



A K – 12 SERVICE LEARNING SCHOOL

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
OCTOBER 15, 2019
360 FIRST STREET, 2ND FLOOR
HOBOKEN, NJ 07030

Board Minutes

Call to Order

Roll Call

TRUSTEE	PRESENT	ABSENT
John Berger	√	
Lauren Calmas	√	
Lisa McIntyre		√
Christine Sheedy	√	
Mark Silberberg	√	
Joy Wheeler	√ (arrived 7:17 p.m.)	
Amanda Grant	√ (arrived 7:17 p.m.)	

Deirdra Grode, Executive Director/Board Secretary 10/15/2019

Also in attendance: Joanna Weintraub, Elizabeth Palma, Julianne O'Connell, Sivan Noy, Chris Kunkel, and Monica Girotra.

Summary Notes

Chris Kunkel, Schoolwide Testing Coordinator, presented on Hoboken Charter School's 2019 New Student Learning Assessment scores. Overall comparisons were made of each class against their previous year's scores as well as against the State averages.

Sivan Noy, Friends of Hoboken Charter School President, presented an update on fundraising initiatives for the year.

The Board approved a contract with Enrollhand, a company that supports organizations with grant research and writing services.

The Board also approved hiring Salma Malik, who has been working with the school on an interim basis over the past few weeks, as K-12 School Nurse.

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

Deirdra Grode, Executive Director, discussed the school's recent work, led by the Mission and Integration Team, to establish user-friendly universal definitions for the school's core principles as well as related implementation and communication planning. Ultimately, every student and family member at HCS should be able to define social justice education, service-learning and learner-centered education and articulate what these principles look like in action in their classrooms and school.

Joy Wheeler, Facilities Committee Chair, shared an update on 709 Washington Street. The construction is continuing with the demolition complete, the excavation and foundation work being addressed this week and the masonry wall work starting next week. We are still on track to have the building ready for a September 2020 opening.



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Prior to adjourning the meeting, the Board went into closed session for a discussion related to discipline.

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

Moved by _____ Mark Silberberg _____ Seconded by _____ Christine Sheedy _____

Action taken _____ Approved _____

Roll Call

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

Minutes of the previous public Board meetings held September 17, 2019 are available for review and/or correction and approval.

I move that the minutes of the Hoboken Board of Trustees Meeting on September 17, 2019 be approved.

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

1. Board Business/Miscellaneous

Moved by _____ Christine Sheedy _____ Seconded by _____ Mark Silberberg _____



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Action taken _____ Approved _____

- I. Resolved, that the Board of Trustees approves a contract with CarePoint Health - Hoboken University Medical Center for school physician services at \$150 per hour.

Roll Call Vote

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

2. Educational Planning

Moved by _____ Mark Silberberg _____ Seconded by _____ Joy Wheeler _____

Action taken _____ Approved _____

- I. Resolved, that the Board of Trustees approves the service agreement with Enrollhand for grant research and writing services at \$542 per month for 10 months.

Roll Call Vote

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

3. Finance

Moved by _____ Lauren Calmas _____ Seconded by _____ Amanda Grant _____

Action taken _____ Approved _____

- I. Resolved, that the Board of Trustees approved the Board Secretary and Reconciliation Report(s) for September 2019, as per the attached; and pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23-2.11(a), the Hoboken Charter School Board of Trustees secretary's certification, and after review of the monthly financial report (appropriations section) certifies that, to the best of its knowledge, as of August 2019, no major account or fund has been over expended in violation of N.J.A.C. 6A:23-2.11(b), and that sufficient funds are available to meet the school's financial obligations for the remainder of the fiscal year.



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II. Resolved, that the Board of Trustees approves the bills list from September 18, 2019 to October 15, 2019.

III. Resolved, that the Board of Trustees approves the following payrolls:

Date	Amount
August 1, 2019	\$125,971.26
August 16, 2019	\$127,001.67
September 16, 2019	\$122,968.18
October 1, 2019	\$122,253.87

Roll Call Vote

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

4. Personnel

Moved by _____ Christine Sheedy _____ Seconded by _____ Mark Silberberg _____

Action taken _____ Approved _____

I. Resolved, that the Board of Trustees approves the resignation of James Gregory effective November 24, 2019.

II. Resolved, that the Board of Trustees approves the contract for Salma Malik, School Nurse, for a start date of October 16, 2019.

