



A K – 12 SERVICE LEARNING SCHOOL

Board Minutes

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
JANUARY 22, 2019 - 7:00 PM
713 WASHINGTON STREET
HOBOKEN, NJ 07030

Call to Order

Roll Call

TRUSTEE	PRESENT	ABSENT
Jason Altberger	✓	
John Berger		✓
Lauren Calmas	✓	
Anthony Felella	✓	
Lisa McIntyre		✓ (arrived 7:50)
Christine Sheedy	✓	
Mark Silberberg	✓	

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

Elizabeth Palma, K-8 Principal, and Joanna Weintraub, 9-12 Principal, presented on Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) programming at HCS. Much of Hoboken Charter School's Social Emotional Learning work is coordinated by Heather DeSimone, School Social Worker and Anti-Bullying Coordinator.

Ms. Palma and Ms. Weintraub first addressed the question: *Why Focus on SEL?* Social and emotional learning (SEL) refers to the process by which children and adults acquire and effectively apply the knowledge, attitudes and skills necessary to do the following: understand and manage emotions; set and achieve positive goals; feel and show empathy for others; and make responsible decisions. Students in SEL programs are more likely to attend school and receive better grades and are less likely to have conduct problems. Successful infusion of SEL can result in positive behaviors, increased academic success and caring communities (per the NJDOE).

Social and emotional learning is used to enhance the building of positive school climates and the healthy development of young people. A positive school climate is correlated with decreased student absenteeism in middle and high school and lower rates of student suspension in high school. A positive school climate has been shown to have a powerful influence on the motivation to learn, mitigate the negative impact of the



A K – 12 SERVICE LEARNING SCHOOL

socioeconomic context of academic success, contribute to less aggression, violence, and harassment, and act as a protective factor for learning and positive life development of young people.

Climate and Culture Data at HCS for 2016-2017, 2017-2018 and 2018-2019 was shared which demonstrated a significant decrease in discipline referrals and suspensions across the entire school over the last three years.

HCS Schoolwide SEL programming was shared and included:

- Peer Mentoring Program
- Conflict Resolution Lessons
- HIB Training - Staff & Students
- Anti-bullying Lessons
- Week of Respect - Stomp Out Bullying
- School Violence Awareness Week - HC Prosecutor and HPD Visits
- School Safety/Climate Team - State Survey, PD for Leaders
- No One Eats Alone Day
- Mykee Fowlin - Motivational Speaker
- Drop In Counseling
- Remediation/Mediation following discipline (restorative work)
- Pink Shirt Day

Additional initiatives that were HCS K-8 and 9-12 specific were also shared which included:

Grades K-8

- Finding Kind
- Girls Leadership
- PAWS
- MindRecess Mindfulness Program
- Second Step Program
- Skills Groups - social skills, executive functioning skills, positive/confidence groups, identity group

Grades 9-12

- Student Ambassadors
- Start with Hello Week
- Camp Mason
- Advisory - Circle Forward, Restorative Circles, College Board
- Restorative Justice - Lunch room, conversations, detentions
- Cougar Citizens
- Cougar Celebrations
- Spirit Week/Pep Rallies/School Dances

A member of the Board shared that SEL speaks to the core values of the school and the school's commitment to educating the whole child since the school's inception. A conversation ensued regarding how we can best showcase this value and reinforcing examples with the HCS community.

Morton Marks, Business Administrator, explained that the State requires the submission of the CAFRA every year. This year, the Government Accounting Standards Board has made some last minute pronouncements that require the auditors to make some additions delaying the final submission of their financial records.



A K – 12 SERVICE LEARNING SCHOOL

Morton Marks also discussed additional research about the NSLP (National School Lunch Program). According to 18A:33-4, each school district shall make lunch available to all children when the free and reduced meal qualifying student enrollment is over 5%. Some of the benefits of opting out of the Department of Agriculture (DOA) program, he shared, would mean that the school could reduce reporting requirements although reimbursement for lunches would be discontinued from the State. Ongoing research will be conducted to see if there is a way to serve all of our children the best meal options while reducing resources designated to the extensive reporting requirements of the DOA.

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 student discipline.

Approve Minutes

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

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

Moved by____Mark Silberberg____ Seconded by____Christine Sheedy____

Action taken____ OK _____

<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
Christine Sheedy	X			
Mark Silberberg	X			

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.

Presentation:

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

1. Finance

Motion by: _____Anthony Felella_____ Seconded by: _____Lisa McIntyre_____

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



A K – 12 SERVICE LEARNING SCHOOL

10.31.18	823,753	899,441
11.30.18	723,354	823,162
12.31.18	1,009,841	1,118,781

- II. Resolved, that the Board of Trustees approves the Board Secretary Report as of December 31, 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 December 31, 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 December 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).
- 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 December 31, 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.

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			

2. Educational Planning

Motion by: _____ Christine Sheedy _____ Seconded by: _____ Anthony Felella _____

- I. Resolved, that the Board of Trustees approves the professional development request for Padmavathi Lingechetty, Teacher, to attend the 101 Best Strategies for teaching social studies. The training will take place at the Wilshire Grand Hotel in West Orange, NJ on Thursday, March 28, 2019. The total cost is \$269.00.



