



## A K – 12 SERVICE LEARNING SCHOOL

### Board Minutes

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING  
OCTOBER 16, 2018 - 7:00 PM  
360 1<sup>ST</sup> STREET, 2<sup>ND</sup> FLOOR  
HOBOKEN, NJ 07030**

### Call to Order

#### Roll Call

<b><i>TRUSTEE</i></b>	<b><i>PRESENT</i></b>	<b><i>ABSENT</i></b>
Jason Altberger	<b>X</b>	
John Berger		<b>X</b> (arrived 7:30pm)
Lauren Calmas	<b>X</b>	
Anthony Felella	<b>X</b>	
Lisa McIntyre		<b>X</b>
Jose Rivera	<b>X</b>	
Christine Sheedy		<b>X</b> (arrived 7:23pm)
Mark Silberberg	<b>X</b>	

Deirdra Grode, Executive Director

Morton Mark, Business Administrator/Board Secretary

Also in attendance: Julianne O' Connell, John O'Connell, Sivan Noy, Eytan Noy, Lindsey Bednar, Joe Cascetta, Tamar Reyes-Fernandez, Shannon Albino, Susan Kreiner, Jen Bulvanoski, Elisa-Marie Rivera, Sugam Mehta, Elizabeth Palma and Joanna Weintraub

### Reading of the Open Public Meeting 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. 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 August 27, 2018 at City Hall and the City Clerk's Office on Washington Street and by advertisement in the *Hoboken Reporter* and the *Jersey Journal*.

### Summary Notes from the Meeting

Several members of the parent community attended the Board meeting. One parent asked why the weighted lottery was not on the October board agenda and it was communicated that since it is unlikely that the NJDOE would approve an amendment to the charter in time for the weighted lottery to be carried out successfully in the upcoming lottery, the vote has been postponed to after January to avoid confusion with families applying for the lottery for the 2019-2020 school year. A first read has occurred and the recommendation will be made to the board for a weighted lottery to be implemented in the January 2020 lottery. Several parents shared their concerns about a weighted lottery.

An update was provided on the KMS Development community giveback and the Board expressed their gratitude for the advocacy of our school community in the recent weeks and additionally expressed



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appreciation to City Council, Mayor Bhalla and KMS Development. The Board is thrilled that HCS will benefit from the giveback and encouraged by the acknowledgement of charter schools as public schools.

Executive Director Deirdra Grode shared that it has been almost twenty-five years since New Jersey enacted the Charter School Program Act of 1995 and that Governor Murphy has directed the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) to assess the state's approach to charter schools as it relates to those most impacted by the law. In October, the NJDOE launched a statewide outreach effort to obtain feedback regarding charter-related priorities that are most important to stakeholders throughout New Jersey. As part of this process, the New Jersey Commissioner of Education, Dr. Lamont Repollet, announced that he will be visiting eleven charter schools throughout New Jersey with HCS selected as one of the schools. It was shared that on Friday, November 2, 2018, the Commissioner and several NJDOE staff would tour HCS to learn more about the program and to hear from various stakeholders. Ms. Grode shared that the school would be coordinating the visit with a school tour and stakeholder-engaged focus session to follow. In addition to the charter school tours, the NJDOE will hold focus sessions throughout the state. Feedback from these sessions will be recorded, summarized, and analyzed in a report to be issued by NJDOE at the conclusion of outreach. The Executive Director participated in one session in Newark and will encourage the entire school community to participate in outreach opportunities beyond the November 2<sup>nd</sup> tour and focus group.

Reports from the Executive Director and Principals were given. (See text of reports in the meeting agenda below.)

Prior to adjourning the meeting, the Board went into closed session for discussions related to finances, governance and student discipline.

### **Approve Minutes**

Minutes of the previous public Board meetings held September 18, 2018 are available for review and/or correction and approval.

I move that the minutes of the Hoboken Board of Trustees Meeting on September 18, 2018 be approved.

Moved by\_\_\_\_Mark Silberberg\_\_\_\_ Seconded by\_\_\_\_Jose Rivera\_\_\_\_

Action taken\_\_\_\_ OK \_\_\_\_\_

<b><i>TRUSTEE</i></b>	<b><i>YES</i></b>	<b><i>NO</i></b>	<b><i>ABSTAIN</i></b>	<b><i>ABSENT</i></b>
Jason Altberger	<b>X</b>			
John Berger			<b>X</b>	
Lauren Calmas	<b>X</b>			
Anthony Felella	<b>X</b>			
Lisa McIntyre				<b>X</b>
Jose Rivera	<b>X</b>			
Christine Sheedy				<b>X</b>
Mark Silberberg	<b>X</b>			



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### **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.

