Herron Classical Schools Board Meeting
February 24, 2026

Board members present were Adrian Miller, Patrick Chittenden via zoom, David Steele, Mindy Cunningham, Brian Brase, Keith Steiner, Mac McWhirter, Michael Allen, Anne Ricchiuto, Isaac Bamgbose, Brenda Roper, and Meggie Dials. Staff present were Janet McNeal, Katie Dorsey, Michelle Krauter, and Karen Lalioff. Guests included Kim Preston of TMT, and OEI's Breille Petty who attended remotely.

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

Minutes of the prior Board meeting were approved.

Mission Moment - Katie Dorsey summarized recent student accolades from the community from extra-curricular activities. She added that these awards and accolades represent one of the ways school culture is built outside of the classroom.

Miller reviewed previous commitments including management of the Lilly grant funds and architectural planning, and said reports would follow.

McNeal provided the president's report. She introduced Kim Preston from The Mind Trust. Preston provided a summary of the recent "short, fast, and complex" legislative session which resulted in the passage of HB 1423. She explained that the bill represented the recommendations of the ILEA study which was completed in December. As a result of the bill, the Indianapolis Public Education Corporation (IPEC) would be formed to manage facilities and transportation of all public schools in the IPS district. Preston said that at the time of the bill's passage, privately owned charter school buildings have the option of opting out of the management program but added that the actual structure of the program has not yet been developed and will be a focus of IPEC. Preston said there were many remaining unknowns at this point in time.

McNeal then presented Carroll Bilbrey's report on the retirement of the HCS Police Chief and introduced a board resolution to name an Interim Chief of Police while the search for a permanent hire continues. The board voted unanimously approved the resolution.

McNeal provided an update on status and schedule of the planned HRHS gym ceiling repairs and added that the gym floor also needs work but there is no current funding to address it.

McNeal also announced the decision to select Ratio Design as the architectural firm for the expansion on the Herron High School campus. She added that while ArchTrio had been instrumental in the grant application and had provided a compelling bid package, the choice of

Ratio was significantly influenced by their deep historic knowledge of the campus site from previous renovations, and the fact that one of the chief architects assigned to the project specializes in school facilities. Ratio will be taking staff to tour some well-designed performing arts centers at area schools. The process of seeking the required Certificates of Approval from the Indianapolis Historic Preservation Commission will begin the following month.

Dorsey provided the education committee report. She distributed midyear reports for all three campuses. She reported that HPA comparisons from this year and last year are tracking almost identical in our reading ELA internal formative assessment with just a slight increase, and she reminded board members that last year we ended up with excellent results leading in the county and in the top almost 90% within the state. Dorsey said the team is hoping to increase the proficiency percentage by 5% in both ELA and math. At the high school level, increased emphasis on credit attainment has been a focus with a 9th grade on-track analysis monitoring credit attainment at the end of 9th grade. The largest increase of credit attainment has been in math, with much of the credit going to a new math interventionist working at our high schools. The interventionist has been relentless in her efforts to close gaps at the 9th and 10th grade level and it shows in the data, particularly among special populations: students who qualify for IEPs or 504s, or who qualify for free reduced lunch, or who are multi-language learners. Dorsey reported an increase in pass rates across all of the special populations. Dorsey also reported that starting next year, all 11th grade students will be taking AP Seminar, a newer course offered by College Board. She said the course could be described as Jury 101, because it is based on inquiry. It requires students to practice reading and analyzing real-world topics and present logical argument-based positions, both individually and in teams, which fits right in with the HCS mission.

Knop provided a summary of the Soiree event and said it was very successful. The venue was great, the student performances were inspiring, and the silent auction yielded nearly $8000. A final tally of funds raised was not yet available but estimated that after expenses, it will likely be around $14,000. She reported that plans were underway for a donor appreciation art piece for the HPA capital campaign, which will also present families who have not yet donated to do so and be recognized in the artwork.

Before moving to the treasurer's report, Miller discussed the Lilly grant funds which are currently in a money market account as work proceeds with consultants in developing an investment policy statement and then then screening investment firms for the best rates, best services for how to invest these funds. The consultant is working with the fiduciary committee to ensure the best outcomes.

Bamgbose and Krauter provided the treasurer's report. Bamgbose reported that financial tracking and reporting processes are vastly improved. Krauter said our cash-on-hand is much

improved over the previous fiscal year. Krauter summarized new clarity on how the TIFF loan forgiveness works over time, explaining that it is still in place but the process was different. She explained that the bridge loan for the HPA capital matures in 2 years, and as a precautionary safety net, we are saving money out of operations in case the funding gap remains when the loan comes due. Krauter also reported that the network has engaged TogetherEd to assist in establishing salary bands, and that this consulting work was being supported by philanthropy. Steele asked about competitive teacher salaries/benefits and satisfaction surveys, discussion followed.

Miller reminded members that the annual retreat/business meeting was scheduled for April 21st.

There being no more business, the meeting was adjourned.