water bottle, pennant, and writing utensils, all intended to create a positive first connection with incoming students and families.

Mr. Sharifov highlighted that Harmony Public Schools has successfully implemented this initiative for the past four years, and it has consistently demonstrated a strong positive impact on both student enrollment and parent satisfaction. Data shows that 90% of students who received a Welcome Box ultimately enrolled at Harmony, confirming the project’s effectiveness in reducing summer registration melt. Parents have also shared positive experiences on social media, helping strengthen Harmony’s brand presence and community reputation.

The Board reviewed the projected costs and partnership with Positive Promotions, the vendor responsible for designing, producing, and distributing the Welcome Boxes directly to student homes. Mr. Sharifov emphasized that this vendor relationship has proven reliable and cost-effective in previous years, ensuring successful execution of the project. L. Gonzalez made a motion to approve the “Harmony Welcome Box” Project as presented.

S. Koch seconded the motion.

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

VII. HPS School Health Advisory Council (HPS-SHAC): Presentation on SHAC

A. HPS School Health Advisory Council (HPS-SHAC): Presentation on SHAC and Approval of resolution to appoint HPS-SHAC members and HPS- SHAC operating bylaws.

Mr. Eric Abaci, Director of Student Support Services for Harmony Public Schools, presented an overview of the Harmony Public Schools School Health Advisory Council (HPS-SHAC). He explained that SHAC is a district-level advisory group composed of parents, community members, and school representatives, and is required under Texas Education Code §28.004. The purpose of the Council is to advise the Board on matters related to student health, wellness, physical education, and related curriculum areas.

Mr. Abaci reviewed the proposed list of HPS-SHAC members along with the operating bylaws, which define the Council’s structure, membership requirements, operational procedures, meeting cadence, and responsibilities in providing recommendations to the district. He emphasized that adopting both the membership roster and the bylaws is necessary for compliance with state requirements and for SHAC to begin its work for the 2025–2026 school year.

Mr. Yazgeldi, Director of Student Culture for Harmony Public Schools, informed the Board that the recommended members were identified through outreach by the four district offices, which sought individuals with the necessary qualifications and interest in serving on the Council. Mr. Abaci added that the committee is composed of four parents and three staff members.

Dr. Celepcikay stated that, in the future, the Board would like to see one parent representative from each district. While the current membership includes four parents, he encouraged continued outreach to district offices to ensure broader representation moving forward.

During discussion, Dr. Celepcikay inquired about how the Board would be informed of SHAC meetings and related updates. Mr. Ay clarified that ongoing information and reporting will be provided through the Academic Committee meetings.

K. House made a motion to approve the resolution to appoint HPS-SHAC members and HPS- SHAC operating bylaws as presented.

M. Argin seconded the motion.

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

VIII. Approval of a resolution authorizing the submission

A. Approval of a resolution authorizing the submission of a non-expansion amendment to the Texas Education Agency (TEA) to update the grade levels served at Harmony Science Academy–Austin (Campus Number 227816001).

Ms. Minh Baca, Chief Compliance Officer for Harmony Public Schools, presented a resolution authorizing the submission of a non-expansion amendment to the Texas Education Agency (TEA) to update the grade levels served at Harmony Science Academy–Austin. She explained that, effective for the 2026–27 school year, Harmony Science Academy–Austin, located at 930 E. Rundberg Lane in Austin, Texas, will serve students in grades PK3 through 2nd only. Students currently enrolled in grades 3rd through 8th will be relocated to nearby Harmony campuses to ensure continuity of instruction and appropriate grade-level services.

Ms. Baca stated that the reason for the grade configuration change is to allow Harmony Science Academy–Austin to focus deeply on early childhood education while ensuring older students have access to high-performing campuses. Beginning next school year, students in grades 3–5 will be transferred to Harmony School of Science in Austin, an A-rated campus, and students in grades 6–8 will be transferred to Harmony Science Academy in Pflugerville. She emphasized that the amendment strictly updates the campus's grade levels and does not request any expansion of enrollment or services beyond what TEA has already approved.

The Board reviewed the proposed grade-level realignment and the accompanying resolution authorizing submission of the non-expansion amendment.

M. Argin made a motion to approve the resolution authorizing the submission of a non-expansion amendment to the Texas Education Agency (TEA) to update the grade levels served at Harmony Science Academy–Austin (Campus Number 227816001).

L. Gonzalez seconded the motion.

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

IX. Closed Session Pursuant to Govt. Code

A. Deliberate the purchase, lease, lease renewal/extension/amendment, sublease, or sell land/real property for school/office facilities in Harmony Public Schools Greater Houston Area

Dr. Celepcikay announces that the board members will be going into closed session as permitted by Govt. Code 551.071 (Consultation with Legal Counsel); 551.072 (Real Estate Transactions), and 551.076 (Deliberation Regarding Security Devices or Security Audits).

Closed Session begins at 9:59AM

B. Discussion of District-Wide Intruder Detection Audit Report Findings for a campus under Harmony Public Schools – North Texas.

Dr. Celepcikay announces that the board members will be going into closed session as permitted by Govt. Code 551.071 (Consultation with Legal Counsel); 551.072 (Real Estate Transactions), and 551.076 (Deliberation Regarding Security Devices or Security Audits).

Closed Session begins at 9:59AM

X. Resume Open Session, act on items discussed in closed session:

A. Consider and take action on the lease, lease renewal/extension/amendment of real property for school facilities in Harmony Public Schools Greater Houston Area

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

M. Argin made a motion to approve the purchase, lease, lease renewal/extension/amendment, sublease, or sell land/real property for school/office facilities in Harmony Public Schools Greater Houston Area.

S. Koch seconded the motion.

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

XI. Closing Items

A.

Adjourn Meeting

Harmony Administration extended warm wishes to the HPS Board in recognition of Board Appreciation Month and expressed gratitude for the Board's continued time, service, and dedication to the students, parents, and staff of Harmony Public Schools.

K. House made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

L. Gonzalez 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 10:12 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,

C. Lambert