



Harmony Public Schools

Minutes

February 24, 2024 HPS Board Meeting

Date and Time

Saturday February 24, 2024 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 fourth floor meeting room.

Directors Present

K. House, L. Gonzalez, M. Argin, O. Celepcikay, O. Kanlioglu

Directors Absent

H. Koc, H. Sherwood

Guests Present

Berkan Kaya, C. Lambert, E. Akyildiz, E. Cavusoglu, Elvia Rimer, F. Ay, J. Boyd, J. Hoffer (remote), Keyna Anderson, M. Baca, Mayra Callejas, N. Bayhan, S. Aykac, 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 Feb 24, 2024 at 8:32 AM.

II. Public Comments

A. Public Comments

Mayra Callejas, parent from Harmony Public Schools states she has concerns about the school her daughter attends which includes teachers quit whenever they want to due to their contracts as well as not being able to eat at lunch with her child as school states there are not enough seats. Ms. Callejas states she is also concerned about educational content as her kids are watching movies during class time when other students/classes are testing. Ms, Callejas is also concerned about class sizes as there are 28 students per 1 teacher. A big concern Ms. Callejas has is the school does not have traffic signs in front of the campus which is a big safety concern. She has tried to contact the local precinct and they stated there is nothing they can do and she is concerned about the safety of the children.

III. Consent Agenda

A. Consider Approval of Previous Board Meeting Minutes of January 27, 2024

L. Gonzalez made a motion to approve the minutes from January 27, 2024 HPS Board Meeting on 01-27-24.

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 February 9, 2024.

L. Gonzalez made a motion to approve the Minutes and of the Actions of the Finance Committee Meeting on February 9, 2024.

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 February 9, 2024.

L. Gonzalez made a motion to approve the Minutes and of the Actions of the Academic Committee Meeting on February 9, 2024.

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 February 20, 2024

L. Gonzalez made a motion to approve the minutes from Governance Committee Meeting on 02-20-24.

M. Argin seconded the motion.

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

IV. New Board Member Nomination and Election.

A. New Board Member Nomination and Election.

Dr. Celepcikay informs the board that the Governance Committee is responsible for board relations and this includes finding possible candidates for the Harmony Public School Board. Dr. Celepcikay reviews the resume of Dr. Simon Koch with the board and discusses the candidates attributes of working with Rice University and having Charter experience. The board members unanimously agree he would be a great fit for the HPS Board.

O. Celepcikay made a motion to nominate and elect Dr. Simon Koch as a new board member for Harmony Public Schools.

L. Gonzalez seconded the motion.

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

V. Review of HPS Quarterly Investment Board Report of December 31, 2023.

A. Review of HPS Quarterly Investment Board Report of December 31, 2023.

Mrs. Ebru Akyildiz, Chief Finance Officer HPS presents Review of HPS Quarterly Investment Board Report of December 31, 2023. She informs the board the investment officers prepare and submit to the HPS Board of Directors a written report of investment transactions for all funds covered on quarterly basis. There is \$1,758,491 interest earned in Quarter 2 with an ending market value of approx. \$138 million of total investments. The annual interest earning is expected to be approximately \$5 million. This presentation was also discussed during the February 9, 2024 HPS Finance Committee meeting.

VI. Review and Consider Approval of Board Resolution for New Bank Account Signature Authorizers.

A. Review and Consider Approval of Board Resolution for New Bank Account Signature Authorizers.

Mrs. Ebru Akyildiz, Chief Finance Officer presents Review and Consider Approval of Board Resolution for New Bank Account Signature Authorizers. She informs the board per required the new bank regulations, Regions Bank is requesting the HPS' Board Approval on the final signatory authorizations. As an addition to the current signers, Mr. Alpaslan, Mr. Cavusoglu and Ms. Jackson are being added.

L. Gonzalez made a motion to approve Board Resolution for New Bank Account Signature Authorizers as presented.

K. House seconded the motion.

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

VII. Review and Consider Approval of 2023-24 Fiscal Year 2nd Quarter Budget Amendments

A. Review and Consider Approval of 2023-24 Fiscal Year 2nd Quarter Budget Amendments

George Perez, Budget Director HPS presents Review and Consider Approval of 2023-24 Fiscal Year 2nd Quarter Budget Amendments. Mr. Perez states the report is for the consideration and approval of revenue and expenditure budget amendment as of December 31, 2023. As outlined in the documents, there is a significant revenue increase compared to the initial budget approved. The expenditure increase is relatively minimal.

Mr. Perez reviews the presentation with board members.