A K – 12 SERVICE LEARNING SCHOOL

- II. Resolved, that the Board of Trustees approves the professional development request for Courtney Salerno, Teacher, to attend the Wilson Reading System: Foundations Level K-1 Day Workshop. It will take place at The College of New Jersey in Ewing, NJ on Monday, May 13, 2019. The total cost is \$395.00.

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			

3. Personnel

Motion by: _____ Christine Sheedy _____ Seconded by: _____ Anthony Felella _____

- I. Resolved, that the Board of Trustees approves the submission of a NJDOE waiver application (N.J.A.C.6H-9-6 5C) to the County Office for the hiring of school staff and/or substitutes while formal criminal history is processed.
- Alexa Jacobsen
- II. Resolved, that the Board of Trustees 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.
- Alexa Jacobsen
- III. Resolved, that the Board of Trustees approves Alexa Jacobsen as Substitute Teacher.
- IV. Resolved, that the Board of Trustees approves the resignation of Willa Flax, Guidance Counselor, effective January 3, 2019.

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			



A K – 12 SERVICE LEARNING SCHOOL

4. Information Items

January 22, 2019

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

- February 8 – FoHCS Annual Gala “Light up the Night”
- February 14 – Professional Development Day-students will have a 1:00pm dismissal. Movie Day is available for K-8 students.
- February 18-22 – School will be closed for Winter Break.
- February 26 – Board Meeting at 360 First Street at 7:00 pm.
- March 14 – Professional Development Day-students will have a 1:00pm dismissal. Movie Day is available for K-8 students.
- March 19 – Board Meeting at 713 Washington Street at 7:00 pm.
- March 26 – Board Meeting at 360 First Street at 7:00 pm.

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			

Executive Director’s Report

In the legacy of the 1963 March on Washington, HCS students from grades K-12 accompanied by students from Connors, Calabro, Hoboken Junior High and Brandt schools marched, chanted and sang in solidarity for peace and justice on Friday, January 18. Student speakers shared why they march in front of City Hall and students held signs reflecting the same. The Mayor and members of City Council participated as well. Prior to the event were cross-age learning experiences through which HCS students learned about various aspects of the Civil Rights movement together, created signs together and then celebrated together at the March. It was a meaningful day with almost 650 students in attendance.

Lower School/Middle School Report

In coordination with Ms. DeSimone, HCS is implementing a pilot program called Mind Recess with our sixth grade class. This is an 8-week, once weekly comprehensive curriculum that will leave students with their own practice in Mindfulness, greater resilience to challenging emotions and situations, and increase their ability to self-regulate their behaviors. The program deals specifically with challenges like dealing with peer pressure, anger, anxiety, and depression. It also helps them understand how media and social media influences can



A K – 12 SERVICE LEARNING SCHOOL

exacerbate these challenges and helps them to become mindful in what media they choose to focus on. The course is being taught by a certified yoga instructor and former middle school teacher.

On Friday, January 4, HCS held a viewing of the video Finding Kind for our 5th and 6th grade girls as a part of our continued commitment to fostering a safe and supporting learning environment. After watching the documentary, Ms. DeSimone and Ms. Palma led a discussion with students. The Finding Kind Initiative aims to promote kindness, compassion, education on how our words and actions affect those around us, and fostering positive relationships among female students.

Seventh and eighth grade students in the Future City elective have been working since September to create a futuristic city that has a resilient power grid that can withstand and quickly recover from the impacts of a natural disaster. Three student groups presented their projects to a panel of students and teachers on Thursday, January 17 and will compete on Saturday, January 19 at Rutgers.

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

- The second graders went to see Pirate La Dee at Hoboken Children's Theater
- The first and second grades visited Carnegie Hall
- The fifth grade visited the Acme as a part of their nonfiction unit on "Access to Quality Foods"

Upper School Report

Our Basketball and Cheer teams had a great start with a Team Breakfast Cougar Celebration. After Spirit Week and a school wide pep rally, they have racked up wins throughout the season. After attending the Home Games, I was more than impressed with our teams' diligence, teamwork, and sportsmanlike conduct.

We provided an opportunity for Juniors and Seniors who are still working on graduation testing requirements during the NJSLA Fall Block Tests. 16 students in total participated. Next week, we will be reassessing the 9th, 10th, and 11th graders via the MAP test series. These provide data to teachers about supports needed and strengths as well as data about which student would benefit from more targeted support.

Students continue to receive college acceptances and award notices. I am hoping to have totals to share with you in a few months but they include:

Allegheny College
Bloomfield College
Dean College
Fairleigh Dickinson University
Gettysburg College
Harrisburg University
Keystone College
Penn State
Rider University
Rutgers University
St. Peters University
University of Nebraska



A K – 12 SERVICE LEARNING SCHOOL

University of New Haven
 University of Northern Iowa
 Utica College
 Wartburg College
 William Patterson
 NYIT
 NJCU

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 9:13pm via motion from Lisa McIntyre, seconded by Anthony Felella.
 Re-opened at 9:30pm via motion from Lisa McIntyre, 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, January 22, 2019.

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, January 22, 2019.

Moved by _____ Lisa McIntyre _____ Seconded by _____ Anthony Felella _____

Action taken _____ OK _____

Certified by Board Secretary _____

Date _____ 1.22.19 _____ Adjournment _____ 9:31 _____

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			