

MINUTES
of the Study Session of the
BOARD OF DIRECTORS of Heritage Heights Academy and
Cherry Creek School District Representatives
January 12, 2017

The Board of Directors of Heritage Heights Academy of Colorado held a public meeting on January 12, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. at 19697 E Smoky Hill Road, Centennial, CO 80015.

1. Call to order and roll call.

The meeting was called to order by Board Chair Jennifer Gibbons at 6:00 p.m. Present were Board Members Jennifer Gibbons, Jessica Price, Deleen Stallings, Karen Lee-Toy, Peggy Downs and Kristen Ivory (arrived at 6:15 p.m.)

Also present was Principal Natalia Miller-Forrest, HHA counsel Tim Farmer and CFO Bart Skidmore.

Present from Cherry Creek School District were Dr. Harry Bull, Dr. Judy Skupa, Jen Perry and Guy.

7 members of the public were present.

2. Public Comments and Discussion.

No member of the public requested to comment at this time.

3. Update on Financial Outlook.

Bart Skidmore presented update on financial outlook. Bart told CCSD that a loan is not needed, but possible a cash advance. The updated budget information will be posted for CCSD and the public to view for first quarter compliance.

HHA is still waiting on the CCSP startup grant. Still waiting on signatures and hopefully CCSD can expedite the reimbursement turnaround.

Guy questioned the \$285,000 deficit in payback to Academica. Bart explained that the deficit will either be a donation or be split for the next two years. Bart did not agree with CCSD that the budget is out of balance.

4. Update on New Facility.

Tim Farmer presented the update on the facility negotiations with the Smoky Hill Vineyard Church. CCSD requested a chance to review the lease before it was finalized to which HHA agreed. A member of the public asked about moving in and out of the classrooms at the new facility.

5. Discussion on termination of Academica.

Tim Farmer discussed with CCSD the decision to terminate the services of Academica. He made the point that it was a defining moment for the Board in that they were willing to make decisions for the school that are in the best interest of the school.

6. Discussion on Enrollment.

Jessica Price led the discussion on enrollment. HHA has a parent enrollment committee that has been working hard to find interest before our open enrollment starts. We have a 92% retention rate of families who want to stay at HHA. The committee has been holding weekly open houses, pushing social media posts and holding tours every Wednesday. Our enrollment goals are 275 students.

Dr. Harry Bull made the comment that 5-6 years ago we were in a recession. Our goals may not be realistic in light of the fact that Kindergarten numbers are low state and District wide. Natalia commented that we understand the concern that CCSD has about enrollment and we are working hard to find interested families.

7. Fundraising.

Board Chair, Jen Gibbons led the discussion on fundraising. HHA has a fund raising committee who have been focusing on the following:

1. Grant writing
2. Annual giving (so far \$4000) in 2 weeks
3. Spring Gala
4. Fun Run
5. Brick fundraiser

Dr. Bull offered access to fields or facilities within the District to hold a fun run.

8. Parent Survey.

Principal Miller-Forrest led the discussion on the HHA parent survey. There was a 66% participation rate and an overall rating of 8.5 out of 10. Emotional and physical safety rating was 8.5-9. Academics rated 8.5. 70% of parents wanted a later start time. Rating for Board of Directors was 8.5. Principal Miller-Forrest discussed how well the school is doing. Families are very happy with HHA overall. We have deployed a new website that is much more user friendly.

Dr. Bull commented that he believes HHA is in a much better spot. CCSD is committed to being supportive and helping us. They are very pleased that the lease will be more positive.

Tim Farmer indicated that we were asking for an advance of PPR through June. He also asked about grant funds. It was explained by Dr. Judy Skupa that the READ grant was based on Spring test scores which we don't have yet. The CDE startup grant would be discussed the following week. It was relayed that an annual report needs to be sent to the community to keep them up to date on what is going on with the facility. Survey results, etc. CCSD indicated that they can offer a format for us to be transparent to parents.

Public Comments and Discussion.

No member of the public requested to comment at this time.

8. Adjournment.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Approved on: _____

Secretary of the Board of Directors
Heritage Heights Academy of Colorado