Herron Classical Schools Board Meeting
June 16, 2026

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

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

Minutes of the prior Board meeting were approved.

Katie Dorsey presented mission moments. She shared excerpts from letters written by parents of HRHS seniors. One parent wrote, “I want to sincerely and deeply thank you, you and this wonderful school changed so many lives and have given our children truly a world class education. We and our child have been cared for and respected. Our child has been loved and encouraged and pushed to be her best self. She's been given opportunities to develop and grow in a safe and caring environment that we are so thankful for. She's going off to an excellent university with no debt. She has been offered a total of over a million dollars of aid from all her acceptances, and a challenging, fulfilling career and life, at least in great part, thanks to you and your team showing her what she can do.” Another parent wrote, “Most of all, your giant heart, sense of humor, and endless well of compassion have been such a blessing to so many. Thank you from the bottom of my heart for all you've done and all you've given to our children. May many more be so blessed.” Dorsey also shared a parent satisfaction survey: “We work full-time and have other children, so it has been very difficult for us to get involved. However, the culture shows through our daughter's overall improvement. She went from a C/D student to A's and B's. There has been 0 bullying. She is more confident in her abilities and potential, and for the first time, she feels like she is able to be authentically herself and belongs We are beyond grateful for this community, for our scholar. We are excited for next year and hope to be more involved. You all are doing a fantastic job.”

Following the shared parent letters in which parents praised the school culture and lack of bullying, Dorsey was asked if there were any strategies she could point to that mitigates bullying. Dorsey replied that it touches on everything that we do, from a discipline and culture management perspective to teacher onboarding, recruitment, training, to our curriculum, and to the practice of inclusiveness and appreciating diversity and diverse perspectives. She added that the unique culture is self-perpetuating by the upperclassmen but can never be taken for granted.

Miller introduced the new HCS Chief of Police, Anthony Harrison. A brief biography was distributed. Chief Harrison told board members that his own children are HHS graduates, and that the reason their family chose the school was for its reputation on a caring school culture and exemplary academics. He said that experience provided a strong foundation for his children's success after high school. Chief Harrison was asked to describe his daily schedule. Following a discussion, Chief Harrison was sworn in.

Miller reviewed commitments from the previous board meeting. He asked board members to complete the board survey if they have not already done so, and assured members that he read the responses and will follow up with the feedback received.

McNeal provided the President's report. She discussed current enrollment numbers at all three campuses and stated that the numbers will continue to fluctuate throughout the summer. She said HPA was fully enrolled, with many hopeful families hoping for an opening to occur before the start of the school year and keeping a daily check on Enroll Indy for a spot to open. Miller noted that HPA is the only public elementary school in the city that is full. She reported that HRHS enrollment numbers were likely to increase in last-minute enrollments in August, and said that the enrollment team has worked diligently on recruiting; the 30th St bridge has reopened, and she expects to see a little bit of the fruits of their labor. HHS has hired a new enrollment director to replace the previous director who is moving out of state. The new staff member is a former parent.

Bilbrey provided an update on the HHS expansion along with a slide deck of architectural drawings. He noted that the expansion and improvements to the parking lot on the west side of Penn St. have been approved by IHPC, and approval is still being sought to put in a safe crosswalk there. Refering to the slides showing building footprints and conceptual elevations, he noted that nothing is yet set in stone but provides a general feel of what it's going to look like. Fesler will nearly double in size, the cafeteria will be enlarged and kitchen expanded, and the auditorium is designed to seat 550. He referenced two nearby parking lots that HCS would like to acquire to restore lost parking from the building expansion. He said he and Ratio have been engaged with the neighborhood association.

Dorsey provided the education report and graduation updates. She noted that while the HS graduation cohort doesn't actually solidify until October, HHS is predicted to have a 96% graduation rate with 65% of students earning the academic honors diploma, and at HRHS, an 85% graduation rate, and 44% earning the academic honors diploma. Dorsey explained that the graduation rate is based on a cohort of 10th grade students, and due to the transitory population at HRHS, that means that students who no longer attend HRHS are still included in our cohort. She reported on AP participation rates, noting that last year, rates were so high we didn't expect to exceed it, but this year it was even higher. She noted that test scores won't be released until late

summer. She explained a new College Board course, AP Seminar, which has allowed increased participation, and how the course interacts with the English curriculum.

Miller provided the executive committee report, noting that the board assessment that was distributed was an OEI requirement and provides valuable insight into board needs. He provided an update the vision for the new board committee structures the executive committee has been formulating and said the plan is to have three standing committees: The fiduciary committee would be renamed the finance committee, a governance committee, and a strategic partnerships committee.

Krauter provided the treasurer's report. She noted a dip in enrollment that has negatively impacted the cash-on-hand days but said it is still an improvement over the previous year. She noted that she is spreading out the 2026-2027 budget more appropriately to account for months with three pay periods as opposed to a solid division for each of the 12 months. Krauter said HPA and HRHS are covering their operating costs in excess and are subsidizing the costs at HRHS. She noted there is a good plan to address that, and the good news is that long-term projections, barring any changes from the legislature for 2028, show that all schools will be in the black in two years. Following a discussion, the 2026-2027 proposed budget was presented based on enrollment projections of 620 at HPA, 985 at HHS, and 335 at HRHS. She noted significant cost-saving changes such as transitioning our transportation from an in-house operation to contracting with a third party. A motion to approve the budget was made, seconded, and the budget was approved with unanimous consent.

There being no more business, the meeting was adjourned.