

Board Minutes

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING October 13, 2015 - 7:00 PM

Opening of Meeting/Opening Statement

The New Jersey Open Public Meeting law was enacted to ensure the right of the public to have advance notice and to attend the meetings of public bodies at which any business affecting their interests is discussed and acted upon.

Review of the call for the meeting

This is a public meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Hoboken Charter School. At the public meeting action will be taken on a variety of motions. In accordance with the requirements of the Sunshine Law, the meeting was announced on July 8, 2015 at City Hall and the City Clerk's Office on Washington Street and by advertisement in the *Hoboken Reporter* and the *Jersey Journal*.

Board Member	Voting	Present	Absent
Jason Altberger	Voting	Х	
John Berger	Voting	Х	
Lauren Calmas	Voting	Х	
Anthony Felella	Voting	Х	
Lisa McIntyre	Voting		Х
Jose Rivera	Voting	Х	
Mark Silberberg	Voting		Х
Christine Sheedy	Voting	Х	
		6	2

Also present: Mollie Small, Chris Sell, Dr. James C. Baker, Morton Marks, Allison Addona, Justin Lai &

Christian Marrero

Consideration of minutes from the last Board meeting

Minutes of the previous public Board meetings held September 8th and September 29th, 2015 are available for review and/or correction and approval.

I move that the minutes of the Hoboken Board of Trustees meetings September 8th and September 29th, 2015 be approved.

Moved by: John Berger Seconded by: Jason Altberger

Action taken: See action taken below:



AK-12 SERVICE LEARNING SCHOOL

Board Member	Voting	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Jason Altberger	Voting	X			
John Berger	Voting	Х			
Lauren Calmas	Voting	Х			
Anthony Felella	Voting	Х			
Lisa McIntyre	Voting				Х
Jose Rivera	Voting			Х	
Mark Silberberg	Voting				Х
Christine Sheedy	Voting	Х			
		5	0	1	2

Designation of time, date and location for formal meetings and committees

I move that the public meetings of the Hoboken Charter School Board of Trustees during the 2015-2016 year meet on the 2nd Tuesday of each month. The HCS Board will hold a second meeting March 15th. All meetings will take place at 713 Washington Street, Hoboken, NJ. The 4th Tuesday of each month will be reserved for Board committee meetings. The times and places of those meetings will be at 7:00pm at the 713 Washington Street location.

Moved by:	Jose Rivera	Seconded by:	Christine Sheedy
Action taken:	Unanimous:		

Board Member	Voting	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Jason Altberger	Voting	Х			
John Berger	Voting	Х			
Lauren Calmas	Voting	Х			
Anthony Felella	Voting	Х			
Lisa McIntyre	Voting				Х
Jose Rivera	Voting	Х			
Mark Silberberg	Voting				Х
Christine Sheedy	Voting	Х			
		6	0	0	2



1. Public comment/questions on agenda items for the meeting

A 15 minute period of time is provided for the public to ask questions on agenda items or make statements to the Board of Trustees. If there are many speakers, the chair will ask for a 3 minute speaking limit per speaker. The Board may extend the public comment portion by motion if necessary.

2. Enrollment as of September 8, 2015

Grade	Current	Grade	Current	Grade	Current
Kindergarten:	22	Grade 5:	22	Grade 9:	25
Grade 1:	22	Grade 6:	22	Grade 10:	25
Grade 2:	22	Grade 7:	22	Grade 11:	25
Grade 3:	23	Grade 8:	22	Grade12:	24
Grade 4:	22			Total	298

3. School Calendar Reminder:

- October 22 Lower and Middle School Open House 7-8pm
- October 26 MADD Assembly of Thanks and Celebration at 713 Washington Street
- November 5 & 6 Lower, Middle and Upper Schools closed for NJEA Convention
- November 10 Board Meeting at 713 Washington Street 7:00pm
- November 12 Staff professional development 1pm dismissal
 - Movie Day is available for lower and middle school students
- November 12 Upper School Fall Open House 6-8pm
- November 19 Lower and Middle School Open House 7-8pm
- November 25 1:00pm dismissal for Thanksgiving Day Break No after school activities
- November 26 & 27 Thanksgiving Day Break
- December 8 Board Meeting at 713 Washington Street 7:00pm
- December 10 Staff professional development 1pm dismissal
 - Movie Day is available for lower and middle school students
- December 11 Upper School closing at 1:00pm
- December 17 After school activities for Lower and Middle School are cancelled
- December 23 1:00pm dismissal for Winter Break No after school activities
- December 24-January 1 Lower, Middle and Upper Schools closed for the Winter Break
- January 7 Lottery application deadline All applications are due by the close of the working day (5:00pm). Applications submitted after 5:00pm are considered to be reserve pool applications.
- January 13 Board Meeting at 713 Washington Street 7:00pm
- January 14 Staff professional development 1pm dismissal
 - Movie Day is available for lower and middle school students
- January 14 HCS Lottery held at 713 Washington Street 7:00pm
- January 15 MLK March on Washington Street
- January 18 Lower, Middle and Upper School closed for MLK Holiday

