

HARTRIDGE ACADEMY
QUARTERLY BOARD MEETING

December 17, 2024

The meeting was called to order. Members Sherry Kelley and Lisa Street were present as well as Principal Debra Richards. Minutes from the previous meeting were read and approved.

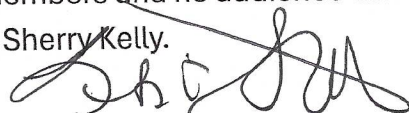
The Principal provided the most current Hartridge financial statement showing a favorable position and fund balance well exceeding the required percentage. Current bank statements were provided supporting the funds. Principal shared that the issues with receiving timely payroll processing checks from the staff leasing company appears to be resolved thus all cash and checks will be deposited after the January holiday payday. Bids will be accepted this year from other payroll providers. Also, the school website now has an option to make purchases online thus no other need for cash on hand at this time. Any fundraising will also be placed online for direct payment.

The Principal shared that the school received notice that data from the State of Florida and USDept of Education resulted in USNews naming us 2025 School of Excellence - being #1 Elementary school in Polk and #16 among over 2000 in Florida. This has been published on various education websites. The Principal will inform cities of Lake Alfred, Auburndale, and Winter Haven from where the majority of our students live. While there doesn't appear to be monetary reward, the prestigious state and national recognition validates the many additional hours of work by Hartridge staff, students, and parents. It supports the decision by the board and administration to use our fund balance to cover what grants and general budget may not cover to continue with the afterschool tutoring program and additional hours of admin/staff planning and analyzing evenings, weekends, and school breaks. Many of the students new to our county this year come with serious academic needs and little English which adds to the tutoring load. Winter testing (pm 2) is January and final testing is in the spring. Some staff and Kelly Services will work winter and holiday spring break.

The Principal provided the board with the state document showing audits are due to the state by March 31, 2025. Though the audit is not yet complete, we expect to meet that deadline as we always have. One reason for delay is waiting for feedback regarding any retirement and sick pay accrual deemed necessary as payroll and its related costs is the largest expense for schools. A budget change is requested to cover that legal service. There were several grants, too. The changes will require more time and labor from the new auditor thus the Principal is asking for a budget amendment in anticipation.

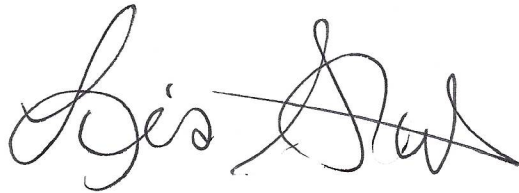
The district picked up some assets from year 2000-2010 that are obsolete or damaged as we clear rooms for added classrooms and therapists. We also are reducing our offsite warehouse use by preparing the middle building to hold items we keep. This requires us to continue with the large dumpster and Uhaul rental until finished. The A/C has already been completed on one side. "Safe schools" has more requirements and recommendations that will require a budget amendment.

The consent agenda items were discussed by members and a motion made to vote. The agenda was approved in its entirety. There was no further input from members and no audience asking to speak. A motion was made by Lisa Street to adjourn and seconded by Sherry Kelly.



CONSENT AGENDA DECEMBER 2024 BOARD meeting

1. Approve changes to budget 2024 2025
2. Approve afterschool tutoring to extend through school year. Use fund balance to fund when Title 1 or Title 2 or other applicable funds expire.
3. Approve safe schools grant for Raptor or items in beginning of year request or required/requested by state or district safe schools.
4. Approve to cash payroll for staff when/if delay with cash on hand.
5. Approve to continue paying extra hours for admin with fund balance.
6. Continue renting Uhaul and dumpster through school year to complete return of stored obsolete/damaged items not picked up by district by year end.
7. Approve the additional cost for the auditor for SYE June 2024 through March 31, 2025
8. Approve hiring Kathleen Schoenberg or other attorney to research retirement, sick pay, private vs public, and charter renewal options up to \$30,000.
9. Continue to pay Kelly Services to provide substitute teachers and labor to assist with clerical and warehouse and filing.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Les Daw". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line striking through the middle of the letters.