



Henry Ford Academy Board of Directors
Meeting Minutes
December 18, 2024

Board Members Present:

Jarell Brown (new board member)
Brent Ott **Bonnie Lobert**
Todd Nissen **Mike Schmidt**
Anne Michelis

Board Member Absent:

Amal Berry

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.

B. Motion for Approval of the December 18, 2024, Agenda.

Motion to approve by Dr. Derrick Coleman, supported by Bonnie Lobert. All approved.

C. Motion for Approval of October 16, 2024 Minutes.

Motion to approve by Mike Schmidt, supported by Anne Michelis. All approved.

Action Items:

A. Oath of Office - Jarell Brown

Brent Ott explains Jarell Brown's background and why he will make a great addition to the Henry Ford Academy board of directors. Welcome Jarell Brown!

a. All approved.

B. Designate Trustee for the Middle Cities Risk Management Trust.

Christmas was the former Trustee for the Middle Cities Risk Management Trust. Geoffrey Young reviews the responsibilities of being the Trustee for the Middle Cities Risk Management Trust explaining how he will become the new trustee replacing former Principal Christmas, Vice Principal Mike Flannery will continue to be the alternate trustee, since the role of Director and Finance and Operations has not been fulfilled the coordinator, Young will serve as a temporary role.

a. Motion to approve by Bonnie Lobert, supported by Mike Schmidt. All approved.

C. Title I - Parent & Family Engagement.

Kumbier explains the Parent & Family Engagement (P&FE) Plan and School-Parent Compact updates, which included date changes and a change from "Parents as Partners Week" to "Partnering with Parents Program."

a. Motion to approve by Anne Michelis, supported by Mike Schmidt. All approved.

Non-action Items:

FTE Audit with management letter and Audit Results (Joining HFA Virtually).

Foster describes the auditor process and Kristin Grden explains the results of the audit process. Audit was completed. No difficulties encountered in performing the audit, no disagreements with management, some minor audit adjustments (entry needed to increase payroll accrual), and no material weaknesses or significant deficiencies. Plante Moran is issuing an unmodified "clean" opinion on the audited financial statements. Assets were \$3,375,981 and liabilities were \$2,295,329. General fund revenue and other financial sources for 2024 is \$7,176,748 which is an increase from 2023. General fund expenditures increased from 2023 to 2024. ESSER grant

expenditures have come to an end. Brent Ott explains that Henry Ford Academy now needs to look to the future to further plan out how Henry Ford Academy will use funds in a responsible and effective manner. Student pupil count is slowly decreasing, however the funding for the school is not affected. Increases in state and federal revenue is consistent with pupil expenditures. Compliance audit (biggest is ESSER), Plante moran is also issuing an unmodified opinion for this federal fund received by Henry Ford Academy. In 2025 Plante Moran will have to look at HFA's use of the ESSER funds due to exceeding the \$750,000 limit for the federal funds audit. Thank you to all for their hard work on these audits especially with the transition of the new staff into the Henry Ford Academy environment.

Superintendent's Report: Human Resources Update.

Finalizing the hiring process for the new Director of Finance and Operations. This person is critical in assisting HFA in their goals for financial and educational benefits for students. Young welcomes the new Director of Student Affairs, Kris Alexander. Alexander explains his background and what led him to employment with HFA. He is looking forward to helping the 9th grade students reach their goals and move forward in a positive way. Focus on our financial and academic competency. HFA sits in the middle of standardized testing in the county, we hope to bring HFA to the top of this list.

Superintendent's Report: ITC/HFA Physics collaboration update.

Flannery explains a new collaboration with ITC. Phase one is ITC coming to HFA to educate students on the importance of power transfer and cyber security while utilizing artifacts within the Henry Ford Museum. HFA juniors, Hall and Scott were also a part of this collaboration so they explain what they appreciated about this new program. Phase two will entail HFA students traveling to ITC in the next few months. Phase three of this partnership is still in the works/planning. This is a beta test for this physics partnership.

Superintendent's Report: National History Day Student Presentation.

HFA juniors, Phoebe Hall and Jaliyah Scott explain what National History Academy is and their experiences/what they learned during this summer program in Virginia. Their biggest takeaways were being able to experience history outside of the classroom/books, experiencing once and a lifetime events, and hear from guest speakers.

Enrollment/Pupil Auditor update.

The current enrollment at Henry Ford Academy for the 2024-2025 school year is 470 pupils, consisting of 222 males and 248 females. The fall count of unaudited adjusted students FTE is 473.25. This year's senior class is the smallest class HFA has had in several years at 92 students total, however the class of 2024 recruitment process occurred in the midst of the pandemic. Brent Ott adds how looking forward HFA will need to keep enrollment numbers up in the freshman class for the next few years. Dr. Coleman asks for the retention data of the ninth grade to be able to see where students are coming from and data explaining why enrollment numbers decrease as the students advance to the next grade. Exit interviews from the families that are leaving would be the most important data to collect. Young explains how possible changes to graduation requirements may encourage outside students in upper grades to come to HFA because the school offers these special advancement opportunities for students to network. Maybe re-evaluate the senior mastery process as a graduation requirement. Bonnie Lobert asks Young what HFA has done/plans to do to use social media and recruitment opportunities to bring in new HFA students. Young explains how HFA is in discussion and planning of what processes will be the most effective to HFA for recruitment. Todd Nissen mentions how with all these amazing programs HFA offers a news article highlighting them to help boost enrollment.

The Henry Ford Academy Board meeting was adjourned at 10:20 a.m.

NEXT HENRY FORD ACADEMY BOARD MEETING WILL BE ON Wednesday, **January 22nd, 2025 at 9:00 am** in the **Drive-In Studio** of the **Henry Ford Museum of American Innovation**.

Respectfully submitted,

Katrina Rye