### **Presentations:**

Multi-Tiered System of Support with Jackie Mercandetti - November meeting

#### **1. Finance**

**Motion by:** \_\_\_\_\_ Anthony Felella \_\_\_\_\_ **Seconded by:** \_\_\_\_\_ Mark Silberberg \_\_\_\_\_

##### **I. Cash and Fund Balance**

Period	Cash Bal	Fund Bal
07.31.18	930,124	843,592
08.31.18	865,009	763,100
09.30.18	970,001	1,004,371

- II. Resolved, that the Board of Trustees approves the Board Secretary Report as of September 30, 2018, as received in the monthly financial report as per DOE requirements.
- III. Resolved, that the Board of Trustees approves the Treasurer's Report, as of September 30, 2018, as received in the monthly financial report as per DOE requirements.
- IV. Resolved, that the Board of Trustees approves the Budget Transfers as received in the monthly financial report as per DOE requirements.
- V. Resolved, that the Board of Trustees approves the bills as received in the monthly financial report as per DOE requirements.
- VI. Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23-2.11(c)3, the Board of Trustees acknowledges and accepts the certification from the Board Secretary that as of September 30, 2018, 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).
- VII. Be it resolved, that the Board of Trustees acknowledges the receipt of the Report of the Treasurer and the Report of the Board Secretary for the month ending September 30, 2018.
- VIII. Further Resolved, the Board of Trustees 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.



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### Roll Call Vote

<i><b>TRUSTEE</b></i>	<i><b>YES</b></i>	<i><b>NO</b></i>	<i><b>ABSTAIN</b></i>	<i><b>ABSENT</b></i>
Jason Altberger	<b>X</b>			
John Berger	<b>X</b>			
Lauren Calmas	<b>X</b>			
Anthony Felella	<b>X</b>			
Lisa McIntyre				<b>X</b>
Jose Rivera	<b>X</b>			
Christine Sheedy	<b>X</b>			
Mark Silberberg	<b>X</b>			

### 2. Information Items

October 16, 2018

<i><b>Grade</b></i>	<i><b>Current</b></i>	<i><b>Grade</b></i>	<i><b>Current</b></i>	<i><b>Grade</b></i>	<i><b>Current</b></i>
<b><i>K</i></b>	22	<b><i>5</i></b>	22	<b><i>9</i></b>	25
<b><i>1</i></b>	22	<b><i>6</i></b>	22	<b><i>10</i></b>	25
<b><i>2</i></b>	22	<b><i>7</i></b>	22	<b><i>11</i></b>	25
<b><i>3</i></b>	22	<b><i>8</i></b>	22	<b><i>12</i></b>	25
<b><i>4</i></b>	22			<b><i>Total</i></b>	298

### School Calendar Reminder

- October 25 – LS/MS Open House 6-7 pm.
- November 8 – Professional Development Day. Student will have a 1:00pm dismissal. Movie Day is available.
- November 15 – Grades K-4 Open House from 6:00-7:00 pm
- November 15 – Upper School Report Card Night/Conferences 6:00-8:00 p.m.
- November 20 – Board Meeting at 713 Washington Street 7:00 pm.
- November 21 – 1:00 pm dismissal. After school activities are cancelled.
- November 22&23 – Schools closed due to Thanksgiving Day Break.
- December 6 – Upper School Open House 6-8 pm.
- December 13 – Professional Development Day. Student will have a 1:00pm dismissal. Movie Day is available.
- December 13 – Holiday Concert K-8.
- December 18 – Board Meeting at 360 First Street.
- December 20 – After school activities are cancelled.
- December 21 – 1:00pm dismissal – After school activities are cancelled.
- December 24 to January 1 – Lower, Middle and Upper School is closed for the winter break.

### Executive Director's Report

The New Jersey Department of Education has begun a statewide review of the charter law, the NJ Charter School Act of 1995, and will be gathering public feedback on New Jersey's approach to charter schools over the next months. They have stated that this feedback will help them to identify the priorities that are most important to those impacted by charter schools. This review will include charter tours and focus groups. The feedback from these sessions will be recorded, summarized, and analyzed in a report to be issued by NJDOE at the



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conclusion of outreach. The Executive Director has participated in one session and will work to coordinate a focus group

### **Lower School/Middle School Report**

On Thursday, September 27, HCS hosted our K-8 families for Back to School Night. Based on parent feedback, there was an additional half hour added to the schedule and families had more time to meet with non-classroom teachers, teachers across multiple grades for families with more than one child and tour the school.

