



## **Board of Directors Meeting Minutes**

Higher Institute of Arts and Technology (HIAT)  
5885 Harrison Street Merrillville, IN 46410  
Monday, August 22, 2022 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 pledge of allegiance was recited by the assembled Directors and attendees.

### **III. Roll Call**

#### **Board Member Attendance**

April Brown	Absent – Proxy granted to Mr. Reese
Bridgette Harris	Present
Sharla Johnson	Present
Stephanie Powell	Absent
Charles Reese	Present
George Tucker	Absent

#### **Other Attendees**

Earl Martin Phalen, CEO, PLA  
Eva Spilker, President & CFO, PLA  
Nicole Scott, COC, Legal & External Partners, PLA  
Melissa Morris, NW Regional Director, PLA  
Brandy Ivy, Human Resource Generalist, PLA  
Cheri Shannon, Chief Growth Officer, PLA  
Dr. Henderson, Founder, HIAT

- a. Approval of Board Agenda  
Motion: Charles Reese      Support: Bridgette Harris

### **IV. CMO Report**

- a. Academic Support Update  
The academic report was presented by Melissa Morris. Ms. Morris welcomed Ms. Jessica Acklin, the new principal and 2022 Illinois Teacher of Year. Ms. Acklin provided a brief introduction of herself and stated that she is ecstatic to be at HIAT and looking forward to collaborating with everyone.



Melissa provided an update on Reading and Math Advantage, CFA's, Leadership Institute, leadership goals and priorities, and the state of the school.

- b. Financial Report  
The financial report was presented by Eva Spilker.  
Sharla Johnson designated the bank account to the Board of Directors.

**V. Old Business**

- a. Nicole Scott provided an update on the Charter School Capital lease. The current lease has been extended and several outstanding repairs will be completed.
- b. The board will be working with leadership on fundraising initiatives.
- c. Sharla Johnson discussed the HVAC system.

**VI. New Business**

- a. Approval of Financial Audit Engagement Letter  
Motion: Charles Reese      Support: Bridgette Harris
  
- b. Approval of Amended 2022-2023 School Calendar  
Motion: Charles Reese      Support: Bridgette Harris
  
- c. Approval of Curricula Purchases
  - i. Great Minds Eureka Math
  - ii. Great Minds Wit & Wisdom
  - iii. Black History 365Motion: Bridgette Harris      Support: Charles Reese

**VII. Parents**

None

**VIII. Open Communication/Comments From The Public**

- a. Parent, Ms. Mildred Hampton Watson, discussed her concerns regarding the uniform policy and principal turnover rate. Ms. Sharla would like to start a PTA.
- b. An attendee inquired about after school programming.
- c. An attendee addressed professionalism in the workplace and grammatical errors with outbound communications.

**IX. Meeting Adjourned**

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting.  
Motion: Bridgette Harris      Support: Charles Reese

The meeting was adjourned at 4:55 PM.