



Harmony Public Schools

Minutes

November 16, 2024 HPS Board Meeting

Date and Time

Saturday November 16, 2024 at 9:00 AM

Location

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

**We will serve breakfast at 8:30 AM in the fourth floor meeting room.

Directors Present

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

Directors Absent

H. Sherwood, K. House

Directors who left before the meeting adjourned

M. Argin

Guests Present

A. Ayyildiz, C. Lambert, Celina Cereceres, E. Akyildiz, E. Cavusoglu, F. Ay, George Perez, J. Hoffer (remote), 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 Nov 16, 2024 at 9:00 AM.

II. Public Comments

A. Public Comments

None.

III. Consent Agenda

A. Consider Approval of Previous Board Meeting Minutes of October 26, 2024

H. Koc made a motion to approve the minutes from October 26, 2024 HPS Board Meeting on 10-26-24.

L. Gonzalez 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 November 2, 2024

H. Koc made a motion to approve the Minutes and of the Actions of the Finance Committee Meeting on November 2, 2024.

L. Gonzalez 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 November 2, 2024

H. Koc made a motion to approve the Minutes and of the Actions of the Academic Committee Meeting on November 2, 2024.

L. Gonzalez seconded the motion.

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

IV. Review and Approval of 2023-2024 Annual Financial

A. Review and Approval of 2023-2024 Annual Financial and Compliance Report (AFR) as submitted and presented by the Independent Auditor, Whitley Penn.

Ms. Celina Cereceres, Audit Partner Whitley Penn, presents Review and Approval 2023-2024 Annual Financial and Compliance Report (AFR) as submitted and presented by the Independent Auditor, Whitley Penn. Ms. Cereceres reviews the report with board members and informs the board there is no findings and the data is reported as clean and Harmony has earned an unmodified opinion over financial statements. There are no internal control findings related to financial reporting, and no findings related to compliance. The major federal programs reviewed included ESSER, IDEA B, and

Replication and Expansion of High-Quality Charter School and each earned an unmodified opinion with no internal control findings related to each program. Ms. Cereceres reviews the current and prior year financial statements and commends Harmony regarding the audit.

Dr. Celepcikay thanks Ms. Cereceres and her team for their work and thanks Harmony's finance team for their continued efforts.

O. Celepcikay made a motion to approve the 2023-2024 Annual Financial and Compliance Report (AFR) as submitted and presented by the Independent Auditor, Whitley Penn.

H. Koc seconded the motion.

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

V. Review and Approval of 2024-25 Fiscal Year 1st Quarter Budget Amendments.

A. Review and Approval of 2024-25 Fiscal Year 1st Quarter Budget Amendments.

Mr. George Perez, Budget Director HPS presents Review and Approval of 2024-25 Fiscal Year 1st Quarter Budget Amendments. He informs the board the Systemwide All Funds budget report includes seven geographical Districts and the Central Office. For Quarter 1 we are forecasting a \$21.5M overall positive change in net assets for the 2025 Fiscal Year. This reflects +1.4 M net changes in revenues and expenditures from the initial budget that was approved last June. In June the Board was presented with the General Fund (420), and the Child Nutrition Services Fund (240). This is required by law before the funds are loaded July 1. Mr. Perez reviews the Quarter 1 changes with the board as well as Federal Grant and Donation Revenues. Finally, Mr. Perez reviews 2024-2025 All Funds and 420 Funds for each district, as well as Gradulet funds.

S. Koch made a motion to approve the 2024-25 Fiscal Year 1st Quarter Budget Amendments.

L. Gonzalez seconded the motion.

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

VI. Review of HPS Quarterly Investment Board Report of September 30, 2024.

A. Review of HPS Quarterly Investment Board Report of September 30, 2024.

Mrs. Ebru Akyildiz, Chief Finance Officer HPS presents Review of HPS Quarterly Investment Board Report of September 30, 2024. Mrs. Akyildiz informs the board that the was also reviewed during the November 2, 2024 Finance Committee Meeting and that 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 \$1,044,955 interest earned in Quarter 1 with an ending market value of approx. \$154 million of total investments.

VII. Review and Consider Approval of Designation for the Use of Non-Public Funds

A. Review and Consider Approval of Designation for the Use of Non-Public Funds for Incentive Programs

Mr. Emin Cavusoglu, Deputy Superintendent Programs HPS presents Review and Consider Approval of Designation for the Use of Non-Public Funds for Incentive Programs. Mr. Cavusoglu informs the board this agenda item involves reviewing and considering the approval of the allocation and use of non-public funds for incentive programs. The goal is to ensure that the funds are used effectively to support initiatives such as city-wide math competitions and system-wide Language and Art Festivals that motivate and engage students, staff, or other stakeholders in accordance with HPS goals and guidelines. Approval will allow the districts to move forward with specific academic competitions and events aimed at fostering achievement and participation. Mr. Cavusoglu reviews the requested budget that was shared with the board.

