



Harmony Public Schools

Minutes

April 25, 2026 HPS Board Meeting

Date and Time

Saturday April 25, 2026 at 9:00 AM

Location

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

****We will serve breakfast following the conclusion of the board meeting****

Directors Present

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

Directors Absent

H. Koc

Guests Present

C. Lambert, Drew Masterson, E. Akyildiz, E. Cavusoglu, F. Ay, J. Hoffer (remote), Jennifer Sabin, M. Baca, N. Bayhan, Recep Yilmaz, Suraya Kamal, U. Alpaslan, Vehbi Sonmez, Y. Akyildiz

I. Opening Items

A. Call the Meeting to Order

II. Public Comments

A. Public Comments

Ms. Suraya Kamal addressed the Board and began by referencing the film Three Idiots to illustrate the importance of problem-solving within educational systems. She emphasized that the film highlights the consequences of an overly rigid, achievement-focused approach to education and the importance of supporting students holistically.

Ms. Kamal raised concerns regarding current academic grading practices, specifically referencing policies related to student absences. She noted a perceived inconsistency between Texas Education Agency (TEA) guidance, which discourages penalizing students for absences, and existing handbook policies that may result in automatic zeros. Ms. Kamal encouraged the Board and administration to review these policies and consider a more solution-oriented approach that emphasizes communication and flexibility when students miss assessments.

From a student discipline perspective, Ms. Kamal advocated for a more restorative and problem-solving approach when addressing student behavior. She suggested that, rather than relying solely on punitive measures, staff should engage students in dialogue to better understand underlying issues and promote mutual accountability, with the goal of preventing escalation and supporting student success.

Ms. Kamal also highlighted the importance of increased parent involvement and volunteer opportunities within schools. While expressing appreciation for the school environment and leadership, she encouraged the district to create more opportunities for parents to contribute their time and resources to support both academic and social-emotional development initiatives.

Ms. Kamal concluded her remarks by thanking the Board for the opportunity to share her comments.

III. Consent Agenda

A. i. Consider Approval of Previous Board Meeting Minutes of March 28, 2026

M. Argin made a motion to approve the minutes from March 28, 2026 HPS Board Meeting on 03-28-26.

S. Koch 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 April 11, 2026

M. Argin made a motion to approve the Minutes and of the Actions of the Finance Committee Meeting on April 11, 2026.

S. Koch 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 April 11, 2026

M. Argin made a motion to approve the Minutes and of the Actions of the Academic Committee Meeting on April 11, 2026.

S. Koch seconded the motion.

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

D. iv. Consider Approval/Ratification of the Minutes and of the Actions of the Governance Committee Meeting on April 11, 2026

M. Argin made a motion to approve the minutes from Governance Committee Meeting on 04-11-26.

S. Koch seconded the motion.

Dr. Celepcikay provided a comment for Board members who are not part of the Governance Committee. He encouraged members to review the Governance Committee minutes, noting that a change to the CEO evaluation process had been approved the previous year. He explained that the updated process includes an additional step involving the Governance Committee and will begin at the next Board meeting in May with the CEO presentation. He noted that while the overall structure remains the same, the added step is documented in the minutes and should be reviewed by all Board members.

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

E. Approval of Adoption of HPS Policy Updates

M. Argin made a motion to approve the Adoption of HPS Policy Updates.

S. Koch seconded the motion.

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

IV. Consider And Approve Resolution Requesting The Permanent School Fund

A. Consider And Approve Resolution Requesting The Permanent School Fund Guarantee Of Bonds And Authorizing The Administration To Pursue Bond Financing To Finance Educational Facilities, And Containing Other Matters Related Thereto

Ms. Ebru Akyildiz, Chief Financial Officer for Harmony Public Schools, introduced the agenda item regarding the Permanent School Fund (PSF) Bond Guarantee and upcoming bond issuance. She noted that the financing will support current and future campus construction, renovations, and facility improvements.

Mr. Drew Masterson, Financial Advisor with Masterson Advisors, presented the proposed plan of finance. He explained that the district intends to apply for a PSF guarantee for a bond issuance estimated at approximately \$270 million, with an application submitted for

up to \$300 million to allow flexibility. He highlighted that the PSF guarantee provides a AAA rating, resulting in lower interest rates and eliminating the need for a debt service reserve fund, though it requires payment of a fee into the charter school reserve fund.

Mr. Masterson reviewed projected interest rates, estimated at approximately 4.85% all-in, and discussed the financial structure of the bonds, including funding for capital projects across multiple regions and campuses. He also reviewed projected debt service increases and explained that the district plans to conduct a competitive bond sale process to secure the lowest possible interest rates.

Board members asked questions regarding prior bond issuances, PSF fees, and how the reserve fund operates. Additional discussion included the growth of PSF capacity for charter schools and long-term financial implications.

K. House made a motion to approve the Resolution Requesting The Permanent School Fund Guarantee Of Bonds And Authorizing The Administration To Pursue Bond Financing To Finance Educational Facilities, And Containing Other Matters Related Thereto.

