



A K – 12 SERVICE LEARNING SCHOOL

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
SEPTEMBER 17, 2019
713 WASHINGTON STREET
HOBOKEN, NJ 07030

Board Minutes

Call to Order

Roll Call

| TRUSTEE | PRESENT | ABSENT |
|------------------|---------|--------|
| John Berger | | X |
| Lauren Calmas | X | |
| Lisa McIntyre | X | |
| Christine Sheedy | X | |
| Mark Silberberg | X | |

Deirdra Grode, Executive Director/Board Secretary 09/17/2019

Also in attendance: Elizabeth Palma, Joanna Weintraub, Raina Fernandes, Kate Hahn, Amanda Grant, Deep Kapadia, Joy Wheeler, Dana Harrison, Julianne O’Connell, Lindsey Bednar, Sivan Noy, Tiffany Haddad, Yan Shi and Patty Fernandez.

Summary Notes

The HCS Board of Trustees approved two new members. Joy Wheeler, a parent of an HCS graduate and a middle school student, brings vast experience in real estate, operations, sales and project management and will be a valuable addition to the board as Chair of the Facilities Committee. Amanda Grant, parent to a lower school student, has extensive experience in asset management and executive recruitment, serves on an advisory board of Pace University and will be a critical contributor to the Joint HCS and Friends of HCS Committee as they embark on a capital campaign.

A parent asked about efforts to coordinate security and communication with other schools in town and the City. Deirdra Grode shared that the school leaders of all K-12 schools in town (public and private) have begun to meet with the Mayor’s office, with the HPD participating in one session to date, and that improving communication and coordination across schools was a goal of these meetings and is happy to share updates in the future.

Board Member Lisa McIntyre shared information on the school’s historical approaches to grant-writing as well as research she has been conducting over the last months around grant options for the school. This information is being shared with the Joint HCS and Friends of HCS Committee as they embark on a capital campaign.

Further reports from the Executive Director and building principals were given. See text of reports in the meeting agenda below. In addition to the agenda report, Deirdra Grode shared that the leaders of the four public districts in town (the HBOE and three charter schools) met with the Mayor’s office and Councilwoman Jabbour to explore ways in which we can better coordinate efforts to best serve Hoboken’s most economically disadvantaged students. Also discussed were ways in which the City can help disseminate information regarding public school options in town. The City of Hoboken has since posted information about all public school options in town on their website. Deirdra Grode also spoke about strategic planning work particularly around the articulation and communication of the school’s



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mission. Joanna Weintraub spoke to ways in which the school was working to design an upper school experience that is meaningfully different than what is found in other schools in the area.

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 June 13, 2019 at City Hall and the City Clerk’s Office on Washington Street and by advertisement in the *Hoboken Reporter* and the *Jersey Journal*.

Approve Minutes

Minutes of the previous public Board meetings held August 20, 2019 are available for review and/or correction and approval.

I move that the minutes of the Hoboken Board of Trustees Meeting on August 20, 2019 be approved.

Moved by Mark Silberberg Seconded by Christine Sheedy

Action taken Approved

Roll Call Vote

| TRUSTEE | YES | NO | ABSTAIN | ABSENT |
|------------------|-----|----|---------|--------|
| John Berger | | | | X |
| Lauren Calmas | | | 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.

Presentations:

Spring 2019 State Testing Presentation – Chris Kunkel – October Meeting

1. Board Business/Miscellaneous

Moved by Lisa McIntyre Seconded by Lauren Calmas

Action taken Approved



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Snack: \$0.83

Roll Call Vote

| TRUSTEE | YES | NO | ABSTAIN | ABSENT |
|------------------|-----|----|---------|--------|
| John Berger | | | | X |
| Lauren Calmas | X | | | |
| Amanda Grant | X | | | |
| Lisa McIntyre | X | | | |
| Christine Sheedy | X | | | |
| Mark Silberberg | X | | | |
| Joy Wheeler | X | | | |

3. Personnel

Moved by Christine Sheedy Seconded by Joy Wheeler

Action taken Approved

- I. Resolved, that the Board of Trustees approves the revised contract for Jennifer Tarangelo.
- II. Resolved, that the Board of Trustees approves the resignation of Francesca Fonseca effective September 6, 2019.