Roll Call Vote

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



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5. Information Items

October 15, 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

- October 17 – Grades K-8 Open House from 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.
- October 18 – FoHCS Meeting – 713 Washington Street at 8:45 a.m.
- November 14 – Professional Development Day-students will have a 1:00 p.m. dismissal. Movie Day is available for K-8 students.
- November 14 – Open House of grades K-4 from 6-7 p.m.
- November 19 – FoHCS Meeting at 713 Washington Street at 6:00 p.m.
- November 19 – Board Meeting at 713 Washington Street at 7:00 p.m.
- November 27 – 1:00 p.m. dismissal. No after school activities.
- November 28-29 – School closed for the Thanksgiving Break

K-12 Report

In support of Hoboken Charter School's priority to better articulate and communicate our mission with all stakeholders this year, HCS administration led sessions for families about the school's mission and foci of social justice, service-learning and learner- centered education with examples of what these practices look like across the divisions at Back to School Night events last month. The HCS Mission and Integration Team created universal definitions of HCS core principles, shared these definitions with the K-12 faculty and led a planning session with teachers around classroom, division and schoolwide communication around this work to ensure all of our stakeholders are working with a common understanding of our mission. In addition, 5-12 teachers have been meeting to plan for cross-divisional educational and mission-aligned experiences as well as curriculum alignment in preparation for the 2020-2021 unified campus.

In May 2019, HCS requested to the New Jersey Department of Education an amendment to its charter to authorize a 3:1 application weight to economically disadvantaged students applying to the K-8 program. New Jersey's Commissioner of Education has approved our request starting with the January 2020 lottery. HCS has amended its applications and is conducting outreach around this change.

Lower/Middle School Report

On September 23-24, the Middle School participated in an overnight teambuilding experience at the YMCA Camp Mason in Hardwick Township, NJ. Students were placed in multi-age groups and participated in a variety of activities to support teambuilding and relationships between students and staff. Eleven K-8 staff members attended the trip. We are conducting surveys of staff, students and families to see if we will be continuing this trip in future years.

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



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- The kindergarten and first grade classes visited Wightman Farms as a part of their work on the plant life cycle
- Seventh and eighth grade students in the Future City elective visited the Newtown Creek Waste Water Treatment Plant to learn about this year's theme, "Clean Water: Tap Into Tomorrow."
- The eighth grade visited Pier 40 to visit an oyster patch that is a part of the Billion Oyster Project

Upper School Report

Learner Centered opportunities are important to the Upper School course offerings. Juniors and Seniors have the option to apply for Independent Studies as well as Dual Credit Classes through local colleges. Five students were approved for Independent Studies- in Japanese, Composition, Fashion Design, and Anatomy. The students work with staff mentors to develop a curriculum around their passion that is both challenging and engaging. The two Fashion Design students, for example, were recently able to visit the Fashion Institute of Technology and meet with an expert in the industry as they work to understand the business and craft of fashion design.

Eight other students are taking courses at local colleges and have been approved to receive dual high school credit, allowing them the time in their schedule to attend and/or work on the class. These students must reach certain criteria to be approved for the course and further requirements to receive credit for the course. Students are taking Elementary Education through Fairleigh Dickinson University, Speech and Public Speaking through Hudson County Community College, and Intro Programming as well as College Biology through St. Peters University. These colleges partner with us to make these courses available and affordable for students.

On September 24th, a group of Juniors and Seniors were invited to attend The Business of Show Business with UNIDOS, the Hispanic/Latinx Employee Resource Group at Disney Theatrical Group. The students received a backstage tour, took a musical theater workshop, and participated in activities with Hispanic/Latinx members of the DTG team to learn about the career paths available in theater.

On Wednesday, October 2nd, a number of students, parents and staff were able to attend PIPELINE at Mile Square Theater. PIPELINE is a play by Dominique Morisseau described as "A powerful look at class and race in American education." This opportunity was made possible by a family in the school who attended the play and was moved to donate tickets. Student comments afterwards included "I left with more questions than I started," "I want to thank you, I'm glad I went," and "The play was so powerful." The art of theater always makes an impression on students and we are so grateful that they could be a part of this important work here in Hoboken.

On Friday, October 4th, the Upper School was visited by 40 volunteers from Ernst & Young. As a component of their corporate Connect Day, they brought a Junior Achievement curriculum to us called "Be Entrepreneurial." Students spent the day in small groups working to learn about business development and other College and Career topics.

We have participated in outreach events to Middle Schoolers at Soaring Heights Charter School, Golden Door Charter School, Jersey City Community Charter School, and The Ethical Community Charter School. We are scheduled to attend events at HOLA and Elysian Charter School in the next two weeks. October 10th, we hosted an Open House for prospective families complete with demonstration lessons and a student panel.



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Our Girls Volleyball Team is currently on a winning streak with a record of 6-1. The team is hosting a “PinkOut” at the next home game, October 17th, to raise money for Breast Cancer awareness in memory of a teammate’s mother.

The Upper School utilized advisory periods to spend time discussing topics important to Start with Hello Week and the Week of Respect.

Board of Trustees Committee Reports

New Business

Public Comments

Looking Ahead

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

Executive Session

The meeting went into closed session at 8:55 p.m. via motion from Christine Sheedy, and seconded by John Berger.

Return to Open Session

The meeting re-opened at 9:50 p.m. via motion from Christine Sheedy, and seconded by John Berger.

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 15, 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, October 15, 2019.

Moved by _____ Christine Sheedy _____ Seconded by _____ John Berger _____

Action taken _____ Adjourned _____

Certified by Board Secretary _____

Date _____ 10/15/19 _____ Adjournment _____ 9:51 p.m. _____

Roll Call

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