M. Argin seconded the motion.

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

V. Consider and take possible action approving resolution

A. Consider and take possible action approving resolution for Harmony DC Public Charter Schools to file an amendment to its Articles of Incorporation

Dr. Yalcin Akyildiz, Chief Advancement Officer, presented a resolution authorizing Harmony DC Public Charter Schools to file an amendment to its Articles of Incorporation.

He explained that during a recent legal review, it was discovered that when Harmony DC was originally established in 2014, one page of the Articles of Incorporation was not filed with the District of Columbia. Although the complete document was filed with the IRS, the DC filing was incomplete. The amendment is necessary to correct this administrative oversight by submitting the full document, including the missing page.

Dr. Akyildiz clarified that no substantive changes are being made beyond completing the original filing and updating minor administrative details such as the registered agent. Because Harmony Public Schools is the sole corporate member of Harmony DC, Board approval is required to proceed with the amendment.

Board members asked clarifying questions regarding the origin of the issue and due diligence processes. It was confirmed that this is a technical correction related to the original 2014 filing.

S. Koch made a motion to approve resolution for Harmony DC Public Charter Schools to file an amendment to its Articles of Incorporation.

M. Argin seconded the motion.

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

VI. Closed Session Pursuant to Govt. Code

A. i. Houston North Intruder Detection Audit

Dr. Celepcikay announces that the board members will be going into closed session as permitted by Govt. Code 551.071 (Consultation with Legal Counsel), 551.074 (Personnel), 551.076 (Deliberation Regarding Security Devices or Security Audits), and 551.082 (School Children Information)

Closed Session begins at 9:26AM

B. ii. Consider Student Expulsion Appeal from Harmony School of Discovery – Houston.

Dr. Celepcikay announces that the board members will be going into closed session as permitted by Govt. Code 551.071 (Consultation with Legal Counsel), 551.074 (Personnel), 551.076 (Deliberation Regarding Security Devices or Security Audits), and 551.082 (School Children Information)

Closed Session begins at 9:26AM

C. iii. Consider Student Expulsion Appeal from Harmony Science Academy – Dallas

Dr. Celepcikay announces that the board members will be going into closed session as permitted by Govt. Code 551.071 (Consultation with Legal Counsel), 551.074 (Personnel), 551.076 (Deliberation Regarding Security Devices or Security Audits), and 551.082 (School Children Information)

Closed Session begins at 9:26AM

D. iv. Consider Student Expulsion Appeal from Harmony School of Innovation – Dallas

Dr. Celepcikay announces that the board members will be going into closed session as permitted by Govt. Code 551.071 (Consultation with Legal Counsel), 551.074 (Personnel), 551.076 (Deliberation Regarding Security Devices or Security Audits), and 551.082 (School Children Information)

Closed Session begins at 9:26AM

E. v. Consider Staff Grievance Appeal from Harmony Science Academy – Midland.

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(Personnel), 551.076 (Deliberation Regarding Security Devices or Security Audits), and 551.082 (School Children Information)

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F. vi. Consider Parent Grievance Appeal from Harmony School of Innovation – Sugar Land

Dr. Celepcikay announces that the board members will be going into closed session as permitted by Govt. Code 551.071 (Consultation with Legal Counsel), 551.074 (Personnel), 551.076 (Deliberation Regarding Security Devices or Security Audits), and 551.082 (School Children Information)

Closed Session begins at 9:26AM

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

A. i. Potential action on Expulsion Appeal from Harmony School of Discovery – Houston.

Dr. Celepcikay starts regular session at 10:14AM. Dr. Celepcikay states in closed session the board discussed the items announced and no action was taken.
S. Koch made a motion to deny the appeal and uphold the administration's decision.
M. Argin seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

B. ii. Potential action on Expulsion Appeal from Harmony Science Academy – Dallas

Dr. Celepcikay starts regular session at 10:14AM. Dr. Celepcikay states in closed session the board discussed the items announced and no action was taken.
L. Gonzalez made a motion to deny the appeal and uphold the administration's decision.
K. House seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

C. iii. Potential action on Expulsion Appeal from Harmony School of Innovation – Dallas

Dr. Celepcikay starts regular session at 10:14AM. Dr. Celepcikay states in closed session the board discussed the items announced and no action was taken.
M. Argin made a motion to deny the appeal from Harmony School of Innovation - Dallas and uphold the administration's decision.
S. Koch seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

D. iv. Potential action on Staff Grievance Appeal from Harmony Science Academy – Midland.

Dr. Celepcikay starts regular session at 10:14AM. Dr. Celepcikay states in closed session the board discussed the items announced and no action was taken.

K. House made a motion to deny the appeal and uphold the administration's decision.

M. Argin seconded the motion.

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

E. v. Potential action on Parent Grievance Appeal from Harmony School of Innovation – Sugar Land.

Dr. Celepcikay starts regular session at 10:14AM. Dr. Celepcikay states in closed session the board discussed the items announced and no action was taken.

K. House made a motion to deny the appeal and uphold the administration's decision.

S. Koch seconded the motion.

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

VIII. Closing Items

A. Adjourn Meeting

Mr. Lambert reminds the board members of the Board required training hours to be completed.

K. House made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

S. Koch 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 10:17 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,
C. Lambert