Roll Call Vote

| TRUSTEE | YES | NO | ABSTAIN | ABSENT |
|------------------|-----|----|---------|--------|
| John Berger | | | | X |
| Lauren Calmas | X | | | |
| Amanda Grant | X | | | |
| Lisa McIntyre | X | | | |
| Christine Sheedy | X | | | |
| Mark Silberberg | X | | | |
| Joy Wheeler | X | | | |

4. Information Items

September 17, 2019

| Grade | Current | Grade | Current | Grade | Current |
|-------|---------|-------|---------|-------|---------|
| K | 22 | 5 | 22 | 9 | 24 |
| 1 | 22 | 6 | 22 | 10 | 24 |
| 2 | 22 | 7 | 22 | 11 | 26 |
| 3 | 22 | 8 | 22 | 12 | 25 |
| 4 | 22 | | | Total | 297 |

School Calendar Reminder

- September 23-24 –Camp Mason Trip for grades 5-8
- September 25 – Back to School Night for grades 9-12, 6-8:30 p.m.



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- September 26 – Back to School Night for grades K-8, 6-8:30 p.m.
- September 30 – School closed for Rosh Hashanah
- October 9 – School closed for Yom Kippur
- October 10 – Professional Development Day-students will have a 1:00 p.m. dismissal. Movie Day is available for K-8 students.
- October 10 – Grades 9-12 Open House from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.
- October 11 – Grades K-12 Picture Day
- October 14 – School Closed for Indigenous Peoples’ Day
- October 15 – Board Meeting at 360 First Street at 7:00 p.m.
- October 17 – Grades K-8 Open House from 6-7 p.m.
- October 18 – FoHCS Meeting – 713 Washington Street at 8:45 a.m.

K-12 Report

The 2019-2020 school year got off to a great start with K-12 teachers returning on Monday, August 26 for four days of orientation. HCS teachers participate in this annual summer professional development week, which continues on Thursdays throughout the school year, to collaborate and improve and align their practices. Divisional, departmental and schoolwide groups have begun meeting around mission alignment, cohesion and fluidity across the K-12 experience. We have committed to our mission of embedding principles of learner-centered education, social justice education and service learning into every discipline and grade level and recognize the importance of more clearly articulating and communicating the mission and its implementation to all of our stakeholders. Additionally, we have prioritized deep engagement and ensuring high expectations and rigor as critical areas of focus this school year. Teachers are also beginning to collaborate in preparation for exciting cross-age experiences that will become more meaningful and consistent with the K-12 shared campus. We look forward to a year of meaningful professional development through the professional learning within each division as well as the collaborative work that is occurring in 5-12 Content Teams and K-12 Mission Work sessions.

709 Washington Street is coming along! It’s exciting for HCS students to see this project in action from inside the 713 Washington Street site. We are still on track for project completion in June 2020 and a September 2020 opening of the unified campus. Meetings between the School and construction company are frequent and any pertinent updates for our families will be communicated – typically through the weekly communications from the building principals. The safety of all of our students is of paramount importance and we have instituted measures to continue to provide a high level of security during construction as we have been able to provide historically.

Hoboken Charter School is continuing its partnership with Farleigh Dickinson University through a dual college credit enrollment program. Five students from our Upper School have been selected to serve as student teachers in our Kindergarten through 4th grade classrooms. Not only does this expose our high school students to a rich college preparatory experience, but the younger students form important bonds with their student teachers and continually look up to them as role models. The lower school students also benefit from additional support in the classroom.

