



Highlights from the February 13, 2018 Board Meeting

Executive Director Deirdra Grode informed the Board that Upper School Principal Chris Sell will not return for the 2018-2019 school year. The Board communicated to Chris its deep appreciation for the work that he has done in moving the Upper School program forward. Chris will continue to lead the program through the end of the school year and will work with Deirdra as the transition plan is developed.

Program reports from the Executive Director and Principals were given

School Business Administrator Morton Marks presented on the strong fiscal status of the school. The report included updates on the new online lunch program; there was some discussion about how to ensure that the program is accessible to all. He also reported on potential changes to the health plan for faculty and staff that should help to keep health care costs in check while still maintaining the high level of quality that we want to provide as an employee benefit. This led to some initial conversation regarding the 2018-2019 budget that will be discussed and approved at the March Meetings.

The Management Committee discussed the current evolving plans for the development of a formal strategic plan for the Hoboken Charter School. The initial stages of this plan will engage the Executive Director and her leadership team in important visioning work. As the plan is developed, there will be opportunities for this work to be shared with the community as well as providing opportunities for community feedback

The Facilities Committee provided an update on plans involving 709 Washington Street and the ongoing work being undertaken by members of the Board and the Friends of the Hoboken Charter School as part of this project.

This led into a conversation about ways to better clarify for the community the role of the Friends of the Hoboken Charter School and the Board of the Hoboken Charter School. A number of ideas to increase and leverage parent involvement and increase transparency were discussed. This update, which will be an ongoing feature in the weekly news following board meetings, represents one way in which we hope to make the work of the Board clearer to the HCS community.

During the public comment portion of the meeting, Daria Vogel spoke to this idea of increasing awareness of the role of the board as being an important one for the larger school community.

Prior to adjourning the meeting, the Board went into closed session for discussion related to legal and facilities issues.

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