



**REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

Zoom Phone Conference Tuesday  
November 9, 2021 6:00pm

**Approved Minutes**

• **CALL TO ORDER** –

Meeting was called to order by Shamayim Harris, Board President, 6:03 pm.

• **ROLL CALL** –

Present: Anthony Askew, Member / Mark Ashley Price, Member / Lorne McGee, Treasurer / Linda G. Wheeler, Member / Cheryl Sanford, Secretary / Janet Spight White, Vice President /, Shamayim Harris, President  
Absent: None

**QUORUM**

• **MOMENT OF REFLECTION**

• **COMMUNICATIONS**

None.

• **APPROVE BOARD OF EDUCATION AGENDA**

**Motion to Approve the Meeting Agenda:**

President Shamayim Harris entertained a motion to approve the Board of Education Agenda, so moved by Member Sanford, supported by member, McGee.

**Discussion:** L. Wheeler and M. Ashley-Price comments and requests regarding clarification and amendments to agenda.

President Shamayim Harris requested roll call vote with requested amendments.

**Roll call vote:** Anthony Askew – Yes, Mark Ashley Price – Yes, Linda Wheeler – Yes, Cheryl Sanford – Yes, Janet Spight White – Yes, Shamayim Harris Yes

**MOTION PASSES: 7-0**

• **PUBLIC COMMENTS (3 minutes)**

None

• **PRESIDENTS MESSAGE**

President Harris gave message.

• **APPROVE MEETING MINUTES**

CEO Zakia Gibson explained continued delay due to technical difficulties impacting preparation of meeting.

• **DISTRICT DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

**Business Operations & Legal**

Audit presentation removed from agenda. Yeo & Yeo, P.C. unavailable, but open to appear at special meeting on later date.

Presentation by Luska German of district financial statements, cash position and fund balances for period ending October 31, 2021. Discussion with K. Smith and L. German, Member Wheeler questions; Member White questions; Member McGee questions.

**Public Relations & Marketing**

Lori Rishar presentation: reviewed marketing report; completed fall enrollment campaign; billboard to remain up; Facebook analytics: 390,000 impression, 2300 clicks, .94% click-through rate (well above average); as a result enrollment increased to 300+ students. 29,000 social media views; trend increase in Facebook followers. November publish letter in Highland Park Journal for Thanksgiving.

**Education & Charter School Compliance**

Zakia Gibson requested Kevin Smith to review district's Educational Strategic Plan progress. Z. Gibson explanation and discussion of accomplishments and upcoming next phases, highlighted audit finding that future revenues tied to success of strategic plan.

• **BOARD OF EDUCATION SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS**

President Harris presented and read her recommended final list for BOE subcommittees. Attorney Smith recommended BOE vote to accept subcommittees as presented:

Finance

Chair: Lorne McGee  
Shamayim Harris  
Anthony Askew

High School Advisory\*

Chair: Anthony Askew  
Shamayim Harris  
Mark Ashley Price  
Cheryl Sanford

\*community members to also be added based on BOE recommendations

Policy

Chair: Janet Spite White  
Shamayim Harris  
Lorne McGee

Fundraising

Chair: Linda Wheeler  
Shamayim Harris  
Mark Ashley Price

Discussion: President Harris will discuss meeting schedules and times with subcommittee; J. White, M. Price, L. Wheeler comments. High School committee to be subject to Open Meetings Act due to number of members participating.

Member Askew made motion to approve recommended list of committees/chairs, supported by Member Sanford.  
**Roll call vote:** Mark Ashley Price – **No**, Anthony Askew – **Yes**, Linda Wheeler – **No**, Lorne McGee – **Yes**, Janet Spight White – **No**, Cheryl Sanford – **Yes**, Shamayim Harris – **Yes**  
**MOTION PASSES: 4-3**

• UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

• NEW BUSINESS

**Motion to Reconsider Renewal of P.I.E. Management Contract:**

President Harris entertained a motion to reconsider approval of renewal of P.I.E. Contract, so moved by Member Sanford, supported by Member Askew.

**Discussion:** J. White, L. Wheeler, C. Sanford, Askew, M. Ashley Price discuss/comments; Q&A of Zakia Gibson and Kevin Smith; labor market information shared; Member McGee agrees to vote with request that we revisit in two months and do an RFP.

**Roll call vote:** Mark Ashley Price – **No**, Anthony Askew – **Yes**, Linda Wheeler – **No**, Lorne McGee – **Yes**, Janet Spight White – **No**, Cheryl Sanford – **Yes**, Shamayim Harris – **Yes**  
**MOTION PASSES: 4-3**

**Motion to Do an RFP for Staffing Contracts**

President Harris entertained a motion to authorize doing an RFP for staffing contracts within next month or so; moved by Member Askew, supported by Member McGee.

