



Harmony Public Schools

Minutes

December 10, 2022 HPS Board Meeting

Date and Time

Saturday December 10, 2022 at 8:30 AM

Location

9321 W. Sam Houston Pkwy S,
Houston, TX 77099
3rd Floor El Paso Meeting Room

**We will serve breakfast at 8:00 AM in the third floor cafeteria.

Directors Present

H. Sherwood (remote), H. Stewart, M. Argin, O. Celepcikay, O. Kanlioglu (remote)

Directors Absent

H. Koc, L. Gonzalez

Guests Present

Amine El Hiyat, C. Lambert, E. Akyildiz, E. Altun, F. Ay, J. Hoffer (remote), M. Baca, N. Bayhan, U. Alpaslan

I. Opening Items

A. Call the Meeting to Order

O. Celepcikay called a meeting of the board of directors of Harmony Public Schools to order on Saturday Dec 10, 2022 at 8:31 AM.

II. Public Comments

A. Public Comments

Jennifer Eve, Registrar from Harmony School of Advancement presents her concern regarding an equal opportunity for registrars to advance in Harmony Public Schools. Ms. Eve compares the duties and salary of SRC's (Student Recruitment Coordinators) and registrars and believes registrars do just as much work but are not compensated as SRC's. Ms. Eve also believes registrars should be given a better opportunity to advance to an SRC position.

III. Harmony Public Schools' 2021-22 Financial

A. Harmony Public Schools' 2021-22 Financial Integrity Rating System of Texas (FIRST) Public Hearing on Annual Financial Management Report.

Mrs. Ebru Akyildiz, Chief Finance Officer for Harmony Public Schools presents Harmony Public Schools' 2021-22 Financial Integrity Rating System of Texas (FIRST) Public Hearing on Annual Financial Management Report. Mrs. Akyildiz informs the public per Title 19 of the Texas Administrative Code (TAC) 109.1001 the board is required to hold a public hearing within 60 days after receiving a final financial accountability rating, which came out the beginning of November. All seven Harmony Public Schools Districts received A-Superior Achievement rating in 2021-22 Charter FIRST rating year based on 2020-21 financial and operational data. Ms. Akyildiz reviews the past two years scores for Fiscal Year 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 for Harmony Public School's seven districts.

Mrs. Akyildiz reviews a copy of reimbursements by the Superintendent and Board Members as well as gifts received by executive officers and board members. Finally, Mrs. Akyildiz reviews a copy of the Superintendents contract and salary information.

IV. Consent Agenda

A. Consider Approval of Previous Board Meeting Minutes of November 12, 2022.

H. Stewart made a motion to approve the minutes from November 12, 2022 HPS Board Meeting on 11-12-22.

M. Argin seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

B. Consider Approval/Ratification of the Minutes and of the Actions of the Finance Committee Meeting on December 2, 2022.

H. Stewart made a motion to approve the Minutes and of the Actions of the Finance Committee Meeting on December 2, 2022.

M. Argin seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

C. Consider Approval/Ratification of the Minutes and of the Actions of the Academic Committee Meeting on December 2, 2022.

H. Stewart made a motion to approve the Minutes and of the Actions of the Academic Committee Meeting on December 2, 2022.

M. Argin seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

D. Consider Approval/Ratification of the Minutes and of the Actions of the Governance Committee Meeting on December 2, 2022.

H. Stewart made a motion to approve the minutes from Governance Committee Meeting on 12-02-22.

M. Argin seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

E. Approval of revisions and legal updates to the Governance Policy Set

H. Stewart made a motion to approve revisions and legal updates to the Governance Policy Set.

M. Argin seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

V. Approval of Board Resolutions for the purchase of

A. Approval of Board Resolutions for the purchase of two tracts of land in Pearland, Texas and one tract of land in San Antonio for a future school in Houston South District.

Mr. Amine El Hiyat, HPS Construction Manager presents Approval of Board Resolution for the purchase two tracts of land in Pearland, Texas in Houston South District and one tract of land in San Antonio for a future school in the South Texas District. Mr. El Hiyat informs the board this was previously discussed during the December 2, 2022 Finance Committee meeting for a tract of land in Pearland, Texas for a future school as well as tract of land in San Antonio for future elementary school South Texas District. Mr. Amine reviews the resolution with the board.

Dr. Celepcikay states in the Finance Committee meeting minutes you will be able to see slides regarding analysis, feasibility, and due-diligence analysis on whether there is a need for harmony that helps drive the decision.

M. Argin made a motion to approve Board Resolution for the purchase of a tract of land in Pearland, Texas in Houston South District.

H. Stewart seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

H. Sherwood made a motion to approve Board Resolution for purchase of tract of land in San Antonio for a future school in the South Texas District.

O. Kanlioglu seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

VI. Approval of Revisions and Legal Updates to the below listed Personnel Policies:

- A. VII. Approval of Revisions and Legal Updates to the below listed Personnel Policies: i. PG-4.20 Electronic Communication with Students and Employee Use of Social Media and Digital Media. ii. PG-4.21 Internet Safety iii. PG-4.22 Textbooks and Instructional Supplies iv. PG-4.23 Intellectual Property v. PG-4.24 Solicitation and Distribution of Third Party Materials vi. PG-4.25 School Property and Use of School Facilities. vii. PG-4.26 Consensual Romantic Relationships**

Mr. Emre Altun, Chief Human Resource Officer for Harmony Public Schools presents Approval of Revisions and Legal Updates. Mr. Altun states that policy updates were brought to the board during the December 10th board meeting and the seven policies listed here were asked to be brought back to the board with supporting documentation. Mr. Altun reviews the policies with the board.

