



Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Higher Institute of Arts and Technology (HIAT)
5885 Harrison Street Merrillville, IN 46410
Thursday, December 14, 2023 4:00 (CT)

I. Meeting Called To Order

The meeting was called to order by the Board Chair at 4:00 PM.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

The Board of Directors recited the pledge of allegiance.

III. Roll Call

Board Member Attendance

April Brown	Present
Bridgett Harris	Present
Sharla Johnson	Present
Stephanie Davis	Present
Charles Reese	Present
George Tucker	Present

a. Approval of Board Agenda

Motion: Charles Reese Support: Stephanie Davis

A motion was made to amend the agenda to include an amendment to the bylaws.

The board unanimously voted to approve the amended board agenda.

b. Approval of Board Minutes

- i. August 10, 2023
- ii. September 26, 2023
- iii. September 28, 2023

Motion: Charles Reese Support: Stephanie Davis

The board unanimously voted to approve the board minutes.

IV. CMO Report

a. Principal and Academic Board Report

Principal Acklin provided an update on enrollment, scholar attendance, staffing, Fall NWEA testing and action steps, facility improvements, and campus celebrations. Ms. Acklin introduced the new staff members who were in attendance.



b. Financial Report

Carlo Hershberger presented a financial review of the income statement, cash balances, accounts payable balances, days cash, and enrollment.

V. Committee Reports

None

VI. Old Business/Discussion Items

None

VII. New Business

a. Approval of Updated Uniform Policy

Motion: April Brown Support: Stephanie Davis

The board unanimously voted to approve the updated uniform policy.

b. Approval of Security Camera System

**This item was tabled until further notice.*

c. Approval to Amend the Bylaws **amended item*

Motion: Bridgett Harris Support: Stephanie Davis

The board unanimously voted to approve and amend the bylaws to include bi-monthly board meetings.

Yays: 6

Nays: 0

d. Colonial Life Presentation by Jason Taylor

Mr. Taylor provided an overview of the supplemental insurance benefits that Colonial Life can offer to staff members.

VIII. PTA

Ms. Essence Westbrook provided an update on the recent events supported by the PTA.

IX. Open Communication

The PTA Vice President presented a concern regarding classroom sizes and teacher needs. Board President, Sharla Johnson addressed her concerns and connected her with Board Vice President, Stephanie Davis.

Parent, David Copeland, presented his concern regarding teacher retention and provided his suggestions to Sharla Johnson and Stephanie Davis.

Ms. Erica voiced her concerns regarding parking lot lighting and COVID-19 guidelines.



The HIAT Instructional Coach communicated her concerns regarding parent involvement, academic data, and doing a curriculum deep-dive.

Another parent expressed her concerns about having to set an appointment to meet with the school building leaders.

Tamala Jones commented on parents being accountable for their children and their children's actions.

PTA Treasurer, Mildred Watson, mentioned her frustration with why the whole class is punished for the actions of one or a few other scholars.

Ms. Harris would like to address the rigor of the curriculum.

Board President, Sharla Johnson and Board Vice President, Stephanie Davis, addressed each concern and provided their contact information to discuss the next steps.

X. Meeting Adjourned

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting.

Motion: Stephanie Davis

Support: April Brown

The meeting was adjourned at 5:11 PM.