



Harmony Public Schools

Minutes

March 23, 2024 HPS Board Meeting

Date and Time

Saturday March 23, 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

H. Koc (remote), H. Sherwood (remote), K. House (remote), L. Gonzalez, M. Argin, O. Celepcikay, S. Koch (remote)

Directors Absent

None

Guests Present

Atila Akyurek, C. Lambert, E. Akyildiz, E. Cavusoglu, F. Ay, J. Hoffer (remote), M. Baca, N. Bayhan, Saveem Afraz, 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 Mar 23, 2024 at 8:33 AM.

II. Public Comments

A. Public Comments

Saveem Afraz, Special Education Teacher for Harmony Public Schools speaks to the board about advocating for SPED training for Harmony general education teachers. Ms. Afraz shares statistics regarding special education student populations and the need for training for general education teachers.

III. Consent Agenda

A. Consider Approval of Previous Board Meeting Minutes of February 24, 2024

L. Gonzalez made a motion to approve the minutes from February 24, 2024 HPS Board Meeting on 02-24-24.

H. Koc 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 March 8, 2024.

L. Gonzalez made a motion to approve the Minutes and of the Actions of the Finance Committee Meeting on March 8, 2024.

H. Koc 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 March 8, 2024.

L. Gonzalez made a motion to approve the Minutes and of the Actions of the Academic Committee Meeting on March 8, 2024.

H. Koc seconded the motion.

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

IV. Review and Consider Approval of the Financial Auditor and the Form 990 Engagement Letter.

A. Review and Consider Approval of the Financial Auditor and the Form 990 Engagement Letter.

Mrs. Ebru Akyildiz, Chief Finance Officer HPS presents Review and Consider Approval of the Financial Auditor and the Form 990 Engagement Letter. She informs the board this letter is to indicate The Board of Directors' acknowledgment of, and agreement with, the arrangements for Whitley Penn's audit of the June 30, 2024 financial statements

compliance over major federal award programs including their respective responsibilities. Whitley Penn will also prepare the HPS' Form 990 to be filed with the Internal Revenue Service ("IRS") for the year ended 2024 based on information provided by HPS. This item was also reviewed during the Finance Committee meeting held on March 8th.

L. Gonzalez made a motion to approve the Financial Auditor and the Form 990 Engagement Letter as presented.

M. Argin seconded the motion.

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

V. Review and Consider Approval of the Updates to Harmony Public Schools Policy

A. Review and Consider Approval of the Updates to Harmony Public Schools Policy Purchasing and Contracting – Goods and/or Services other than Public Works and Professional Services Contracts – State and/or Local Funds.

Mrs. Ebru Akyildiz, Chief Finance Officer HPS presents Review and Consider Approval of the Updates to Harmony Public Schools Policy Purchasing and Contracting – Goods and/or Services other than Public Works and Professional Services Contracts – State and/or Local Funds. Mrs. Akyildiz reviews the current policy with the board and the changes to be made. The proposed change is to allow establishing a purchasing card (P-Cards) program for business expenditures such as travel costs (gas, meals, etc). This program will be piloted in Central Office as well as one of the districts for a period of time to test the process and implemented to all campuses and district offices in the next school year. This implementation plan will deploy the program for travel expenses, improving efficiency, accountability, and financial management practices.

L. Gonzalez made a motion to approve the Updates to Harmony Public Schools Policy Purchasing and Contracting – Goods and/or Services other than Public Works and Professional Services Contracts – State and/or Local Funds as presented.

M. Argin seconded the motion.

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

VI. 2023-2024 SY NWEA MAP Assessment Mid-Year (MOY) Review.

A. 2023-2024 SY NWEA MAP Assessment Mid-Year (MOY) Review.

Mr. Atila Akyurek, Director of Accountability HPS presents 2023-2024 SY NWEA MAP Assessment Mid-Year (MOY) Review. He informs the board the NWEA MAP (Measures of Academic Progress) Middle of Year (MOY) Data Review is a process used in our schools to assess and analyze the academic progress of students at the start of the school year in Reading, Math and Science in grades Kindergarten thru 8th grade. NWEA MAP is an assessment system that provides educators with valuable data about students' academic performance and growth over time. The MOY Data Review specifically focuses on the assessment data collected during the middle of the academic year. Mr. Akyurek

reviews all district progress with the board members comparing fall to winter as well as comparing academic years 2021-2022, 2022-2023, and 2023-2024.

VII. Review and Approve the 2024-25 Academic Calendars for all HPS Charters.

A. Review and Approve the 2024-25 Academic Calendars for all HPS Charters.

Ms. Minh Baca, Chief of Compliance HPS presents Review and Approve the 2024-25 Academic Calendars for all HPS Charters. Ms. Baca reviews the calendars for each district with the board members.

L. Gonzalez made a motion to approve the 2024-25 Academic Calendars for all HPS Charters as presented.

M. Argin seconded the motion.

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

VIII. Approval of Staff Development Minutes waivers to TEA for all HPS Charters.

A. Approval of Staff Development Minutes waivers to TEA for all HPS Charters.

Ms. Minh Baca, Chief of Compliance HPS presents Approval of Staff Development Minutes waivers to TEA for all HPS Charters. Ms. Baca states informs the board this is an annual waiver submission to TEA. This waiver allows us to train staff on various educational strategies designed to improve student performance in lieu of student instruction during the school year. All of our districts will be waiving up to 2100 instructional minutes. Ms. Baca reviews the dates for professional development with the board members.

M. Argin made a motion to approve Staff Development Minutes waivers to TEA for all HPS Charters as presented.

L. Gonzalez seconded the motion.

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

IX. Consider Approval of Engagement with Gravely & Pearson Lawfirm.

A. Consider Approval of Engagement with Gravely & Pearson Lawfirm.

Dr. Celepcikay announces that the board members will be going into closed session as permitted by Texas Open Meetings Act Chapters 551.071, discussion with legal counsel.

Closed Session begins 9:22AM.

Dr. Celepcikay starts regular session at 9:34AM. Dr. Celepcikay states in closed session the board had discussion with legal counsel and no action was taken.

L. Gonzalez made a motion to approve the engagement with Gravely Lawfirm as discussed in closed session.

M. Argin seconded the motion.

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

X. Closing Items

A. Adjourn Meeting

Dr. Argin welcomes Dr. Simon Koch to the HPS Board of Directors.

L. Gonzalez 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 9:36 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,

C. Lambert