Dr. Celepcikay asks if there are any new policies out of these seven and Mr. Altun states these are all updates that were provided by our legal team with minor changes. The changes made came from our legal team which was due to legislative changes but majority of the changes are minor changes such as the school name.

H. Stewart made a motion to approve Revisions and Legal Updates to the below listed Personnel Policies as reviewed and presented.

M. Argin seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

VII. Approval of Resolution to submit a non-expansion amendment

- A. Approval of Resolution to submit a non-expansion amendment to TEA to postpone the opening date for the new campus Harmony Science Academy - Leander of Harmony Public Schools - HPS Central Texas Charter (CDN: 227-816).**

Ms. Minh Baca, Chief Compliance Officer for Harmony Public Schools presents Approval of Resolution to submit a non-expansion amendment to TEA to postpone the opening date for the new campus Harmony Science Academy - Leander of Harmony Public Schools - HPS Central Texas Charter (CDN: 227-816). Due to city permitting issues, HPS will need to postpone the opening date for Harmony Science Academy-Leander to the 2024-2025 school year.

Dr. Argin asks if this postponement has any financial or personnel implications due to the delay and Mr. Ay states that this will not have any implications to personnel nor finances.

H. Stewart made a motion to approve Resolution to submit a non-expansion amendment to TEA to postpone the opening date for the new campus Harmony Science Academy - Leander of Harmony Public Schools - HPS Central Texas Charter (CDN: 227-816).

M. Argin seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

VIII. Approval of Resolution to submit a non-expansion amendment

A. Approval of Resolution to submit a non-expansion amendment to TEA to request an update to the campus number for the new site for Harmony Public Schools - North Texas (CDN: 161-807).

Ms. Baca presents Approval of Resolution to submit a non-expansion amendment to TEA to request an update to the campus number for the new site for Harmony Public Schools - North Texas (CDN: 161-807). She informs the board we would like to submit a non-expansion amendment to update the campus number of a previously approved additional site be moved to be under campus number 161-807-007, located at 5651 Westcreek Drive, Fort Worth, TX 76133 which is within 25 miles of the previously approved site under campus number 161-807-011 to be located at 8100 S Hulen Street, Fort Worth, TX 76123 effective August 1, 2023. Thus, the campus was scheduled to be under Harmony School of Innovation Fort Worth but will now be under Harmony Science Academy Fort Worth campus number.

M. Argin made a motion to approve resolution to submit a non-expansion amendment to TEA to request an update to the campus number for the new site for Harmony Public Schools - North Texas (CDN: 161-807).

O. Celepcikay seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

IX. Review and Approve the closure of Harmony School of Science - Houston for the Harmony Public School

A. Review and Approve the closure of Harmony School of Science - Houston for the Harmony Public Schools - Houston South Charter (101-846)

Ms. Baca presents Review and Approve the closure of Harmony School of Science - Houston for the Harmony Public Schools - Houston South Charter (101-846). She informs the board we would like to retire the campus number for Harmony School of Science Houston which was previously placed on dormancy status for this current 2022-2023 year. The students from this campus were previously moved to the surrounding Harmony campuses and this site was used for the virtual campus.

H. Stewart made a motion to approve the closure of Harmony School of Science - Houston for the Harmony Public Schools - Houston South Charter (101-846).

M. Argin seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

X. Consideration of Staff Grievance Appeal from Harmony Science Academy-Carrollton.

A. Consideration of Staff Grievance Appeal from Harmony Science Academy-Carrollton.

Dr. Celepcikay announces that board members will be going into closed session as permitted by Texas Open Meeting Act Chapters 551.071 and 551.074.

Closed Session begins 8:57AM

Dr. Celepcikay starts regular session at 9:24AM. Dr. Celepcikay states in closed session there was no action was taken.

H. Stewart made a motion to deny the staff grievance appeal and uphold the administrative decision from Harmony Science Academy-Carrollton.

M. Argin seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

XI. Closing Items

A. Adjourn Meeting

Dr. Celepcikay states this is the last meeting for our beloved board member, vice chair, finance committee chair Homer Stewart. Even though it is sad to see Homer leave the board we know he will stay a very close friend to Harmony as well as close friend of mine and yours as well. Throughout Homer's service for the last ten years we were lucky to have Homer's guidance, due diligence and always doing the right thing for students, staff and Harmony. Personally as the chair for HPS it would not have been possible to accomplish what we have without the presence of Homer. I have known Homer as a board member for Harmony but also as a really good friend and a man of integrity, faith and wisdom. It is sad to see Homer leave but on behalf of the board and Harmony I want to sincerely and from the bottom of my heart thank him for his service, leadership and contribution to Harmony.

Mr. Stewart informs the board that he will miss them and he has no doubt that Harmony is left in great hands and I'm always a friend of Harmony. Thank you all so much.

Mr. Ay states this is one last announcement and introduces Dr. Bayhan, Deputy Superintendent of Operations and Business for Harmony Public Schools. Dr. Bayhan states out of the seven districts to receive this award, we are the only charter school to receive the Financial Practices award from TASBO (Texas Association of School Business Officials). Dr. Celepcikay states we have done our best to remain financially sound and transparent and this is one of the biggest awards you can receive and Harmony is the first charter to receive. He congratulates Harmony for this award and

recognizes Mr. Stewart as our finance committee chair and his leadership in this committee.

H. Stewart made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

M. Argin seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 9:30 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,

C. Lambert