



**HIM By HER Collegiate School for the Arts**  
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## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

### **COMBINED MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 9TH AND DECEMBER 16TH, 2022 PUBLIC SCHOOL BOARD MEETINGS**

#### **BACKGROUND**

The HIM By HER Collegiate School for the Arts School Board held a public board meeting on Friday, December 9, 2022, followed by an emergency public board meeting on Friday, December 16, 2022. The emergency meeting was called in response to the necessity to decide on the now fully ripe issue of whether to continue the operation of HBHCSA. Per standard practice, the aforementioned meetings were duly noticed to the public and held at the HIM By HER Foundation (HBHF) Headquarters/HIM By HER Collegiate School for the Arts (HBHCSA) Building (4501 East 32nd Street, Indianapolis, Indiana 46218).

**Secretary's Note: At the December 16, 2022 Board Meeting, the Board passed the following resolution for closure of the HIM By HER Collegiate School for the Arts:**

**The Board hereby resolves to discontinue the charter operation of HIM By HER™ Collegiate School for the Arts at the present time and at the location of 4501 East 32nd Street, Indianapolis, Indiana 46208, with January 20, 2023 as the planned last day of academic instruction, followed by legal winding-up activities related to the School.**

#### **SUMMARY OF THE DECEMBER 9, 2022 BOARD MEETING**

Chair Harry Dunn **called the meeting to order at 2:31 p.m.** The following Board Members were in attendance: John Bartlett; Harry Dunn; Michelle Dunn; Gregory Gadson; James Leonard; Wayne Wellington; and Daryl Williams-Dotson (all members were present). A quorum was present.

Secretary Gregory Gadson gave the **Secretary's Report** consisting of the Minutes of the October 7, 2022 Board Meeting. After motion and second, the Secretary's Report was accepted, subject to audit.

Treasurer Michelle Dunn gave the **Treasurer's Report**. The audit for the 2020 and 2021 fiscal years is continuing. As CLA, the accounting/auditing firm hired by Ball State University,

did not conduct a timely 2020 audit, two years of audits are now being conducted. These are expected to be completed this month. CLA did not timely conduct a 2020 audit, so now is trying to do two years. We have also continued to use Building Hope, an accounting firm we were strongly encouraged to use at the beginning of school operations by the building owner.

After motion and second, the Treasurer's Report was unanimously accepted, subject to audit.

Gregory Gadson gave the **Executive Director's Report**. Summary of the Executive Director's Report: Mr. Tim Wright voluntarily resigned from employment, effective November 18, 2022. He had served as the School Principal since the beginning of the current school year. Our School Superintendent, Ms. Sondra Towne-Brender, assumed the role as acting Principal. We have received notice from six academic staff that they are leaving employment prior to the second semester of school. We are continuing to search for teachers in a tough market for schools. Considering the building needs and size (200,000 square feet), and the skeletal crew, building operations are going smoothly, and HBHCSA continues to receive praise from the community. Both by word of mouth and expansive and deliberate communication, there is great community goodwill for the School. J-Scott Tutoring has now agreed to extend its free afterschool tutoring to all HBHCSA students! Kindergarten students had not previously been eligible to be tutored. Tutoring occurs Monday through Thursday, from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. The tutoring has strongly focused on supplementing the reading comprehension and critical language arts skills students need to succeed, and includes culturally relevant instruction. As an added bonus, the J-Scott tutors will now also provide some homework help, not limited by subject.

After motion and second, the Executive Director's Report was unanimously accepted.

Harry Dunn gave the **President's Report**. Summary of the President's Report: We have received resignations from 6 academic and administrative staff members. The primary reason for the resignations is financial pressure from higher paying competitors in the education industry. Another pressure point is the fact that HBHCSA will no longer provide health insurance offerings to employees beginning in January, 2023 (and thus directing them to alternative health insurance, including the Affordable Care Act), due to the recent doubling of HBHCSA's monthly contribution costs. Student enrollment has been at 225 students without advertising. The cost of operating the 200K ft<sup>2</sup> building being leased is considerable, and the building owner seeks to triple the rent from levels paid this past summer. Some accounting journaling errors (now corrected) by the accounting firm employed by HBHF had given an impression that a liability was income, and others. The January Average Daily Membership tuition support payment from the Indiana Department of Education will be \$153,000 based upon the September enrollment count. There continue to be HVAC problems and issues in the building revealed that require considerable attention and expenditures. The November 11, 2022 Fundraiser while a wonderful, high-energy performance put together by staff and students, did not yield meaningful financial contributions. We have been reaching out to banks to explore the possibility of purchasing the building. We are also exploring bringing a high school equivalency program to operations.

After motion and second, the President's Report was accepted.

**Old Business:** None.

**New Business:** None.

**The next Board meeting is to be determined.**

**The meeting was adjourned at 4:15 p.m.**

## SUMMARY OF THE DECEMBER 16, 2022 BOARD MEETING

Chair Harry Dunn **called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.** The following Board Members were in attendance: Harry Dunn; Michelle Dunn; Gregory Gadson; James Leonard; Wayne Wellington; and Daryl Williams-Dotson. John Bartlett was absent due to a prior engagement. A quorum was present.

Notable non-board members in attendance were: HBHCSA Superintendent and Principal, Sondra Towne-Brender; Dr. Robert Marra, Ball State University's (BSU's) Superintendent of University Schools and Executive Director of the Office of Charter Schools; and Dr. Jamie Garwood, BSU's Director of the Office of Charter Schools.

**Old Business:** None.

**New Business:** Extensive discussions were held regarding school finances and the costs of operating the School and building, the deficits in the operational costs compared with income, and January 2023 income projections and expense projections. Closure of the School was therefore discussed, as well as important closure dates if closure was decided. The initial closure dates considered were in early February, 2023, but Dr. Marra reminded the board that closure should occur before the February 1, 2023 Counting Day. A January 31st closure date was next discussed, which would avoid the February 1st Counting day, but the board was encouraged to choose an earlier closure date, so as not to be close to the Counting Day.

**After a motion, second, and extensive discussion, the Board passed the following resolution with four votes in favor and two votes abstaining:**

**The Board hereby resolves to discontinue the charter operation of HIM By HER™ Collegiate School for the Arts at the present time and at the location of 4501 East 32nd Street, Indianapolis, Indiana 46208, with January 20, 2023 as the planned last day of academic instruction, followed by legal winding-up activities related to the School.**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:27 p.m.

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Attested to by:

/s/ Gregory P. Gadson  
Gregory P. Gadson, Corporate Secretary  
HIM By HER Foundation, Inc.

Date: December 16, 2022