

HOPE COMMUNITY CHRISTIAN ACADEMY  
SERVING CHRIST, EDUCATING CHILDREN, EMPOWERING FAMILIES

School Board Meeting Agenda- November 8th, 2022 5:00 PM

Attendance-

Aaron Hamstra

Richard Westbrook

Tia Swanemyr

Stacy Puls

Maggie Reed

Yvonne Chapman

Dorothy Williams

Jen Brann

Tandy Nossaman

Becky Connell

Jerrid Brann

Ezra Lee

ZOOM-Tisher Family, Chelsea Schlaugbah, Brittany Avery, Erin Saffer, Jeremiah Aukerman, Lorrena Duran

**Call to order- 5:04 PM**

**Opening Prayer- Dorothy**

1. Approval of agenda- Aaron motions to approve the agenda, Dorothy seconds. All in favor.
2. Public Comment- This is a time for non-board members to share their thoughts and concerns. It will be left to the discretion of the board whether or not public comments will be addressed at the time they are presented. **None at this time.**
3. September Minutes- Aaron motions to approve the September minutes with an edit of duplicate name on attendance, Corrected. Stacy seconds, All in favor.
4. Treasurer's report-

- a. Current Bank Balance: \$353,842.17- This time last year we were at \$191K, significant growth. Fundraising doing well, currently \$23,749 without fall festival which raised \$13k. There is a budget of \$60,000 for the year for fundraising.
- b. **Dorothy motions to approve the treasures report. Richard seconds- All in favor.**

5. Yvonne

- a. Yvonne suggests adjusting the School Calendar, we need 172 Days. We would then be finished with school on May 18th which would finish 4 days earlier than scheduled. Since we have extra days with 174 scheduled days including snow days for wiggle room . No decision was made.
- b. Discussion about winter break not matching up with ISD calendar, and how many available snow days we have. The snow day policy needs to be updated.

6. Building update

- a. Tia gives an update on building committee happenings- Modular building quotes have come in, they will be uploaded and available to the building committee for review. The pre application has been submitted to the county to proceed with the donation of the 319 property. Committee discussed the hiring of a media company to create a commercial type video to help "sell" the school to potential donors. This cost is approximately \$1500. The board will see if someone internal to the school has any talent in this area before securing the Media Company. The Capital Campaign has been named "Home for Hope". There is a goal of \$3.5M to be raised in the next 4 years.
- b. Endowment Fund- Ezra Lee met with John Mummery who managed endowments for St. Columba in Durango.
  - i. Endowment Funds grows tax free money for the school. Money raised or tuition could be put into an endowment fund and the return from the money can be used to fund the school expenses. Ezra agrees to be the contact for the board, if it is decided to look into further.
  - ii. Ezra explains that to build a brand new school building it just doesn't work, we would need a 20000 sqft building that would cost around \$8M to build. The cost of a brand new building would be 4x as much as current rent. Ezra suggests- the possible purchase and remodeling of the current building, would be in the better interest of HCCA. The ISD is asking around \$1.5M for ELHI building. Yvonne suggests maybe a long term lease with an option to purchase, so the improvements can be done over a longer period of time.

7. Moving money from General Fund to Building Funds- Once money is moved to the building fund the money is then restricted to the building fund, and cannot be moved again.
  - a. Aaron makes a motion to designate \$5,000 from the general fund to the building fund. Richard seconds. All in favor.
  
8. Authorization for Building committee to spend money- Tia makes a motion to authorize the building committee to spend money out of the building fund up to \$2000 without needing board approval. Stacy seconds-discussion- email approval is needed the amount exceeds \$2000. All in favor. Approved.
  
9. Town offer to ISD- It is brought to the attention that the Town is making a lease offer to the ISD on Thursday. Majority of Board members would be in favor of making an offer to ISD for the Building. Discussion continues about the possibilities of the town purchasing what that would look like for HCCA and other Elhi tenants. What it would look like for HCCA to purchase the building as far as occupancy while doing renovations, or would the building need to be brought up to date at "change of hands date"? What would be more appealing to ISD? A purchase offer or lease to own? With HCCAs current financials, it can secure a loan for around \$1.3M with 30% needed down.  
Aaron makes a motion to purchase this property and buildings from the Ignacio School District for \$750,000. Richard seconds- Offer will need to include contingencies to protect the school on all levels. TABLES discussion till completion of agenda- Resume- We have a donor that has made a semi formal commitment to donate to our school, with no specifics or dollar amount made. Richard suggests we step out and faith and go for it. We have alot of ideas about what could work or happen but nothing concrete yet. There are 3 parcels that the ISD owns that the offer would need to include. There was not a valuation of the building in the assessment that the Town of Ignacio had done only for demolition costs. Aaron sees low risk in making an offer, but does see a risk with seeing the towns offer without knowing we are interested. It was discussed a lease to own option, but assume maintenance of the building, but would cost more in the long run, It would be less cost to purchase outright. All in favor- Motion Passes.
  
10. Dorothy- Report on ICL activities- Becky and Deb brought students over to the library. The Library has donated books for Pre-k for the program "1000 books before kindergarten". Library has calendars available. The library is going to have a fundraiser in January, more information to come on that.
  
11. Richard's address to the board- Certified teachers- Education has declined over the past years. Looking back at old time educational requirements, there was much

more required to enroll in college than today. Richard presented several documents including an 8th grade evaluation/exit test, that would be very challenging for most adults to pass today. He went on to say " Never doubt that you can give your child a better education homeschooling than your child will get in a government school", Gods people have always led the way on education, with the first colleges being religious based. Why do we trust an institution to certify teachers when we have not chosen that same institution for our child education.

12. Other Business

- a. Any other Board Member concerns- None at this time

7. Things to Pray about

- a. Our government
- b. Our future home
- c. Unity
- d. Health of our families and community
- e. No debt
- f. Tate family
- g. Praise for Kayden getting clear scans and getting her port out
- h. For Cayson Kinney - Patience both with inoperable brain tumors

**Closing prayer** - Richard

adjournment of regularly scheduled meeting:6:49 PM

executive session immediately following adjournment