

**High School for Recording Arts
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, April 30, 2008, 9:00 am, at HSRA**

All Members in attendance: Wayne Jennings, Layne Bellamy (arrived during Enrollment Update), Carei Thomas, Paula Anderson, and Darryl Young.

Ex Officio and others: Education Director Bryan Rossi; David Ellis, Anthony Simmons, and Bonita Hughes of Studio 4; Pam Young and Stephen Bosacker of Designs for Learning.

Note: All votes were unanimous unless otherwise stated.

1. Call to order – Mr. Jennings called the meeting to order at 9:05 am.
2. Approval of agenda – a 12th item was added to discuss Jazz Band; Jennings moved to approve the agenda as amended; seconded by Anderson, and carried.
3. Approve Minutes of March 19, 2008 Board meeting – two typo's were corrected; after which Jennings moved to approved the Minutes as amended; seconded by Anderson, and carried.
4. Financial updates: 2007-08 financial status (Ms. Hughes; Pam Young of Designs for Learning) - Hughes and Young presented a Financial Report summary dated March 31, 2008. The reports are built on cash-based accounting and include an income statement and balance sheet. Combined funds costs exceeded revenue by \$201,179. Over half of is due to the MDE mailing a check in March that was lost in the mail, instead of using the normal fund transfer method. MDE is again transferring funds electronically and a replacement check is in the mail. Hughes shared a revised-budget draft for input. She noted and reviewed grants and donations. Pam Young advised the group that the FY2007-2008 audit is tentatively scheduled for October. The financial report does not include anticipated holdback payments coming next Fall, but it does include holdback payments from last Fall. Income statements for this year only count revenue attributed to this year's student enrollment. **After Board review, Anderson moved to receive Financial statements; seconded by Thomas, and carried.**
5. Director's Report (Rossi / Ellis)
 - Enrollment update – about 230 students are currently enrolled, for 210.56 ADM. HSRA is paid on 200 ADM. Bryan anticipates that final ADM will be over 205. Enrollments continue. HSRA missed its goal for the year of 65% attendance, despite much work to improve this. Efforts to improve attendance continue.
 - Staffing updates – last month HSRA Psychologist Rick Wolf passed away. The school has found a new psychologist and EBD teacher and will ensure maintenance of effort. Also, math teacher Mike Conway has been temporarily moved to part time Sp. Ed.
 - Facility/property acquisition updates – a Letter of Intent to work with HighMark is ready. The HighMark people have identified some properties for the school, and are exploring and testing site quality.
 - Grant updates – HSRA is reviewing its membership in the Coalition of Essential Schools and is exploring options for after-school funding. Board also discussed counseling services for students.
6. Development update – Simmons reported on planning for the 10th year anniversary celebration. Space is reserved Oct. 24th at the Convention Center. There will be a fundraiser in November at the Dakota jazz club, headlined by Delfeayo Marsalis; his foundation is supporting the effort. The blog area in the HSRA website provides further updates on promotional activities. The “Click for Life” campaign with State Farm continues. HSRA students presented at a rally at the State Capitol this week, and also presented at the National Service Learning Convention at the Minneapolis Convention Center. The Board thanked Mike Guille and Terry Gray for their service on the Click for Life program, and sends commendations to the team. Tony continues to work to communicate the school's activities to large corporations in the Cities, in hopes of finding more support. HSRA-New York is resubmitting the application for the Recording Arts school in New York. Finally, a group in Atlanta recently submitted an application to open a version of HSRA there. David and Tony are working with them. This school could open in 2009.

7. Board Committee reports
 - School Improvement Committee; updated Accountability Grid review – this committee will meet right after Board meeting. The Accountability Grid for 2007-2008 was handed out. This focuses on school improvement. The Board and staff will need to fill out a survey for organizational capacity. Paula reminded the Board how the school has been working hard on improving math learning and proficiency among students this year. Results are coming. Students are learning to not fear testing. The new math teacher is doing very well, and is starting to help students connect music and math.
 - Parent Advisory Committee – no report.
 - Technology updates – no report.
8. Board policies – recommendation was made to approve two new policies: Board elections and bullying. Rossi recommended the Board address these next meeting.
9. Q Comp application – Rossi presented a letter of intent for Q-Comp. When signed and submitted this will start the process with the State. **Jennings moved approval of Q-Comp application for HSRA. Young seconded, and the motion carried.**
10. Social Ventures Partners Organizational Capacity Assessment Tool – Rossi presented an application to LubeTech to help build organizational capacity with Social Venture Partners. There could be a number of people and organizations that become aware of HSRA through this work. LubeTech will fund for 2 more years if the school makes progress in this. After the meeting Board members will fill out this survey. The Assessment Tool was to be filled out during the School Improvement Committee meeting immediately following the Board meeting.
11. Other Business – Board discussed an idea of research to be carried out by a grad student from Carlson School.
12. Jazz band – Carei attended a big band performance at the Capri Theater this weekend (North Minneapolis). The band performed very well. Faye Washington is leading this effort. Carei considered this new development may be part of a kind of community resurrection. Carei would like to see HSRA Jazz performers connect with this group. Carei is interested in supporting this and helping to develop student composition skills. Tony has a meeting, set up by Mayor Rybak with Capri Theater to enable HSRA students to perform in the theater.

Also, Tony reported, the “Fo Show” is online as a podcast. This week the 20,000th download happened. People around the world are downloading this. Tony acknowledged all involved in this show. They are getting other youth from the community involved too.

13. Change in sponsorship – after adjourning at 10:40 am, the Board re-convened at 11:30 to consider change in sponsorship. All members remained in attendance. After discussion, **Jennings moved that HSRA submit a Request for Change in Sponsorship from St. Paul Public Schools to Pillsbury United Communities. Bellamy seconded.** A letter of intent to make this change was approved and will be submitted to St. Paul Schools. The educational benefits of this change were discussed by the board, and include:
 - Our Metro area enrollment
 - Coordinated social services
 - Their mission fits our needs well.
 - Pillsbury’s mission specifically includes focusing on “meeting unmet needs in the community.”
 - History of working with other charter schools with similar populations**After discussion, the motion carried unanimously.**

Dr. Jennings moved to adjourn the meeting at 11:45. There was no further discussion and the meeting was adjourned.