



A K – 12 SERVICE LEARNING SCHOOL

Board Minutes

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
NOVEMBER 20, 2018 - 7:00 PM
713 WASHINGTON STREET
HOBOKEN, NJ 07030

Call to Order

Roll Call

TRUSTEE	PRESENT	ABSENT
Jason Altberger		X
John Berger	X	
Lauren Calmas		X
Anthony Felella	X	
Lisa McIntyre	X	
Jose Rivera		X
Christine Sheedy	X	
Mark Silberberg	X	

Deirdra Grode, Executive Director

Morton Marks, Business Administrator/Board Secretary

Also in attendance: 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

Jackie Mercandetti presented the MTTS (Multi-Tiered System of Supports) program to the Board of Trustees. This system is designed to support struggling students as they are provided with interventions at increasing levels of intensity to accelerate their rate of learning. Progress is closely monitored to assess both the learning rate and level of performance of individual students. Educational decisions about the intensity and duration of interventions are based on individual student response to instruction.

There are three tiers in the model. Tier 1 support starts in the general education classroom with students receiving interventions and targeted attention. Students who demonstrate the need for additional support and meet eligibility criteria would then access help at the Tier 2 level. This is in a pull out, small group format two-three times per week. Programming is offered in both math and reading using evidenced-based



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programs that directly address skill deficits using a specific scope and sequence that complements the foundational skills required to access the curriculum. Tier 3 support is provided individually and increases in duration and frequency. Students' progress at all three levels is closely monitored.

Eligibility for MTSS support is determined through review of assessments including MAP, Fountas and Pinnell reading assessments, Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills (DIBELS) and PARCC scores. To support students in targeted instruction, the lower school uses the Orton-Gillingham method for reading and Do The Math program for mathematics. The middle and upper schools use Achieve 3000 and Orton Gillingham for reading support and Math 180 for math support. The HCS program is funded primarily through the ESEA grant and is in its second year.

The Board then moved into a discussion regarding the school's participation in the School Breakfast Program in particular at the upper school. At present, HCS has over 20% of its enrolled students qualifying for free or reduced-price meals with less than 25% participating in the breakfast program. As a result, the school has been working on a plan to increase participation. The school administered a survey with upper school students to assess how we can most effectively increase student participation.

Reports from the Executive Director and Principals were given and can be found below.

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

Approve Minutes

Minutes of the previous public Board meetings held October 16, 2018 are available for review and/or correction and approval.

I move that the minutes of the Hoboken Board of Trustees Meeting on October 16, 2018 be approved.

Moved by____Mark Silberberg_____ Seconded by____Anthony Felella_____

Action taken____OK_____

Roll Call Vote

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



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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:

Jackie Mercandetti – Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) - November

K-8 Parent Meeting Feedback Share – Elizabeth Palma – December

Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) – Elizabeth Palma and Joanna Weintraub - January

1. Board Operations

Motion by: _____Anthony Felella_____ Seconded by: _____Lisa McIntyre_____

- I. Resolved, that the Board of Trustees approves the resignation of Jose Rivera from the Board of Trustees.

Roll Call Vote

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

2. 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
10.31.18	823,753	899,441

- II. Resolved, that the Board of Trustees approves the contract from Preferred Healthcare to



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provide substitute nursing services at \$60 an hour for services rendered by an RN and \$58 an hour for services rendered by an LPN.

- III. Resolved, that the Board of Trustees approves the Board Secretary Report as of October 31, 2018, as received in the monthly financial report as per DOE requirements.
- IV. Resolved, that the Board of Trustees approves the Treasurer's Report, as of October 31, 2018, as received in the monthly financial report as per DOE requirements.
- V. Resolved, that the Board of Trustees approves the Budget Transfers as received in the monthly financial report as per DOE requirements.
- VI. Resolved, that the Board of Trustees approves the bills as received in the monthly financial report as per DOE requirements.
- VII. 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 October 31, 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).
- VIII. 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 October 31, 2018.
- IX. 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.

