Herron Classical Schools Board Meeting
August 18, 2026

Board members present were Adrian Miller, Patrick Chittenden, David Steele, Mindy Cunningham via zoom, Brian Brase via zoom, Mac McWhirter, Miguel Rodriguez, Michael Allen, Anne Ricchiuto via zoom, Isaac Bamgbose, and Meggie Dials. Staff present were Janet McNeal, Katie Dorsey, Michelle Krauter, Carroll Bilbrey, Robin Knop, and Karen Lalioff. Guests included Emma Kelsey of OEI, and Tony Hahn and Lori Pence from Vincennes University

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 said 22 HRHS students had enrolled in the Principles of Teaching course and had successfully transitioned to and from HPA as part of the programming. Students participated in a read/discuss activity with an HPA math teacher She praised Amanda Ratliff, HCS Math Interventionist for coordinating the complex schedule. It is hoped that the program will inspire students to choose a teaching career and return to join the growing cadre of former students now teaching at HCS.

Miller introduced Emma Kersey of OEI who spoke on compliance items with a focus on the importance of assurances.

McNeal provided the President's report and reviewed the IREAD performance at HPA. She said that enrollment was very strong at HPA which is now serving all K-8 grades. She said enrollment at HHS was holding steady while HRHS was running low but that she expected the new programming partnership with Vincennes University would have a positive impact on future enrollment. McNeal said the flooding at HRHS had not done any significant damage and that school was able to resume with no delays.

Bamgbose and Krauter provided the treasurer's report. Krauter said that TogetherEd had been hired to consult on the creation of salary bands, with support funding from The Mind Trust. She said that financial projections indicate that all three campuses will be operating in the black by 2028 provided there was no major legislative changes. She said the partnership with Vincennes University was a year or two out from impacting the program as it develops. Krauter then reviewed the previously approved budget and said the board must approve it a second time for compliance. There was a motion to approve the budget, and there was a unanimous vote to approve the budget. Krauter also discussed a balloon payment related to HPA that will come due in 2028, and said that she had been putting funding aside but has had to dip into it for operations.
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.

Bilbrey provided an update on facilities and the expansion of the HHS campus. He reiterated that flood damage to HRHS had been minimal and said the historic building is a fortress. The last of the carpeting was being removed and the clean-up would be done by the end of the week. He reported on the renovation to the gymnasium which is funded by a generous donation from Brandt Construction. Bilbry told the board about the October 7 hearing before the Indianapolis Historic Preservation Commission and said that the preliminary meetings with IHPC have been positive. He said the new build will impact the number of parking spaces in the Fesler lot and that efforts were underway to secure adequate parking. There are two parking lots on 18th Street of keen interest, and Bamgbose has been pursuing access to the owner in the hopes of securing the unused lots for purchase or lease. The lots are currently tied to a vacant office building and caught up in a lawsuit against the widow who owns them, but Bamgbose was engaged with her legal representative and hopes to have a meeting with them later this fall.

Dorsey introduced representatives from Vincennes University, Tony Hahn, Vice President-Government & Legal Affairs, and Dr. Lori Pence, Provost of K-12 Programs and Partnerships. at Vincennes University. They said that this is the 225th year of serving students at Vincennes University and highlighted that they were the first in the state to offer dual credit courses. They said that Vincennes currently operates 17 Career and Technical Education (CTE) centers across the state. They said that two years ago they received a call from Marian University saying Marian "needed help doing things we don't do." A new partnership was born to utilize The Grove at Cold Spring, part of a Marian University-led initiative to increase lifetime educational attainment, to launch a new CTE program for high school students. The Grove at Cold Spring, part of a Marian University-led initiative to increase lifetime educational attainment. Beginning this fall, incoming ninth-grade students at HRHS will have access to seven new pathways from Vincennes University that lead to college credit, industry-recognized credentials, and careers in high-demand fields. Programs will include construction trades, welding, cybersecurity, and pharmacy technician, with additional pathways under development.

There being no more business, the meeting was adjourned.