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4. Report from K-12 Executive Director

The past two weeks have been operating very smoothly as Ms. Grode assured that all areas of district operation were in perfect order as she anticipated the birth of her child. All staff have been working diligently to assure that classes and other operations are functioning well.

Our Back to School Night at the Upper School was well attended by parents and it was said that it was the best that it has been. Regarding the Upper School, I spent most of the day there as Mr. Sell was attending a professional development program. In that process I met with the Assistant Superintendent of School for the Hoboken Public School District. He and I have been acquainted for many years so he gave me a short tour of the overall building.

I attended a program given by the NJ Department of Education and NJASA on Special Education and what the State is emphasizing and also some recent legal issues of which we need to have concerns. The information which was provided was given to Ms. Small and Ms. Fisher.

I am well entrenched in teacher evaluation and am already impressed with the staff with whom I have engaged in these activities.

5. Report from Lower and Middle School Principal

In conjunction with Ms. Diaz, first grade teamed up with eighth grade to plant items on the rooftop as part of the first grade Make A Difference Day (MADD) program and "Spanish Sustainable Buddies". Later in the year, they will harvest the crops and donate them to the Hoboken Shelter. During Spanish, the sustainability projects will be connected to reading Spanish and English Books together on such topics. Eighth graders read "How a seed grows" in Spanish and English to their buddies, and the first graders taught the eighth graders the Spanish Song and Dance "Buenos Dias".

Mr. Duff is working with K-12 staff to plan for the Make A Difference Day (MADD) assembly. This year, there will be two assemblies, K-6 and 7-12, to kick off a year of learning and service initiatives related to Earth Day and the preserving of our earth and its resources such as water, as exhibited by the Ubuntu program. Changes to service learning for the year will also be shared at this assembly.

6. Report from Upper School Principal

1. The Hoboken Charter Upper School, along with every school in the state of New Jersey, observes the Week of Respect from Monday, October 5th through Friday, October 9th. Each morning there will be an announcement made over the loud speaker mentioning Week of Respect including a student selected quote on the theme of respect. There will be lessons on the prevention of bullying and violence in each grade level clearly explaining the Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying (HIB) laws in the state of New Jersey. We will have a wall created by Ms. Septimus and student volunteers where students and staff can write their favorite or most meaningful

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quotes down as a display for all to see. Lastly, we will be holding a schoolwide poetry/song contest on the theme of "respect, kindness and bullying prevention" where all of the students will write their poem or song on a brick and the bricks will create a wall in the hallway. Each student will get to vote for their favorite poem or song. The top 3 winners will receive prizes and the winners will be announced the following week.

2. Student Publishing Last year Ms. Addona received funding through her membership in Teachers College's New Teacher Network to attend a professional development workshop series called Reimagining Assessment, aimed at creating more meaningful assessments for students. Through that workshop, she worked with Teachers College's Student Press Initiative and developed a unit culminating in her 9th grade students publishing a book of their writing. Building upon the scope of the entire year, Ms. Addona's class spent about a month evaluating stereotypes adults have of teenagers and investigating the depiction of adolescence in Young Adult literature. Through this work, each student wrote and revised 3 pieces: vignettes, prose poems, and journal entries (modeled after the genres we read) aimed at telling their true stories of adolescence and dismantling the stereotypes others have placed upon them. We published our book with an ISBN number in mid-June called I'm Not What They Call Me: Rewriting the Narrative of Adolescence and are currently working on finding a way to sell the book to create a self-sustaining publishing house for our Upper School students.

In June, Ms. Addona's class attended a celebration at Teachers' College with the other schools that published, in which four of our students read their writing aloud to an audience of almost 200 other students, teachers, and distinguished Teachers College faculty. Our students received a copy of the book, and we had a book signing as well. Our students were commended by faculty and other teachers for how mature they were at the event, and many faculty members approached Ms. Addona to tell her how impressed they were with our students' writing. Ms. Addona is also thrilled to announce that she received funding through Teachers College's New Teacher Network to enroll in this work shop series again for the 2015-2016 school year and bring to our current 9th (and hopefully 10th) grade students this same publishing experience. This year, our students will also have the added bonus of working with expert teachers from Student Press Initiative in two class sessions.