**Roll call vote:** Mark Ashley Price – **No**, Anthony Askew – **Yes**, Linda Wheeler – **Yes**, Lorne McGee – **Yes**, Janet Spight White – **Yes**, Cheryl Sanford – **Yes**, Shamayim Harris – **Yes**  
**MOTION PASSES: 6-1**

**Motion to Approve October Financial Statements**

President Harris entertained a motion to approve October financial statements, so moved by Member Sanford, supported by Member Askew.

**Roll call vote:** Mark Ashley Price – **Yes**, Anthony Askew – **Yes**, Linda Wheeler – **No**, Cheryl Sanford – **Yes**, Lorne McGee – **Yes**, Janet Spight White – **No**, Shamayim Harris – **Yes**  
**MOTION PASSES: 5-2**

• **BOARD OF EDUCATION AFFAIRS & COMMENTS** –

BOE discussed Member Price's requested topics:

- Proposed monthly meeting with a majority of BOE and BOD members. Discussed: BOD members are to attend regular BOE meetings, as in past.
- Proposed monthly meeting with the Principal of Barber and a minority of BOE members. Discussed: Barber (Accel) leader should attend BOE meetings.
- Add chat on Zoom back to the public.
- Change the title for the regular members of "Member" to "Trustee". Discussion: Board name is defined by state Election Law Act, cannot change.
- Move the BOE Executive Officers election from July to January. Discussion: no action to reconsider.

**Member Askew made motion** to consider these topics more fully as discussion items at next Business meeting to clarify which are appropriate for motions, if any; seconded by Member Sanford.

**Roll call vote:** Mark Ashley Price – **Yes**, Anthony Askew – **Yes**, Linda Wheeler – **No**, Lorne McGee – **Yes**, Janet Spight White – **Yes**, Cheryl Sanford – **Yes**, Shamayim Harris – **Yes**

***MOTION PASSES: 6-1***

• **CLOSED SESSION PURSUANT TO OMA SECTIONS MCL 15.268(a) OR 15.268(h)**

**Motion to go into closed session**

Attorney Smith recommended a motion on basis of MCL 15.268(h) to adjourn open meeting and enter into closed session to consider privileged attorney-client communications that are exempt from disclosure.

**Discussion:** discussed reasons for closed session; to enter closed session requires 2/3<sup>rd</sup> vote of approval.

President Harris entertained a motion to adjourn and enter into closed session based on Attorney Smith stated reason.

**Roll call vote:** Mark Ashley Price – **No**, Anthony Askew – **Yes**, Linda Wheeler – **No**, Lorne McGee – **Yes**, Janet Spight White – **No**, Cheryl Sanford – **Yes**, Shamayim Harris – **Yes**

***MOTION FAILS: 4-3 (requires 5 votes)***

**BOE discussion of allegations of harassment by CEO continues in open session.**

BOE and CEO discuss allegations and reasons for closed discussion. Attorneys Smith and Burdett discuss consequences of waiving attorney-client privilege; Comments and discussion L. McGee, L. Wheeler, J. White.

**Motion to Table Discussion of Allegations**

Member Sanford made a motion to table the discussion of harassment, if not in closed session; Member Askew, seconded.

**Roll call vote:** Mark Ashley Price – **Yes**, Anthony Askew – **Yes**, Linda Wheeler – **Yes**, Cheryl Sanford – **Yes**, Janet Spight White – **Yes**, Shamayim Harris – **Yes**

***MOTION PASSES: 7-0***

• **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Alexis Ramsey comments and questions.

Christina McPhail Stockdale, attorney for Zakia Gibson, comments.

**Motion to Approve Independent Investigation**

In response to Attorney McPhail Stockdale comments, attorneys Burdett and Smith made alternative recommendation to BOE to engage independent 3rd party to investigate allegations.

President Harris entertained a motion to approve engagement of 3rd party HR firm to investigate allegations of hostility and harassment. So moved by Member Sanford, supported by Member Askew.

**Roll call vote:** Mark Ashley Price – **No**, Anthony Askew – **Yes**, Linda Wheeler – **No**, Cheryl Sanford – **Yes**, Lorne McGee – (**absent**), Janet Spight White – **No**, Shamayim Harris – **Yes**

**MOTION FAILS: 3-3 (Lorne McGee noted to have left meeting at 9:15 pm)**

• **ADJOURNMENT** –

**President Harris entertains a motion to adjourn the meeting** at 9:18 PM, so moved by Member Sanford, and supported by Member Askew.

**Roll call vote:** Mark Ashley Price – **Yes**, Anthony Askew – **Yes**, Linda Wheeler – **Yes**, Janet Spight White – **Yes**, Cheryl Sanford – **Yes**, Shamayim Harris – **Yes**

**MOTION PASSES: 6-0**

Respectfully submitted: Cheryl Sanford, Board Secretary and Zakia Gibson, Chief Education Officer.