



Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Higher Institute of Arts and Technology (HIAT)

5861 Harrison Street Merrillville, IN 46410

Friday, December 19, 2025 | 4:00 PM (CT)

I. Meeting Called To Order

The meeting was called to order by the Board Chair at 4:05 PM.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

The Board of Directors recited the pledge of allegiance.

III. Roll Call

Board Member Attendance

April Brown	Present
Stephanie Davis	Present
Bridgett Harris	Present <i>*Arrived at 4:22pm</i>
Sharla Johnson	Present
Charles Reese	Present
George Tucker	Absent

a. Approval of Board Agenda

Motion: Stephanie Davis Support: Charles Reese

The board unanimously voted to approve the board agenda.

b. Approval of Board Minutes from October 23, 2025

Motion: Stephanie Davis Support: Charles Reese

The board unanimously voted to approve the board minutes.

IV. New Business

a. Approval of EVE Contract

Motion: Charles Reese

Support: Stephanie Davis

Yays: 4

Nays: 0

The board voted to appoint President Johnson to work in conjunction with Nicole Scott in finalizing the upcoming renewal of the EVE contract.

b. Approval of New Board Counsel

Motion: Charles Reese

Support: Stephanie Davis

Yays: 4

Nays: 0

The board voted to appoint President Johnson to seek new counsel.

V. CMO Report

a. Principal and Academic Board Report

Principal Tensia Johnson presented the principal and academic board report and provided updates on enrollment, new staff, school data, campus celebrations, upcoming events, and building updates.

b. Financial Report

Eva Spilker presented a financial review of the October 2025 income statement, cash balances, accounts payable balances, days cash, and enrollment.

VI. Committee Reports

None

VII. Old Business/Discussion Items

a. Food Contract

- New bidding process to take place in 2026.

VIII. PTA

None

IX. Open Communication

- While we are grateful to announce that HIAT has received a five-year charter renewal, the ICSB meeting highlighted a need for more proactive narrative management. The board recognized our enrollment growth, the dedication of our HIAT board members, and the notable improvements led by Principal Johnson and

staff. However, the discussion frequently defaulted to historical challenges, overlooking our current financial stability and strong community support. Moving forward, we must more effectively communicate these successes to ensure the ICSB has an accurate and updated understanding of our progress. - President Johnson

- President Johnson request that all staff undergo training and provide a formal sign-off on the protocols regarding scholars exiting the classroom.

X. Meeting Adjourned

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting.

Motion: Charles Reese Support: Stephanie Davis

The meeting was adjourned at 4:29 PM.