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- 3. For the second year, Ms. Addona's 9th grade English class will be working with faculty from the Hoboken Historical Museum. They will be sending a teaching artist to come to her classroom to teach a poetry workshop centered on our community of Hoboken. Ms. Addona's class will continue to build upon this work, and 3 students will be selected to attend another workshop at the museum, publish their writing in an anthology with other students from schools around Hoboken, and perform their pieces at a reading at the museum.
- 4. In Mr. Eves' Integrated Science class, the students have incorporated the first four components of "The Big History Project" into its curriculum. This project is designed to "teach students to examine their intuition, looking at the authority, evidence, and logic of claims across disciplines and scales. Students learn to apply a thoughtful, consistent, and rigorous approach to engaging with new ideas and information and using evidence to construct effective arguments". "Big History Examines Our Past, Explains Our Present, and Imagines Our Future." Big History Project. Web. 1 Oct. 2015.
- 5. Mr. Eves' and Mr. DiPiazza's Environmental Science classes have begun their annual "Trout in the Classroom" project.
- 6. The Upper School's senior class will participate in "A Day in the Life of the Hudson" on Oct. 20. They will be doing water quality testing, fishing, crabbing, and evaluating life on, in, and from the river.
- 7. In late November, The Upper School students will hold a Climate UN and develop innovative ways to reduce carbon emissions (with the target goal of limiting the global temperature rise to 2 degrees C over the next few years).
- 8. With the start of the school year, the Upper School has introduced some new programs and assessment measures:
 - a) Naviance College and Career Readiness Program Naviance is a comprehensive college and career readiness solution for middle and high schools that helps align student strengths and interests to post-secondary goals, and improve student outcomes. This comprehensive college and career readiness solution empowers students and families to connect learning and life and provides schools and districts with the information they need to help students prepare for life after high school. It also allows students to create a plan for their futures by helping them discover their individual strengths and learning styles and explore college and career options based on their results. (Naviance.com)

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- b) Achieve 3000 Achieve 3000 is an online reading literacy program that differentiates informational text to each student's current Lexile, or reading level. This differentiated literacy program will be blended within our regular curriculum with the mindset that all students will improve their reading and writing abilities, thus assisting in the preparation for career and college readiness. (achieve3000.com)
- c) <u>MAP</u>- The Measures of Academic Progress® (MAP) program creates a personalized assessment experience by adapting to each student's learning level—precisely measuring student progress and growth for each individual. (nwea.org) With this accurate, timely, and relevant data, our teachers can design lessons that are precise and appropriately rigorous for all learners.
- d) Advisory Program We are now in our second full year of providing a four-year advisory program focused on the students' social, emotional, and academic wellbeing. Our intimate school size allows us to personally work with each student on a daily basis, and truly place social and emotional learning at the forefront. This program provides our students and staff with a wide variety of academic and social/emotional structural supports, while fostering a learning community in which students feel safe, respected, and important. Our students quickly begin to realize that they "matter" and that they are a valuable member of this community.
- e) **Service Learning** Service Learning is one of our school's "cornerstones for learning". We believe that the students' service learning experiences should life-changing and inspire, equip, and mobilize our students to take action that changes their community, the world. As a result, our students, albeit through events, expeditionary learning experiences, and course curricula, are exposed to many different facets of service learning. Through this learning, we hope that our students, upon graduation, will be individuals who are primed and ready to assume leadership roles within their communities and truly make a difference in this world.
- f) <u>PLCs</u> We began this process last year, but this year will be the first full year that our staff will be utilizing PLCs (Professional Learning Communities). PLCs will allow our teaching staff to collaboratively meet twice a week focusing on student learning. Teachers will meet to analyze data, discuss curriculum and assessments, and ensure that we are using the best and most innovative instructional practices in our classrooms. These collaborative discussions will help to ensure that your child is receiving the highest quality education possible.



7. Report From Business Administrator

Financial Notes 9/30/15

Period	Book Cash Bal	Fund Balance	Per Fr Resrv
07.31.15	761,500	752,407	
08.31.15	727,710	644,658	
09.30.15	615,232	827,241	75,000

The month of September shows the setup of the Performance Framework Reserve. \$75,000 in cash is removed from circulation and has a separate line. This money is only to be used in case the school shuts down as per the DOE instructions.

8. Questions from Board and Public on Reports: 10 minutes will be allotted for questions related to the Executive Director, Lower and Middle School Principal, Upper School Principal and Business Administrator's report.

