



MINUTES

Date Nov 14 , 2023

6:00 pm

Howard Street Charter School



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| Board Present: Jenny Hoelter Erik Davis Jill Whitney Kelby Childers Robyn Saunders Wilson Leslie Savage Thompson QUORUM ACHIEVED – | Board Absent: Andreas Wetzel | Guests: Christina Tracy Amy Baden Mr. Smith |
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Meeting Convened: 6:02 pm

Minutes approved: 6:17 pm

Guests: Christina Tracy

Amy Baden- local veterinarian, student at Howard Street, looking to see how she can support the board in whatever capacity we need.

Introductions: Board introductions to our guests

- **Guest Introductions:** Mr. Smith
- **Mac. Smith- 8th grade science/math/computer coding**
Mr. Smith expressed his pleasure at being able to teach at HSCS. Smith's class is a research focused classroom where students are developing an understanding that research is a repetitive process and that they should expect to repeat their processes to refine their results. Students complete units studying energy, for example, where they complete labs and conduct their own experiments/research to dive deeper into scientific methods and outcomes to create deep learning. Mr. Smith shared with the board an example of a boiling point lab where students studied different liquids and their properties to determine different boiling points but also WHY the substances have different boiling points/properties. As an example his students have been in the lab 6 out of the last 8 science classes conducting hands-on learning. Mr. Smith's goal for his 8th graders is to truly be ready for 9th grade science. With the assistance of Jen, Mr. Smith is able to differentiate instruction for small groups of students to help facilitate learning.
- Public Testimony – limit 3 minutes to agenda items only.

Business:

- **Principal's Report:** There was a choir concert at St. Marks and a band performance a Parish MS, who lets us use their facility for free
Capital Manor performance at 10:30 Dec 8
Requiring 6th grade music has created our largest music program to date, we have 100 students participating in the music program and 24 students participating in dance. We also will be supporting St. Francis shelter on Berry Street. This will be our 15th year support the shelter via a food drive.
Fund Raiser at Mod Pizza (south salem on Commercial) on Nov 20th--all day, where 25% of proceeds, with a flier or QR code. The parent club is actively working to create fundraising opportunities. The next parent club is Dec 14

Menstruation and mental health complaint from an anonymous parent could be coming our way, after a parent contacted Matt Biondi and Mr. Biondi directed the parent back to the board. Please first direct parent questions back to Mrs. Tracy for meaningful conversation with board support.

- **Finance Committee:** Program revenues are better than budget. Enrichment academy has been higher than previous years creating a little more revenue. We spent the money, \$26,000 on the parking lot--we are still waiting for the reimbursement for the timing of the report to catch up. If the budget was exactly as we had planned we'd have \$3000 left for the year--it costs us a considerable amount of money when students are gone, \$50,000 last year.
- **Admissions Committee:** Three different students from 3 different schools have reached out to the admissions committee with in depth requests via email. It is unusual to have students directly contact the admissions committee.
Please read the admissions application for review at the next meeting in December 12th--to be prepared to discuss changes, application needs to be approved this meeting.
- **HR Committee:** Motion for new Business--to hire Chester Leierer, a HSCS alum
- **Facilities Committee:** no new business to report
- **Old business:** Parent club turn out was good, the fall picnic turn out was also good.
The board newsletter, Kelby will take responsibility for this month

Board Recruitment:

Andreas Whetzel is a new member and the board continues to work on diversifying, Andreas had asked Jenny about onboarding materials, she found some charter school materials that were good examples for our Board to use as potential for creating our own--there used to be folders, but it appears as that no one has been using the folders in the last couple of years. Jenny and Robyn are working on creating something new.

Communication: Social media is doing well, our next project is getting information out to our feeder schools, especially the 15 schools (out of 40) that had zero applicants. The goal is to get information out to the schools and potentially visit them, Robyn is working on a draft of communication

New Business: This is Jill Whitney's last meeting and the board and Robyn Saunders Wilson will take over Board Secretary duties. Board approved 7:30 pm

Plan to discuss use of ALMA as a part of the admissions process in the future and determine how the board and school can use ALMA in future applications collection.

- Chester Leierer is a former student of HSCS and is dedicated to our mission, Mrs. Tracy knows him well. Leah conducted the interview and he performed well. His background check has been completed. Board approval for hire 7:34 pm. Christina will complete the process of hire starting tomorrow
- Motion to invite Amy Baden to the board--approved 7:52 pm

Adjourn 7:54 pm

Dec12th over zoom--early for Winter break

Jan over zoom

Feb in person

Mar over zoom

April over zoom

May in person