Lower/Middle School Report

The week before school resumed, rising fifth graders and their families were invited to a Middle School orientation session on Thursday, August 29. Students were able to meet with their teachers, find their seats and lockers and practice their middle school schedule. All Middle School teachers met with



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families to review programming and answer questions. Additionally, all incoming middle school families received a welcome guide that outlined the middle school experience at HCS. Also during orientation, incoming kindergarten families were able to stop by and meet their teachers, find their lockers and drop off their supplies.

New this year is the HCS after care program website. This website is one centralized location for information about after care, clubs and movie day. The enrollment process for after school enrichment has also been digitized.

As a means to further reinforce HCS's mission and four cornerstones, the Middle School Project Based Learning period (PBL) will now be Mission Labs. Students will have the opportunity to explore areas of interest related to social justice, service learning, the arts, STEM and social emotional learning or participate in academic intervention. PBL practices will still be infused within the mission-aligned areas of study and we will continue our practice of having a sharing session at the end of each lab. Students will have two different Mission Labs each week, one that meets Monday/Wednesday and one that meets on Tuesday/Thursday. The Friday period will be split each week between social emotional learning and study hall. Mission Labs will run for half the year, with students working in new Mission Labs in mid-January.

Upper School Report

We have had a great start to the year. The week before school, we welcomed the new 9th grade students to an orientation. Many 10th graders volunteered and attended this event as guides. Fifteen members of the Class of 2023 are graduates of a charter school in the area!

We are settling in to a new schedule that includes a modified block schedule and new elective plan. Each "regular" period meets 4x/week with one class period almost double the amount of time to accommodate project-based learning. Electives meet 4x/week for 45-50 minutes for one quarter of the year. This allows for students to participate in 4 electives each year. Electives derive from student and staff interests as well as perceived needs. They provide opportunities to highlight our mission and engage students in cross-curricular collaboration and innovation. Some of the elective choices this year are: Global Society and Justice, Sexism in the Films of Alfred Hitchcock, Contemporary World Issues, Social Justice League: the Physics of Superheroes, Social Justice and 21st Century Ethics, Writing Around the World- Poetry, Activism in Theater, Afrmusicology, You Go Girl!- Feminism and Art, Forensics, Introduction to Multimedia Design and Production, Public Service Careers, Sports Careers and the Science of Movement and Spanish for Native Speakers classes such as Experiencing Society through Debate, Discovering Hispanic Culture As A Blogger, Learning What It Takes To Start A Business, and Being Your Own City Planner. Some classes are designed to support students in developing study and life skills and preparing for post-secondary life. All students will take the following courses: Freshmen Foundations, Sophomore Passion Projects, Junior College and Career, Senior College and Career, and Graduation Project Seminar.

Two of our new courses are supported by outside grants. Our art department has added a course entitled Introduction to Multimedia Design and Production that was developed by Stevens University through The National Science Foundation. The teacher will be engaged with Stevens and other colleagues throughout the year as they conduct research on the course. Our science department is working with Amazon to provide Introduction to Computer Science through their Future Engineers program.



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Board of Trustees Committee Reports

New Business

Public Comments

Looking Ahead

First read on a proposed Family and Medical Leaves and Benefits Policies in October

Executive Session

Meeting went into closed session at 8:47 p.m. via motion from Mark Silberberg, seconded by Christine Sheedy.

Return to Open Session

The meeting re-opened at 9:22 p.m. via motion from Mark Silberberg, seconded by Christine Sheedy.

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, September 17, 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, September 17, 2019.

Moved by Mark Silberberg Seconded by Christine Sheedy

Action taken Adjourned

Certified by Board Secretary _____

Date September 17, 2019 Adjournment 9:23 p.m.

Roll Call Vote

| TRUSTEE | YES | NO | ABSTAIN | ABSENT |
|------------------|-----|----|---------|--------|
| John Berger | | | | X |
| Lauren Calmas | X | | | |
| Amanda Grant | X | | | |
| Lisa McIntyre | X | | | |
| Christine Sheedy | X | | | |
| Mark Silberberg | X | | | |
| Joy Wheeler | X | | | |