9. Consideration of Motions Related to Instruction:

1. I move that the board approves Jennifer LaGratta as interim teacher.

Moved by: John Berger Seconded by: Christine Sheedy Action taken: Unanimous:

Board Member	Voting	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Jason Altberger	Voting	Х			
John Berger	Voting	Х			
Lauren Calmas	Voting	Х			
Anthony Felella	Voting	Х			
Lisa McIntyre	Voting				Х
Jose Rivera	Voting	Х			
Mark Silberberg	Voting				Х
Christine Sheedy	Voting	Х			
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2. I move that the board approves Alexandra Fantl as interim instructional aide.

Moved by:	John Berger	Seconded by:	Christine Sheedy
Action taken:	Unanimous:		

UPPER SCHOOL

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AK-12 SERVICE LEARNING SCHOOL

Board Member	Voting	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Jason Altberger	Voting	Х			
John Berger	Voting	Х			
Lauren Calmas	Voting	Х			
Anthony Felella	Voting	Х			
Lisa McIntyre	Voting				Х
Jose Rivera	Voting	Х			
Mark Silberberg	Voting				Х
Christine Sheedy	Voting	Х			
		6	0	0	2

- 3. I move that the board approves the submission of a NJDOE waiver application (N.J.A.C.6H-9-65C) to the County Office for the hiring of school staff and/or substitutes while formal criminal history is processed.
 - > Brant Reiter
 - ➤ Danielle Thomas
 - ➤ Alexandra Fantl
 - ➤ Victor LaMantia

Moved by: John Berger Seconded by: Christina Sheedy

Action taken: Unanimous:

Board Member	Voting	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Jason Altberger	Voting	Х			
John Berger	Voting	Х			
Lauren Calmas	Voting	Х			
Anthony Felella	Voting	Х			
Lisa McIntyre	Voting				Х
Jose Rivera	Voting	Х			
Mark Silberberg	Voting				Х
Christine Sheedy	Voting	Х			
		6	0	0	2



AK-12 SERVICE LEARNING SCHOOL

- 4. I move that the Board approves the following personnel for the daily assignments as school staff and/or substitutes pending completion of a county sub license and/or criminal background check.
 - > Brant Reiter
 - ➤ Danielle Thomas
 - ➤ Alexandra Fantl
 - Victor LaMantia

Moved by: John Berger Seconded by: Christina Sheedy

Action taken: Unanimous:

Board Member	Voting	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Jason Altberger	Voting	Х			
John Berger	Voting	Х			
Lauren Calmas	Voting	Х			
Anthony Felella	Voting	Х			
Lisa McIntyre	Voting				Х
Jose Rivera	Voting	Х			
Mark Silberberg	Voting				Х
Christine Sheedy	Voting	Х			
		6	0	0	2

10. Consideration of Motions Related To Board Operations:

1. I move that the Board approves the Board Secretary Report, as of September 30, 2015, as received, and as per DOE requirements. See attached file at the end of the minutes.

Moved by: Anthony Felella Seconded by: Jason Altberger

Action taken: Unanimous:

Board Member	Voting	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Jason Altberger	Voting	Х			
John Berger	Voting	Х			
Lauren Calmas	Voting	Х			
Anthony Felella	Voting	Х			
Lisa McIntyre	Voting				Х
Jose Rivera	Voting	Х			
Mark Silberberg	Voting				Х
Christine Sheedy	Voting	Х			
		6	0	0	2





2. I move that the Board approves the Treasurer's Report, as of September 30, 2015, as listed below in the minutes, and as per DOE requirements.

Moved by:	Anthony Felella	Seconded by:	Jason Altberger
Action taken:	Unanimous:		

Board Member	Voting	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Jason Altberger	Voting	Х			
John Berger	Voting	Х			
Lauren Calmas	Voting	Х			
Anthony Felella	Voting	Х			
Lisa McIntyre	Voting				Х
Jose Rivera	Voting	Х			
Mark Silberberg	Voting				Х
Christine Sheedy	Voting	Х			
		6	0	0	2

3. I move that the Board approves the Budget Transfers as listed below in the minutes, and as per DOE requirements.

Moved by: Anthony Felella Seconded by: Jason Altberger

Action taken: Unanimous:

Board Member	Voting	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Jason Altberger	Voting	Х			
John Berger	Voting	Х			
Lauren Calmas	Voting	Х			
Anthony Felella	Voting	Х			
Lisa McIntyre	Voting				Х
Jose Rivera	Voting	Х			
Mark Silberberg	Voting				Х
Christine Sheedy	Voting	Х			
		6	0	0	2



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4. Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23-2.11(c)3, the Board acknowledges and accepts the certification from the Board Secretary that as of September 30, 2015, this board secretary report that no budgetary line item account has encumbrances and expenditures which in total exceed the line item appropriation in violation of 6A:23-2.11(a).

