



# HCCS BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Regular Meeting – Wednesday, October 18 – 5:30 PM – Room #144

Public Zoom Link: <https://zoom.us/j/96422657430>

**I. Call to Order & Roll Call - Called to Order at 5:31PM - All present. Admin present: Kevin. II.**

**Changes or Additions to the Agenda - None.**

**III. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes - Approved - see Discussion item b.**

**IV. Public Comment**

- a. **Aimee Anderson:** 3rd & 7th grade parent. Concerned about the quality of special education that her children have been receiving as well as the transparency. Teacher certification is a part of public record and she could not find certification information for our current or incoming special education services. She would like to know how information is presented to the board with regard to hiring recommendations.
- b. Vincent: Tying that comment into how we're doing as a school in regards to compliance with special education and IEPs - how we can get broader input from the community and their experience. i. Sherry: Typically the board doesn't respond to public comment so we can bring this topic into consideration for the committees.

**V. Board Correspondence**

- a. Operational email regarding open position form being closed; it was then opened.

**VI. Presentations:** None

**VII. Reports**

- a. President's Report - Sherry
  - i. Thank everyone as we start in the school year. It's already October and we've had a number of school events for the community - PTO's WRAT and upcoming Fall Festival. On behalf of the board we'd like to encourage the community to participate. With everything happening globally it's important that we make our community cohesive.
  - ii. The committee process is closed but we have several people reach out about participating in committees. As we open the strategic planning process we'd like to reiterate that our priority is transparency and community input - several surveys and conversations are being scheduled with Kevin & the admin and the PTO. Engagement in the community is one of our primary goals this year!
- b. Director's Report - Kevin
  - i. Enrollment stands at 249 - wrapping up the fall count and being certified in the weeks ahead. We've hired 4 IAs in the last few weeks - as of right now we're fully staffed or approaching it as these IAs come online. Thank you for the lunches provided for conferences. Thanks to all the folks for the WRAT - it was a great success.
- c. Principal's Report - None
- d. Parent-Teacher Organization Report - Aimee
  - i. PTO is wrapping up WRAT - successfully reached fundraising goals. Trophies and medals and shirts are ordered and will be distributed as they become available. We're working on the conference lunches and looking forward to the fall festival brought to you by the STEAM committee.
- e. Foundation Report - Kevin
  - i. Met and have plans in place for an annual campaign. Quiet phase for first 90 days of 2024 school year with active phase in April - looking at a matching campaign.
- f. Committee Reports as Applicable
  - i. Finance - Laura

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1. Looking at salaries at the school to be more intentional about compensation. This is a huge endeavor.
- ii. Governance - Sherry
  1. 4th Wednesday of the month - next week is our first working meeting of the term. We're kicking off with a packed agenda on policy reviews from spring update and recent additions.
- iii. Strategic Planning - Sherry
  1. Expect sub-committees to be reaching out soon! The goal is to have all the working committees meet between now and December and then present to the board starting in February (with a different sub-committee each month).
    - a. Family and community partnerships/culture
    - b. Environment & Green School
    - c. Staff Support & Student Growth
    - d. Facilities Capacity Assessment
- g. Aftercare report (given after thank yous) - Sue
  - i. Still going through a final clean up of the summer camp numbers - averaging about 70 campers per day.
  - ii. Aftercare averaging about 37 students each day; brought in roughly \$14K this year so far and we have several clubs open up (soccer, basketball, chess, spanish, cursive, craft club, lego club, possible fencing in the future). We love having an opportunity to be involved as a community after school as well.

### VIII. Discussion Items

- a. Pandemic Response Update - No changes recommended. CDC guidance has remained the same since we implemented our policy.
  - i. The community is exceptionally responsive to strongly encouraging masking during medium risk levels.
  - ii. Laura: Are there logistical challenges to offering outdoor lunch? Kevin: It is a logistical challenge and is designed as a preventative measure for covid but it has been relatively smooth the last few weeks.
  - iii. Sherry: Questions or potential changes proposed would be brought to the governance committee.
- b. Note: The minutes reviewed at the beginning of the meeting approved at the beginning of the meeting are actually the PTO meeting minutes. Official board meeting minutes are available on the shared drive.