Roll Call Vote

TRUSTEE	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Jason Altberger				X
John Berger	X			
Lauren Calmas				X
Anthony Felella	X			
Lisa McIntyre	X			
Christine Sheedy	X			
Mark Silberberg	X			

3. Educational Planning

Motion by: _____Mark Silberberg_____ Seconded by: _____Christine Sheedy_____

- I. Resolved, that the Board of Trustees approves the professional development request for Chloe Sosa-Jarrett, Teacher, to attend the Teachers College, Columbia University Argumentation Institute- Establishing protocols for debate and argumentative writing for use



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with students. The training will take place at Teachers College in NYC from January 7-9, 2019. The total cost is \$650.00.

Roll Call Vote

TRUSTEE	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Jason Altberger				X
John Berger	X			
Lauren Calmas				X
Anthony Felella	X			
Lisa McIntyre	X			
Christine Sheedy	X			
Mark Silberberg	X			

4. Information Items

November 20, 2018

Grade	Current	Grade	Current	Grade	Current
K	22	5	22	9	23
1	22	6	22	10	26
2	22	7	22	11	25
3	22	8	22	12	26
4	22			Total	298

School Calendar Reminder

- 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-students will have a 1:00pm dismissal. Movie Day is available for K-8 students.
- 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.
- January 3 – Lottery application deadline
- January 10 – Professional Development Day-students will have a 1:00pm dismissal. Movie Day is available for K-8 students.
- January 10 – Lottery at 2:00pm at 713 Washington Street
- January 21 – School Closed for MLK Day Holiday
- January 22 – Board Meeting at 713 Washington Street 7:00 pm.

Executive Director's Report

Hoboken Charter School has just been selected to become the 48th member of the Diverse Charter Schools Coalition (DCSC). The vision of DCSC is that an ever-growing number of American public schools, including many charter schools, will embody the diversity of our nation's people – across race, socioeconomic status, language and abilities – while preparing the children in their care to pursue higher education, meaningful and sustainable work in a global economy, and an equal role in a more cohesive and connected participatory



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democracy. The Diverse Charter Schools Coalition connects members with each other and with outside resources to help improve their practice. It encourages leaders of high-performing public schools in the Coalition to embrace diversity while serving as a beacon and resource for new founders and other school leaders interested in creating integrated charter schools. DCSC also supports research and analysis on the impact of diversity on the academic and social outcomes of its students and students attending similarly diverse schools across the nation. DCSC makes federal, state, and local policy recommendations that support new and existing diverse-by-design public charter schools. Finally, they advocate that government and philanthropic support incentivizes demographic diversity in public schools.

On Friday, November 2, Commissioner Repollet and a team of representatives from the NJDOE spoke with HCS students to learn more about the school mission, toured classrooms and participated in a discussion about New Jersey's approach to charter schools. Thirty stakeholders consisting of HCS board members, Friends of HCS members, parents, faculty/administration, students and parents of alumni participated in the conversation and provided feedback that will support decision-making at the NJDOE regarding charter schools.

Also on November 2, students across grades K-12 participated in a Day of the Dead event at the Multi-Service Center as students made offerings to the schoolwide selected social justice heroes Cesar Chavez, Susan B. Anthony, Harriet Tubman, Oskar Schindler, Rosa Parks and Mahatma Gandhi by placing offerings they created at the ofrendas. Lower and upper school students provided short presentations in Spanish, a live mariachi band played and middle and upper school students identifiable by their traditional La Calavera Catrina, or Elegant Skull imagery, face painting helped the other students create flowers and papel picado to be added to each ofrenda.

Environmental science students from the 10th and 11th grades have been studying alternative energy sources, researching the pros and cons of each type, exploring how Hoboken gets most of its energy and examining the environmental cost of burning fossil fuels for energy. These students created illustrated books that highlighted their research on alternative energy and in coordination with the 4th graders' start of a unit on energy, they read them their books and worked with them to design a city that runs entirely on renewable energy sources. These mixed age groups drew their cities on poster board and described how their designed cities get energy. There were solar-powered cars and planes and the use of the Hudson to create a dam for hydropower!