Moved by: Anthony Felella Seconded by: Jason Altberger

Action taken: Unanimous:

Board Member	Voting	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Jason Altberger	Voting	Х			
John Berger	Voting	Х			
Lauren Calmas	Voting	Х			
Anthony Felella	Voting	Х			
Lisa McIntyre	Voting				Х
Jose Rivera	Voting	Х			
Mark Silberberg	Voting				Х
Christine Sheedy	Voting	Х			
		6	0	0	2

Acceptance of Reports

5. Resolved, that the Board acknowledges the receipt of the Report of the Treasurer and the Report of the Board Secretary for the month ending September 30, 2015.

Moved by: Anthony Felella Seconded by: Jason Altberger

Action taken: Unanimous:

Board Member	Voting	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Jason Altberger	Voting	Х			
John Berger	Voting	Х			
Lauren Calmas	Voting	Х			
Anthony Felella	Voting	Х			
Lisa McIntyre	Voting				Х
Jose Rivera	Voting	Х			
Mark Silberberg	Voting				Х
Christine Sheedy	Voting	Х			
		6	0	0	2





Certification of Reports

6. Further Resolved, the Board certifies that no budgeted line item, major account or fund has been over extended in violation of N.J.A.C 6A:23-2.11(a) and (b) and that sufficient funds are available to meet the school's financial obligations for the remainder of the year.

Moved by: Anthony Felella Seconded by: Jason Altberger

Action taken: Unanimous:

Board Member	Voting	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Jason Altberger	Voting	Х			
John Berger	Voting	Х			
Lauren Calmas	Voting	Х			
Anthony Felella	Voting	Х			
Lisa McIntyre	Voting				Х
Jose Rivera	Voting	Х			
Mark Silberberg	Voting				Х
Christine Sheedy	Voting	Х			
		6	0	0	2

7. I move that the Board approves the bills as listed below in the minutes, and as per DOE requirements.

Moved by: Anthony Felella Seconded by: Jason Altberger

Action taken: Unanimous:

Board Member	Voting	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Jason Altberger	Voting	Х			
John Berger	Voting	Х			
Lauren Calmas	Voting	Х			
Anthony Felella	Voting	Х			
Lisa McIntyre	Voting				Х
Jose Rivera	Voting	Х			
Mark Silberberg	Voting				Х
Christine Sheedy	Voting	Х			
		6	0	0	2



11. **Board Committee Reports:**

Finance Anthony Felella • **Facilities** Jason Altberger Management Mark Silberberg Communication Lauren Calmas Nominating Committee Lisa McIntyre Legal John Berger Governance Lauren Calmas Christine Sheedy PA Representative **Community Outreach** Lisa McIntyre **High School Committee** Jose Rivera

8. I move that the Board approves the design phase of Paul Denison. Proposal P.D. of 10,500

Moved by: Jason Altberger Seconded by: Christine Sheedy

Action taken: Unanimous:

Board Member	Voting	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Jason Altberger	Voting	Х			
John Berger	Voting	Х			
Lauren Calmas	Voting	Х			
Anthony Felella	Voting	Х			
Lisa McIntyre	Voting				X
Jose Rivera	Voting	Х			
Mark Silberberg	Voting				Х
Christine Sheedy	Voting	Х			
		6	0	0	2

12. New Business to come before the Board for action:

13. Executive Session

- Matters related to personnel
- Executive matters

713 WASHINGTON STREET



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⇒ Meeting went into closed session at 8:48pm via motion from Jason Altberger, seconded by Jose Rivera. Reopened at 9:25pm via motion from Jason Altberger and seconded by Jose Rivera.

Adjournment of Meeting:

Whereas, the business of the regular meeting has been concluded, now, therefore be it resolved that the HCS Board of Trustees adjourned their meeting of Tuesday, October 13, 2015.

It is hereby certified that the foregoing resolution was duly adopted by the HCS Board of Trustees, by the vote below indicated at the regular meeting held on Tuesday, October 13, 2015.

Moved by:	Christina Sheedy	Seconded by:	John Berger
Action taken:	Unanimous:		

Board Member	Voting	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Jason Altberger	Voting	Х			
John Berger	Voting	Х			
Lauren Calmas	Voting	Х			
Anthony Felella	Voting	Х			
Lisa McIntyre	Voting				Х
Jose Rivera	Voting	Х			
Mark Silberberg	Voting				Х
Christine Sheedy	Voting	Х			
,		6	0	0	2

Certified by Board Secretary			
Date	Adjournment	9:26	

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