### IX. Action Items

- a. Board Vacancy - Sherry
  - i. Our board policy and bylaws do not call out the appointment process. It states that the President would appoint a Trustee to an open spot. Reached out to MASB and there is a tremendous amount of options available to appoint to an open position - the most consistent is that the President would pick. Out of respect for tradition on the board and for the sake of equity it's important to me that we have a more open process.
  - ii. Laura - Move to appoint Jordan Greene to the board. Dillon seconds.
    1. Mouna: Who has the other candidate? Sherry: Ryan Berkey and Jordan Greene were two individuals who were nominated during the election process prior to this term.
    2. Vincent: The write up on Jordan seems great; I'm wondering should I have more information to make my decision.
      - a. Sherry: It's hard. I personally feel that anyone who takes initiative to volunteer for such a position deserves significant props. This candidate in particular is not a parent of a current or former student of HC but has been recommended by a number of current families for their approach to equity related discussions, their background in Social Work at U of M. It's important to look to the broader community for a different perspective. It's a perspective that has benefitted HC in the past (Craig Leonard and Bridgette Carr are great

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examples). Knowing that this is a two year abridged term provides an opportunity to community members who are less well known to the local school community.

- b. Laura: We were given advice to reach out beyond our parents in the community. To Ryan's credit he's a fantastic parent and community member and there are lots of opportunities for involvement but we can use this appointment opportunity to diversify our board make up a little bit.
- c. Sherry: We will tap Ryan and other nominees for their skills and contribution.
- d. Mouna: I echo what Vincent was saying, along with trusting the executive board, because this is an appointment rather than an election - we should leave it up to the community to tell us who they want on the board. It may be more judicious. The tradition of having outside members predates my ability to contribute to decisions like this. I would feel more comfortable having someone who is a parent for an appointment and let the community decide if they want an member outside the community during the election - fully acknowledging precedent - not in principle against it but would like the community to decide.
- e. Vincent: This sounds like a good compromise position. I understand the idea of the appointment opportunity to broaden our trustees but would like to broach the topic with the broader community.
- f. Sherry: We did make the process clear - that we would open up a self-nomination process and that we would make the decision, not unilaterally as president or as an executive committee, but as a whole board. I would like to be consistent with our processes. We do have the option to appoint for a single year but we need to be conscious that we would have to make another one year appointment to complete the 3 year term. I feel strongly that we should move ahead with a vote today - we've been non-compliant since Jun 30, 2023 .
- g. Vincent: Candidate is from Ypsilanti do we have other representation? (Yes, Sherry also from Ypsi but other trustees from other cities/townships).
- h. Laura: If we appoint for one year, we will need to do this again. We may not always have multiple candidates. It's in keeping with advice with MASB and many other communities.

iii. **Vote:** In Favor, Vincent, Dillon, Sherry, Laura, Daniel; Opposed: Mouna

iv. Dan: There's no language in the call for nominations.

- 1. Kevin: We are prohibited by law from preventing anyone from running for or being appointed to the board as long as they meet all other legal requirements. Agrees we should make the language more clear.
- 2. Sherry: Feedback from the community in the spring, a lengthy discussion with scio township staff - comparing the election process of HC with other school board elections - our election in an "election" because we're using the community outreach to get input on individuals so that we can give a recommendation to WISD who ultimately makes the decision.

b. Hiring Recommendations

i. Chalis Waizenegger, Special Education

- 1. Kevin: Accolades and resume highlights. The finance committee is vetting significant information on certifications. The Nominee is certified in other states and will go through the quick process of certifying in Michigan.
- 2. Laura motions; Dillon seconds. Discussion: None. **Vote:** All in favor.

c. Discussion on minutes and board shared drive location.

- i. Minutes will be stored in the shared 2023/2024 school board minutes drive and will be available on the Board website.

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- ii. Enrollment clarification: Enrollment number went down from last board meeting. Kevin explained the process of shifting numbers as the school year settles in and gave high praise to Mariolga for her efforts in pupil accounting.
- iii. Vincent moves; Dan seconds - all in favor.

#### **X. Acknowledgements & Thank You's**

- a. Vincent: Shout out to the PTO for all their hard work with all of these events especially as the year starts!
- b. Sherry: Thank you to Kevin and the full community for streamlining the communications from the school.
- c. Dillon: Conferences (with Kevin follow up on conference hours)\*\*
- d. Vincent: Shout out to Sue for being here until the end of the day every day and for providing such quality care for our children.
- e. Sherry: The transition of bringing on new staff had felt seamless. Thank you for the work put in by the staff and admin for making that happen.

#### **XI. Public Comment**

- a. **Abby Adams:** Thanks for holding another informative board meeting. Thought on trustees from outside the community: As a 10 year parent, we have had outside trustees but other than 1 notable exception they tend to "park" on the board for whatever reason. Hoping that this appointment will be different. Encouraged that we are fully staffed. The pandemic and shortages have taken a toll on parents and students not only here for special education but also for the general education population. Hoping with base teachers having more support we can return to the way that we used to challenge our general ed students.

#### **XII. Adjournment - 6:43PM**

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