



HPA Purpose Statement: *At High Point Academy, we work in partnership with diverse families and the community to engage scholars in holistic, equitable, interdisciplinary and dynamic learning, providing an environment where scholars are able to achieve more than they thought possible for themselves. We foster a culture of respect, collaboration, community, and curiosity to prepare our scholars to be life-long learners and responsible humans.*

Governing Board Meeting Minutes

Thursday, October 26, 2023

5:00-6:00 PM

In-Person (Microsoft Teams made available)

Meeting Link: [Click here to join the meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 251 796 884 534

Passcode: 7kkHpM

- **Board Attendance:** *Elise Topliss (President), Theo Shaw (Director), Jennifer Garcia (Director) Christina Castro (Director), and Devaki Parma (Treasurer)*
- **Other attendance:** *Meredith Stolle (ED), Dawn Priday (CFO), numerous parents and community members*

I. Call to Order

Meeting called to order by E. Topliss @5:05pm

II. Approval of -

- a. October 26th Agenda
- b. September 19th Minutes

Motion: T. Shaw

2nd: D. Parma

All in favor – motion passes

III. Financials

- a. Discuss high-level financial scorecard – Dawn
- b. Informed the Board that the overall budget is \$300K better than advised in September but also confirmed that the lower-than-expected enrollment numbers have impacted the overall budget - Dawn

- c. The annual audit was clean with no concerns for internal controls. No audit findings that made it into the letter - expect that the depreciation method used is neutral, consistent, and clear; no corrected or uncorrected statements - overall successful audit - Dawn

IV. Review & Discussion:

- a. Staffing Changes – Meredith
 - i. It was taken hard - questions were more logistical
 - ii. Put on radar to provide a bonus to those staff members that step up to fill in the gaps
 - iii. Need to come up with specific dollar amount and ideas we can request from the Educational Fund - Elise will follow up
- b. Student Behavior using SLACK - how is that going?
 - i. More streamlined than walkie-talkie
 - ii. More responsive
 - iii. November will be update on Culture Climate
 - iv. Board will be sending out a survey to staff - encouraged by CSI
 - v. Quarter 1 Survey for Staff went out today; Families will go out next week
- c. CSI certification - presentation to the CSI board - November 14th; Elise and Merideth will focus on what we are doing to improve or what has been done already
- d. Unified Improvement Plan
 - i. Family Engagement
 - ii. Culturally Responsive Practices
 - iii. Request from Board - have APs talk about social/emotional wellness in November.
- e. Meredith's ED Report (including next steps for Priority school rating – Meredith)
 - i. Highlighted Celebrations for Elementary and Middle School
 - ii. The new curriculum is challenging for both students and teachers; there is support for students via one-on-one, small groups, peer support; teachers are supported in a daily one hour block that can focus on specific subjects/topics
 - iii. Opportunities for improvement
 - 1. Focus on the positive
 - 2. Managing change
 - 3. Communicating the WHY
 - iv. Goals for this year:
 - 1. Hold advisory meeting once every month
 - 2. Meet or exceed state average in math and literacy
 - 3. Set focus area for instructional observation and growth
 - 4. Teachers have time each week for planning literacy and math
 - 5. Board requested that to see incremental goals each month and to have A-Net scores presented
- f. Board By Laws
 - i. Need to codify the number of parents; number of members with education background; should be one member that is a parent of Elementary scholar and 2nd that is parent of Middle school scholar
- g. School Zone signs should be posted in next 4-6 weeks

- i. Signal light won't be installed until end of 2024; may be able to put in a 4-way stop sign
 - h. School is transitioning to Google at the end of 2023;
 - i. Email addresses will change as well; access will continue until end of school year
 - ii. Proposed to have 2 hour meetings each month with alternating virtual/in-person
- V. PUBLIC COMMENTS
 - a. Eva Hernandez
 - i. Concerned about:
 - 1. Announcements of teachers leaving
 - 2. Families pulling their students out
 - 3. Declining budget
 - ii. Help is needed from the board
 - 1. Each board member spend day at High Point - be present; what is missing
 - 2. Hold family session to allow families voice their concerns
 - 3. Hold session with teachers - small group
 - 4. Hold session with school leadership
 - b. Dylan - 3 kids 6 years with HPA
 - i. Concerned about:
 - 1. Volunteer/Sub Ration
 - 2. Behavior concerns
 - 3. Walking hallways
 - 4. Children leaving classrooms w/ no supervisor
 - 5. Increased fights
 - 6. Kids are cuddled for bad behaviors
 - 7. Communication is lacking
 - 8. Teachers not empowered
 - c. Carrisa 2nd year at HPA
 - i. Very Involved - CSI
 - ii. Has been a good experience
 - iii. The negative comments are from families that are not participating
 - d. Angel - 2nd grade Parent
 - i. Family Advisory Meeting - every last Thursday
 - ii. Son loves the new curriculum
 - iii. Parents are responsible as well
 - iv. Great community
 - e. Dustin 4 students - 6 years and Wife is a teacher
 - i. Concerned about:
 - 1. academic Rigor
 - 2. Discipline for students
 - 3. Request to Board - Need a strategy - have to get real help; two scholars don't have a teacher and having received any grades in math
 - 4. Classrooms don't have teachers to deliver the curriculum
 - 5. When face-to-face meeting requested - was ghosted by Dean
 - f. Lisa son that attend inaugural year of HPA
 - i. Was great in elementary; middle school not so great
 - ii. Bullying is relentless

- iii. Not safe for students
- g. Sandi 8th grade Parent (11years at HPA)
 - i. IED hasn't been addressed
 - ii. Requested 504 plan - hasn't been addressed
 - iii. Bullying is out of control
 - iv. Weed smoking in school
 - v. Vaping in class
 - vi. Ask for parent help
 - vii. Son loves school
 - viii. Daughter has N/A for grades
- h. Brett parent of 5th grader/2nd grader
 - i. Loves school
 - ii. Upset that that the paras are gone
 - iii. Carpool is not working
 - iv. Same students seem to be the issue in regards to discipline
 - v. Disconnect from the school
- i. Name not captured - 4 boys (sandbox family)
 - i. Was sub teacher
 - ii. Previously had a great experience
 - iii. Son was grabbed by teacher - no follow up no communication from school
 - iv. Middle school teachers are not teaching
 - v. Current elementary student doesn't get enough support
 - vi. Kids are disruptive and being awarded for bad behavior

VI. Adjourn

Meeting Adjourned @ 7:01pm by T. Shaw, 2nd by D. Parma