The middle and upper school robotics team, Roboken, competed at the Early Bee tournament at Bayonne High School. They came in 8th place out of 24 teams in the qualifying rounds which earned them a spot in the elimination bracket at the end of the day. In the bracket they made it all the way to finals. Additionally, the team won the Connect Award for their work soliciting sponsors and connecting with the community.

Hoboken Charter School was selected as a finalist for Educator of the Year by the Hoboken Chamber of Commerce. On Thursday, November 8, HCS was recognized at their annual awards dinner at the Elks Club. This followed Ms. Palma's nomination of Chris Kunkel for his commitment and exemplary work in STEM education. Ms. Palma and Ms. Weintraub accompanied Chris Kunkel to the event and enjoyed an evening of celebration of some of the City's most exciting programs and businesses.

Our peer mentoring program began on Friday, November 9 with mentor/mentee introductions. This year, several upper school students are serving as mentors for our K-8 students.



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On Friday, November 9th, HCS eighth graders visited the upper school for move up day to learn more about our upper school program. Students met with Ms. Weintraub, chose classes for a demonstration lesson and met with a panel of upper school students.

Lower School/Middle School Report

During the week of October 15, HCS observed School Violence Awareness Week. Middle School students participated in an assembly with members of the Hudson County Prosecutor's Office to discuss cyber bullying and safe social media use. Lower school students met with members of the Hoboken Police Department to talk about stranger danger and other safety issues.

During the month of October, the lower and middle school Student Government Associations held their annual elections for executive positions and class representatives.

On Monday, October 29, all K-4 lead classroom teachers visited HoLa to learn more about their instructional program in ELA (reading, writing, word study) and math.

On Friday, November 16 local author Raakhee Mirchandani, who recently published *Super Satya Saves the Day*, visited the lower school. She read her book to the kindergarten, first and second grade classes. In third and fourth grade, she read her book and conducted a writing workshop. She also signed books for students.

In October and November, the lower and middle schools hosted open houses. This year, we had student panels and parent panels in order to allow prospective families to learn more about our program from others within the community.

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

- The eighth grade visited lower Manhattan for a tour of Revolutionary War sites as a part of their current social studies unit.
- The kindergarten visited Wightman farm and the Hoboken Fire Station.
- The first and second grades visited the Turtleback Zoo and the Tenaflly Nature Center.
- The third and fourth graders visited Lincoln Center.
- The fifth grade visited MoMath.
- The sixth grade visited the Museum of Illusion.

Upper School Report

This month has been filled with activities that extend beyond the classroom.

Social Justice Lab students visited William Patterson University to attend the presentation *After Parkland and Sandy Hook: Where do we go from here?* Afterwards, Councilwoman Emily Jabbour visited the classes to discuss her work with Moms Demand Action. The first edition of the student newspaper, *The Cougar Chronicles*, included articles resulting from turning a journalistic eye both inwards as well as towards the community.

HCS provided the ASVAB test (Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery) as an alternative route to meet graduation testing requirements. We also began a weekly SAT prep class resulting in a large group of weekly attendees.



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Just last week, the upper school hosted a second Cougar Celebration. This time we were celebrating High Honor and Honor Roll recipients as well as recipients of the Cougar Citizen Awards for the first Marking Period. Students and families attended, sharing a breakfast and enjoying poetry by members of our freshman class.

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 8:23pm via motion from Christine Sheedy, seconded by Anthony Felella.

Re-opened at 8:57pm via motion from Christine Sheedy, seconded by Anthony Felella.

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, November 20, 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, November 20, 2018.

Moved by Christine Sheedy Seconded by Anthony Felella

Action taken OK

Certified by Board Secretary _____

Date: November 20, 2018 Adjournment: 8:58pm

TRUSTEE	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Jason Altberger				X
John Berger	X			
Lauren Calmas				X
Anthony Felella	X			
Lisa McIntyre	X			
Christine Sheedy	X			
Mark Silberberg	X			