



Henry Ford Academy Board of Directors
Meeting Minutes
April 16, 2025

Board Members Present:

Anne Michelis
Bonnie Lobert
Brent Ott
Jarell Brown
Todd Nissen (*advisor*)

Board Member Absent:

Amal Berry
Mike Schmidt
Dr. Derrick Coleman

Public Communications: None submitted

A. Call to Order.

The meeting was called to order at 9:02 a.m. by HFA Board President Brent Ott.

9th grade Parent voices concerns for her student who has been receiving failing grades and has an IEP. She is frustrated with the lack of communication and help for her student. She has been trying to communicate with HFA staff regarding the IEP since September. She's worried her student is getting lost in HFA. Brent Ott and Geoffrey Young will follow up with Parent to resolve this conflict and find a solution.

B. Motion for Approval of the April 16, 2025, Agenda.

Motion to approve by Anne Michelis, supported by Bonnie Lobert. All approved.

C. Motion for Approval of March 19, 2025 Minutes.

Motion to approve by Bonnie Lobert, supported by Anne Michelis. All approved.

Action Items:

A. 2025-2026 School Calendar.

Flannery reviews the 25-26 School Calendar with Board Members for approval. Jarell Brown googled that a majority of schools open before labor day. Debate about if HFA should or should not open before or after labor day. Calendar notations include:

- Omission of Parents-As-Partners week and instead an Open House Picnic/Curriculum Night/Title I presentation
- Trimester 1 ends before Thanksgiving
- School year ends 6/12/26

THF events Brent Ott announced include a lot of events surrounding the arrival of the Jackson Home. THF hopes to have HFA students in the home before it opens to the general public.

- a. Motion to approve by Jarell Brown, supported by Anne Michelis. All approved.

Non-action Items:

Superintendent Report

Human Resources Report.

Young states that an HFA staff member has handed in their letter of resignation for termination at the end of the school year. This staff member's position will be posted as vacant and the hiring process will begin in the next few months.

Program and Experiences.

➤ Spain Trip

Student Presentation by Matthew Hall, Zoe Williams, and Alonzo Dock (all seniors). Spent a total of six days in Spain and two days of travel. Students explain their cultural experiences/highlights while exploring Barcelona, Montserrat, Madrid, Toledo, and Zaragoza. Students noted the cultural differences, fantastic food, active lifestyle of native Spanish speakers, and the challenges they faced during scavenger hunts throughout their trip.

➤ State Testing

Young explains that the State testing is progressing successfully. HFA juniors are completing the M-Step in the next few days, which means HFA will be up to date on State Testing for the 24-25 school year.

Prospects and Initiatives.

➤ Summer Discovery

HFA is on the summer discovery website and advertised as a summer rising 9th grade program that is open to students who plan to attend HFA in the fall. Young allaborates that HFA hopes this program through proper advertising tactics, utilizing Paige Gilbert of THF, will become an incentive for incoming 9th grade students to attend.

➤ Summer Construction

Renovations in discussion to provide some privacy to Village offices from the front desk.

➤ Credit Recovery and Student Support

HFA is looking into credit recovery and student support systems that will ensure students that are missing credits can recover them prior to graduation. As a school we are asking ourselves “What does this look like?” This is part of our vision for school improvement and student success. Bonnie Lobert asks if students that simply wish to improve their grades to increase their GPA can participate.

State of the Union.

➤ Enrollment Update

Enrollment for students this year based on the recent school count day is 473 students. This is a low number but students may have been absent. Lowest senior class number in a long time. Hoping for a robust incoming freshman class for the 25-26 school year. 143 is the count for freshman class. We are actively recruiting 11th graders. Bonnie Lobert asks if HFA has data stating why students are leaving. Young explains HFA currently doesn't have an exit interview process for leaving students. Young hopes to implement some sort of form for leaving students to complete stating why students have left. Also states that the biggest challenges HFA faces is recruiting and engaging incoming students. Flannery adds that HFA has had some setbacks regarding immigration laws and scares with current students/families which could also have influenced the low enrollment numbers seen. Brent Ott would like to set up a follow up meeting with Young to offer support for increasing enrollment numbers.

➤ Budget Timeline Update

Brent Ott explains that with quarterly reports on the board agenda, it is great to review the budget to see how HFA is using the budget and if there are areas where money can be used more efficiently.

The Henry Ford Academy Board meeting was adjourned at 10:07 a.m.

NEXT HENRY FORD ACADEMY BOARD MEETING WILL BE ON Wednesday, May 21st, 2025 at 9:00 am in the Performance Room of the Henry Ford Academy Museum Campus.

Respectfully submitted,

Katrina Rye