



SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Highland Park Renaissance Academy
45 E. Buena Vista
Highland Park, Michigan, 48203
Thursday, April 11th, 2019
6:00pm

Approved Minutes

- **Call to Order-** Meeting was called to order by Eban Morales, Vice President at 6:09pm.

Roll Call- Present: Alexis Ramsey, President Eban Morales, Vice President / Janet Spight White, Member/ Cheryl Sanford, Treasurer/ Teresa Kelly, Member/ Shamayim Harris, Member/ Linda G. Wheeler, Secretary

QUORUM

- **Moment of Silence**
- **Communication-** N/a
- **Citizens Participation (Agenda Items Only 2 minutes)**
- **Approval of the Board of Education Agenda**

Member Wheeler made a motion to approve the agenda with the addition that all of the descriptions of the resolutions be added in name on the Agenda member Kelly moved, Second Harris. Roll Call: Eban Morales/ **Yes** Janet Spight White/ **Yes** Cheryl Sanford/ **Yes** Teresa Kelly/ **Yes** Shamayim Harris/ **Yes** Linda G. Wheeler/ **Yes**

MOTION PASSES.

- **Approval of Minutes**
n/a

Board Business meeting President Ramsey entertained a Motion to create a Board business meeting every first Thursday of the month Discussion: Time will be the same, at least 2 hours, no action, these meetings will go over items that we will place on the agenda for Tuesdays Board meetings Shamayim so moved Sanford second Roll Call Shamayim Harris/ **Yes** Cheryl Sanford / **Yes** Linda Wheeler / **Yes** Alexis Ramsey **Yes**

MOTION PASSES

- **Director of Operations Information**
- **Board of Education Affairs**
N/A

• **Citizens Participation (2 minutes)**
Jamel Edwards

President Ramsey entertained a motion to go to New Business and take up the PSA Board issue, Wheeler Moved. Second Cheryl All in favor Eban Morales/ **Yes** Janet Spight White/ **Yes** Cheryl Sanford/ **Yes** Teresa Kelly/ **Yes** Shamayim Harris/ **Yes** Linda G. Wheeler/ **Yes**

MOTION PASSES

• **New Business**

- Determination on PSA corrective action proposal.

2b. President Ramsey entertained a motion to reaffirm the resolution sent to the PSA Board So moved by member Wheeler, Second by member Sanford Roll Call Eban Morales/ **Yes** Janet Spight White/ **Yes** Cheryl Sanford/ **Yes** Teresa Kelly/ **Yes** Shamayim Harris/ **Yes** Linda G. Wheeler/ **Yes**

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING REMOVAL AND RE-APPOINTMENT OF DIRECTORS TO THE HIGHLAND PARK PUBLIC SCHOOL ACADEMY SYSTEM

A special meeting of the Board of Education (“Board”) of the School District of the City of Highland Park, County of Wayne, State of Michigan (the “School District”) was held at the Highland Park Renaissance Academy on April 11, 2019 at 6:00 p.m., Local Time.

PRESENT: Members: Alexis Ramsey, Eban Morales, Cheryl Sanford, Teresa Kelly,
Janet Spight White, Shamayim Harris, Linda Wheeler

ABSENT: Members: _____

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING REMOVAL AND RE-APPOINTMENT OF DIRECTORS TO THE HIGHLAND PARK PUBLIC SCHOOL ACADEMY SYSTEM

The following preamble and resolution was offered by Member Cheryl Sanford and supported by Member Janet Spight White.