M. Argin made a motion to approve 2023-24 Fiscal Year 2nd Quarter Budget Amendments as presented.

O. Kanlioglu seconded the motion.

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

VIII. K-2 Early Literacy mClass MOY Data Review.

A. K-2 Early Literacy mClass MOY Data Review.

Ms. Elvia Rimer, Curriculum Director PreK-2 ELAR/SS HPS presents K-2 Early Literacy mClass MOY Data Review. Ms. Rimer informs the board this presentation demonstrates an analyzed data collected from the mClass assessment tool for students in kindergarten through 2nd grade. This assessment focuses on early literacy skills such as letter recognition, phonemic awareness, and reading fluency. During the review, the team examines trends, identifies areas of strength and weakness, and makes instructional decisions to support student growth. It helps teachers tailor their teaching strategies to meet the specific needs of their students and ensure they are on track for literacy success. Ms. Rimer reviews the presentation with board members that was shared.

IX. Class of 2023 College Enrollment Report.

A. Class of 2023 College Enrollment Report.

Mr. Berkan Kaya, Director-Partnership & Career Success HPS presents Class of 2023 College Enrollment Report. Mr. Kaya states the Class of 2023 College Enrollment Report provides a comprehensive overview of the college enrollment outcomes for the graduated class of 2023. This report includes data on the number of students who applied to college, were accepted, and ultimately enrolled in 4-year or 2-year post-secondary colleges or universities. It also includes information on the types of colleges or universities students chose as well as demographic breakdowns such as race, ethnicity, and socioeconomic status. The report serves as a valuable tool for our team to assess the effectiveness of college readiness programs and initiatives, identify areas for

improvement, and track trends in post-secondary education attainment. Mr. Kaya reviews the presentation shared with the board.

X. Consider and take possible action approving submission of waiver

A. Consider and take possible action approving submission of waiver request for expansion amendments for Harmony Public Schools – Central Texas.

Ms. Minh Baca, Chief of Compliance HPS presents Consider and take possible action approving submission of waiver request for expansion amendments for Harmony Public Schools – Central Texas. Ms. Baca informs the board this waiver is needed to waive the districts' requirement to have a rating of at least 90% academically acceptable for its campuses when submitting expansion amendments to TEA.

L. Gonzalez made a motion to approve submission of waiver request for expansion amendments for Harmony Public Schools – Central Texas.

K. House seconded the motion.

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

XI. Consider and take possible action approving submission of waiver

A. Consider and take possible action approving submission of waiver requests for expansion amendments for Harmony Public Schools – South Texas.

Ms. Minh Baca, Chief of Compliance HPS presents Consider and take possible action approving submission of waiver requests for expansion amendments for Harmony Public Schools – South Texas. Ms. Baca informs the board this waiver is needed to waive the district's requirement to have a designation of TIER 1 or TIER 2 under the Charter Performance Framework when submitting expansion amendments to TEA.

L. Gonzalez made a motion to approve submission of waiver requests for expansion amendments for Harmony Public Schools – South Texas.

O. Kanlioglu seconded the motion.

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

XII. Consider and take possible action approving submission of waiver

A. Consider and take possible action approving submission of waiver request for expansion amendment, withdrawal of previously approved site expansion and submission of request for additional campus for Harmony Public Schools – West Texas.

Ms. Minh Baca, Chief of Compliance HPS presents Consider and take possible action approving submission of waiver request for expansion amendment, withdrawal of previously approved site expansion and submission of request for additional campus for Harmony Public Schools – West Texas. Ms. Baca states HPS-West Texas district previously received board approval to open an additional site under HSA-Odessa but

after some consideration, they would like to update that request to open an additional campus instead of the additional site.

L. Gonzalez made a motion to approve submission of waiver request for expansion amendment, withdrawal of previously approved site expansion and submission of request for additional campus for Harmony Public Schools – West Texas.

M. Argin seconded the motion.

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

XIII. Review of new STEM is More at Harmony Campaign.

A. Review of new STEM is More at Harmony Campaign.

John Boyd, Chief Communications & Marketing Officer HPS presents Review of new STEM is More at Harmony Campaign. Mr. Boyd informs the board the Department of Communications & Marketing presents an overview of its "STEM is More" marketing campaign, which is intended to raise awareness regarding Harmony's successes in STEM education. Mr. Boyd reviews the presentation shared with the board members.

XIV. Closing Items

A. Adjourn Meeting

Mr. Lambert reminds the board members of March 31st due date for required annual trainings.

O. Kanlioglu made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

L. Gonzalez 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 10:03 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,

C. Lambert