During the week of October 1-5, HCS observed the Week of Respect, an annual statewide observance to promote positive school culture as a part of the Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights. The activities for the week were as follows:

- Daily Messages of Respect - Students participating in Student Government read a quote/message about respect on the morning announcements each day.
- Wishing Wall - Led by the Student Government, students wrote and drew about kindness and respect on strips of paper. The Student Government created a building-wide chain that was hung in the lobby.
- Teasing and Bullying Lessons - Each homeroom class completed an anti-bullying lesson based on lessons provided by the NJ Bar Association.
- Blue Shirt Day - Students and staff wore blue shirts in observance of the World Day of Bullying Prevention.

On Friday, October 5, our Kindergarten and first grade classes visited City Hall and met with Mayor Ravi Bhalla for a book reading. Mayor Bhalla read *The Koala Who Could* to our students.

Several of our Lower and Middle School classes have participated in experiential field trips outside of the classroom:

- The seventh and eighth grade Future City elective visited the skyscraper museum in preparation for building their city
- The second grade visited the Hoboken Historical Museum
- The fourth grade visited Waterloo Village
- The Middle School Debate Team went to a novice tournament
- Girls Who Code members visited the Hayes Museum

### **Upper School Report**

Upper School Cougars have leapt into action this fall! The staff prepared a wonderful Back to School Night despite the predicted torrential rain. We had 13% attendance and hope to raise that number at the Report Card night in November. We also hosted a successful first Open House with 9 families in attendance. 19 students came to represent their school at the Open House and hosted an Ask the Students Panel.

In the Upper School, student government funds were used to create Class advisor positions. This is working out well. The Freshmen led the school in Start with Hello week, including “No one Sits Alone Day and individualized Nice Notes. The Sophomores are mobilizing to begin some serious fundraising for class events. The Seniors began the year with a celebratory breakfast, class meetings and committee meetings to plan the year.



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Our Guidance Counselor has organized numerous college visits- utilizing the Lunch A time that we included in the schedule. She has been busy with one on one meetings with all of our seniors and, just tonight, hosted Senior College Information Night for 12th grade students and their families. Next week, a representative from FAFSA is coming and, with the help of staff members, will provide an opportunity for families to receive support in filling out financial aid forms. We have also had visitors from the community come to speak about their career paths with our students, including Dr. Mark Frasier from the Michael J. Fox Foundation, attorney Alvaro Hasani, and our own social worker, Heather DeSimone. In the coming weeks we have Drs. Robert Strell and Marni Kriegel coming as well as attorney Jill Miller.

We conducted MAP and PSAT testing. The staff has been hard at work using the data from MAP to differentiate curriculum to meet student needs and strengths. The PSAT provided an opportunity for students to learn test taking survival skills, practice for the SAT, and potentially be recognized by schools and programs for recruitment and scholarships.

Learning opportunities have reached far beyond testing with class trips. Besides walking trips around Hoboken, the Environmental Science classes visited the Hudson River Park to participate in oyster ecology research, and the Algebra classes visited the Museum of Mathematics' Live on Stage event. Some of our Social Justice Lab students participated in Teens Talk About Racism, a youth leadership conference at Fairleigh Dickinson University.

Our school culture continues to grow with positive events such as the Week of Respect, wearing blue on Annual World Bullying Prevention Day and creating a Wishing Wall with positive notes for our community, and a Pep rally to celebrate completion of the PAST and honor our volleyball teams.

### **Board of Trustees Committee Reports**

#### **New Business**

#### **Public Comments**

#### **Looking Ahead**

First read on a proposed Family and Medical Leaves and Benefits Policies  
First read on a proposed Human Resources Handbook

#### **Executive Session**

⇒ Meeting went into closed session at 8:35pm via motion from Christine Sheedy, seconded by Anthony Felella.  
Re-opened at 10:18pm via motion from Christine Sheedy, seconded by Anthony Felella.



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### 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 16, 2018.

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 16, 2018.

*Moved by* \_\_\_\_\_ *Christine Sheedy* \_\_\_\_\_ *Seconded by* \_\_\_\_\_ *Anthony Felella* \_\_\_\_\_

*Action taken* \_\_\_\_\_ *OK* \_\_\_\_\_

*Certified by Board Secretary* \_\_\_\_\_

*Date* \_\_\_\_\_ *10.16.18* \_\_\_\_\_ *Adjournment* \_\_\_\_\_ *10:19pm* \_\_\_\_\_

<i>TRUSTEE</i>	<i>YES</i>	<i>NO</i>	<i>ABSTAIN</i>	<i>ABSENT</i>
Jason Altberger	X			
John Berger	X			
Lauren Calmas	X			
Anthony Felella	X			
Lisa McIntyre	X			
Jose Rivera	X			
Christine Sheedy	X			
Mark Silberberg	X			