



## Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Higher Institute of Arts and Technology (HIAT)  
5885 Harrison Street Merrillville, IN 46410  
Thursday, February 23, 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

Attendees recited the Pledge of Allegiance

### III. Roll Call

#### Board Member Attendance

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

#### Other Attendees

Monica Jackson, Operations Manager, HIAT  
Melissa Morris, NW Regional Director, PLA  
Cheri Shannon, Chief Growth Officer, PLA  
Eva Spilker, Chief Financial Officer, PLA

#### a. Approval of Board Agenda

*\*A motion was made to amend the agenda to include Section VI: Building Rentals and Sound System, and Section VII.e: Approval for Sharla Johnson to Negotiate PLA Renewal Management Contract*

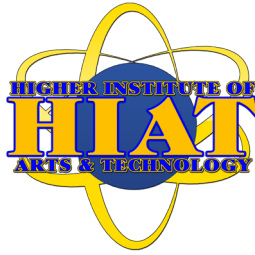
Motion: George Tucker      Support: April Brown

#### b. Approval of Regular Board Minutes from December 15, 2022, and Special Board Minutes from January 31, 2023, and February 9, 2023

Motion: Charles Reese      Support: George Tucker

### IV. CMO Report

#### a. Principal and Academic Support Update



Melissa Morris presented the principal and academic support update. A brief background of the new Instructional Specialist, Stacy Lindskog, was presented. Melissa provided an update on enrollment, scholar attendance, staffing, NWEA data reflection, positive trends, areas for improvement, preparing for the upcoming ILEARN and IREAD-3 testing, and facility updates.

**b. Financial Report**

The financial report was presented by Eva Spilker. A financial review of the income statement, cash balances, and accounts payable balances, days cash, and enrollment was provided. The audit has been completed and will be discussed at the next regular board meeting.

**V. Committee Reports**

None

**VI. Old Business/Discussion Items**

**a. Building Rentals**

Sharla Johnson advised that the board will be looking into a third party to manage, lease, and be responsible for the rentals; the school and staff will not be responsible.

**b. Sound System**

Sharla would like to explore the possibility of making the sound system accessible and adaptive to others (i.e., ADA).

**VII. New Business**

**a. Approval of Raise the Bar Initiative**

Motion: George Tucker      Support: Stephanie Davis

Yays: 6      Nays: 0

The board unanimously voted to approve the Raise the Bar Initiative.

**b. Approval of New Custodial Vendor**

The board tabled this item until more research has been completed on the vendors.

**c. Approval of E-rate Extension Contract**

Motion: Charles Reese      Support: Bridgette Harris

Yays: 6      Nays: 0

The board unanimously voted to approve the E-rate Extension Contract.

**d. Approval of 2023-2024 School Calendar**

Motion: George Tucker      Support: Stephanie Davis

Yays: 6      Nays: 0

The board unanimously voted to approve the 2023-2024 School Calendar.



e. Approval for Sharla Johnson to Negotiate PLA Renewal Management Contract

Motion: Bridgette Harris      Support: George Tucker

Yays: 6                              Nays: 0

The board unanimously voted to approve and authorize Board President, Sharla Johnson, to negotiate the PLA Renewal Management Contract.

**VIII. Parents**

None

**IX. Open Communication/Comments from the Public**

- Coach Taylor inquired about constructing a gymnasium on the school grounds.
- Stephanie Davis inquired about 9<sup>th</sup> grade being added for the upcoming 2023-2024 school year. Ms. Davis also commented on the decline of the current food vendor.

**X. Meeting Adjourned**

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting.

Motion: George Tucker      Support: April Brown

The meeting was adjourned at 5:07 PM.