WHEREAS, the School District has previously entered into a Contract to Charter a Public School Academy and Related Documents (“Charter”) with the Highland Park Public School Academy System (the “Academy”) which is scheduled to expire on June 30, 2019; unless renewed by the Board;

WHEREAS, the Board, as authorizer of the Academy Charter, is required under section 507 of The Revised School Code, Public Act 451 of 1976, as amended, MCL 380.507 (the “School Code”), to take necessary measures to oversee the Academy and to ensure, among other things, that the Academy complies with the terms of its Charter and state law, and meets applicable academic performance standards established by the Board;

WHEREAS, the Board advised the Academy Board of Directors (the “PSA Board”) by letter dated February 21, 2019 that it was dissatisfied with the academic performance of the Academy and the condition of the Academy building as revealed in the September 2018 Quality Performance Report Card, and that the

Board’s decision to renew the Academy Charter for a new term starting July 1, 2019, would be conditioned on the PSA Board taking corrective actions to address the concerns identified in the Board’s letter;

WHEREAS, in response and in an effort to consider alternative education service providers, the PSA Board started an RFP process that (1) the Board has reason to believe either disregarded or failed to prioritize the Board’s desire to improve the poor academic performance at the Academy or (2) appears on the surface to be compromised due to a lack of transparency in the process and potential influence the Academy’s current educational service provider may have on some of the PSA Board members;

WHEREAS, section 507 of the School Code grants the Board broad authority to make specific decisions to ensure improved student educational performance at the Academy including the authority to revoke the Charter to reject or cancel contracts with educational management organizations, and to reconstitute, remove and appoint one, some or all PSA Board members, in its sole discretion;

WHEREAS, section 507(f) of the School Code also assigns to the Board the obligation to “[t]ake necessary measures to ensure that the board of directors of a public school academy operates independently of any educational management company involved in the operations of [its] public school academy;”

WHEREAS, in furtherance of prudent oversight of the Academy and the District, and to ensure the independence of the PSA Board in implementing corrective measures to address the Academy’s poor academic performance, the Board desires to reconstitute the PSA Board of the Academy in its entirety, effective immediately;

WHEREAS, the PSA Board President has submitted a letter of resignation from the Academy Board, and his vacancy needs to be filled as part of the process to appoint new PSA Board members;

NOW THEREFORE, IT IS RESOLVED BY THE SCHOOL BOARD OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF THE CITY OF HIGHLAND PARK, WAYNE COUNTY, MICHIGAN THAT:

1. The Board hereby authorizes the removal of all PSA Board members of the Academy, effective immediately;
2. The Board delegates to Director of Operations the responsibility to receive qualified candidates for all seven (7) vacant PSA Board seats. The Director of Operations is directed to make recommendation to the Board at a Special meeting to be held on Tuesday, April 16, 2019, the nominees for PSA Board members, who shall be appointed by this Board in accordance with it’s Bylaws;
3. The Board directs that the newly appointed PSA Board shall call a special meeting for the swearing-in of new PSA Board members, to elect officers and authorize continuation of the RFP process no later than Friday, April 19, 2019;
4. All resolutions and parts of resolutions insofar as they conflict with the provisions of this resolution are hereby rescinded.

Ayes: Alexis Ramsey, Eban Morales, Cheryl Sanford, Teresa Kelly, Janet Spight White,

Shamayim Harris, Linda Wheeler

Nays: _____

RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED.

Secretary, Board of Education

The undersigned duly qualified and acting Secretary of the Board of Education of The School District of the City of Highland Park, hereby certifies that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of a resolution adopted by the Board at a special meeting held on April 11, 2019, the original of which is a part of the Board's minutes and further certifies that notice of the meeting was given to the public pursuant to the provisions of the Open Meetings Act, 1976 PA 267, as amended.

Secretary, Board of Education

2c. President Ramsey made a motion to move forward to Citizens Participations member Harris so moved. Member Sanford Second All in Favor Eban Morales/ **Yes** Janet Spight White/ **Yes** Cheryl Sanford/ **Yes** Teresa Kelly/ **Yes** Shamayim Harris/ **Yes** Linda G. Wheeler/ **Yes**

MOTION PASSES

• **Citizens Participation (2 minutes)**

Kelly Woodson
Leslie Oneal
Lily Hardemon
Jean Shaw
Stephanie Johnson
Mr. King

• **Adjournment**

Ramsey made a Motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:11pm. Shamayim moved Wheeler, Second. All in favor

MOTION PASSES

Respectfully submitted: Deborah Spencer, District Secretary