H. Koc made a motion to approve the Designation for the Use of Non-Public Funds for Incentive Programs as presented.

L. Gonzalez seconded the motion.

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

VIII. HB 3 - Yearly Board Goals for Early Childhood Literacy

A. HB 3 - Yearly Board Goals for Early Childhood Literacy and Mathematics & College, Career, and Military Readiness (CCMR)

Mr. Emin Cavusoglu, Deputy Superintendent Programs HPS presents HB 3 - Yearly Board Goals for Early Childhood Literacy and Mathematics & College, Career, and Military Readiness (CCMR). Mr. Cavusoglu informs the board this agenda item focuses on the district's yearly goals related to Early Childhood Literacy and Mathematics, as well as College, Career, and Military Readiness (CCMR), in accordance with House Bill 3 (HB 3) requirements. He informs the board that the requirement is to bring this to the board attention once a year but this will be brought back to the board's attention in June as well.

The board reviews and discusses progress towards these critical educational goals, evaluate the effectiveness of current strategies, and consider any adjustments needed to ensure students are on track for future success in literacy, mathematics, and post-graduation readiness in college, career, and military pathways. Mr. Cavusoglu reviews 3rd Grade Reading Proficiency, 3rd Grade Math Proficiency, and CCMR Accountability Yearly targeted goals from 2024 through 2029 with the board members for each district.

H. Koc made a motion to approve HB 3 - Yearly Board Goals for Early Childhood Literacy and Mathematics & College, Career, and Military Readiness (CCMR).

S. Koch seconded the motion.

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

M. Argin left at 9:50 AM.

IX. Board Approval of Revised Board Policies of Special Education

A.

Board Approval of Revised Board Policies of Special Education

Dr. Ahmet Cetinkaya, Director of Special Programs HPS presents Board Approval of Revised Board Policies of Special Education. He informs the board Harmony Public Schools (HPS) attorneys reviewed HPS policies and edited them to reflect the most recent legislative updates and rule amendments to the Texas Administrative Code (TAC). Today we are seeking approval of 8 revised Special Education policies 2.3.1 -ARD Committee, 2.3.2 - Eligibility Criteria, 2.3.3 - Referral, 2.3.4 - Consent & PWN, 2.3.6 - Evaluation, 2.3.10 - Dyslexia, 2.3.33 - Driving w Disability Program, 2.3.34 – Transfer.

Dr. Cetinkaya reviews the highlighted changes shared with the board members prior to the meeting.

L. Gonzalez made a motion to approve Revised Board Policies of Special Education as presented.

S. Koch seconded the motion.

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

X. Closed Session Pursuant to Govt. Code 551.071 (Consultation with Legal Counsel) and 551.082 (St

A. Closed Session Pursuant to Govt. Code 551.071 (Consultation with Legal Counsel) and 551.082 (Student Discipline Appeals). ii. The Board will consider a Student Expulsion Appeal from Harmony School of Innovation – Garland

Dr. Celepcikay announces that the board members will be going into closed session as permitted by Govt. Code 551.071 (Consultation with Legal Counsel) and 551.082 (Student Discipline Appeals).

Closed Session begins 10:03 AM.

B. Closed Session Pursuant to Govt. Code 551.071 (Consultation with Legal Counsel) and 551.082 (Student Discipline Appeals). iii. The Board will consider a Student/Parent Grievance Appeal from Harmony School of Innovation – Dallas

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A. XI. Closed Session Pursuant to Govt. Code 551.071 (Consultation with Legal Counsel) and 551.074 (Personnel). i. The Board will consider a Staff Grievance Appeal from Harmony Science Academy – Euless

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Closed Session begins 10:03 AM.

XII. Resume Open Session

A. VIII. Resume Open Session i. Consider and take possible action on Student Expulsion Appeal from Harmony School of Innovation – Garland. ii. Consider and take possible action on Student/Parent Grievance Appeal from Harmony School of Innovation – Dallas iii. Consider and take possible action on Staff Grievance Appeal from Harmony Science Academy – Euless

Dr. Celepcikay starts regular session at 10:18 AM. Dr. Celepcikay states in closed session the board had discussion with legal counsel and no action was taken.

Dr. Celepcikay asks if there is a motion on Item "i. Consider and take possible action on Student Expulsion Appeal from Harmony School of Innovation – Garland".

L. Gonzalez made a motion to deny the expulsion appeal and uphold the administration's decision from Harmony School of Innovation-Garland.

H. Koc seconded the motion.

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

Dr. Celepcikay asks if there is a motion on Item "ii. Consider and take possible action on Student/Parent Grievance Appeal from Harmony School of Innovation – Dallas"

L. Gonzalez made a motion to uphold the administration's decision and deny the grievance appeal from Harmony School of Innovation-Dallas.

S. Koch seconded the motion.

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

Dr. Celepcikay asks if there is a motion on Item "Consider and take possible action on Staff Grievance Appeal from Harmony Science Academy – Euless"

O. Celepcikay made a motion to uphold administration decision and deny the appeal.

L. Gonzalez seconded the motion.

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

XIII. Closing Items

A. Adjourn Meeting

L. Gonzalez made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

S. Koch 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 10:21 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,
O. Celepcikay