



BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
MARCH 16, 2021

THIS MEETING WILL BE VIRTUAL WITH CALL-IN INFORMATION MADE PUBLIC IN ADVANCE OF THE MEETING.

SUMMARY OF MEETING

Executive Director Deirdra Grode discussed the option of opening the school to a full-time onsite schedule based on guidance from health authorities and agencies.

CFO and Board Secretary Steve Literati provided an overview of the 2022 budget, which was based on a revised forecast of the 2021 school year results. The budget for the fiscal year ending on June 30, 2022 will result in a deficit of approximately \$180,000.

Committee Reports were presented by Amanda Grant (Development), Mark Silberberg (Management), and Dana Wissing (Friends of HCS.)

1. **Call to Order.** The meeting was called to order by Lauren Calmas at 7:05.
2. **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 as a virtual meeting on July 7, 2020 via notification to City Hall, the City Clerk's Office on Washington Street and the *Hudson Reporter* and the *Jersey Journal*.

Roll Call

TRUSTEE	PRESENT	ABSENT
John Berger	X	
Lauren Calmas	X	
Amanda Grant		Arrived at 7:09
Lisa McIntyre	X	
Kelly Pansy	X	
Christine Sheedy	X	
Mark Silberberg	X	
Joy Wheeler		Arrived at 7:15
Dana Wissing	X	

Deirdra Grode, Executive Director

Steve Literati, CFO and Board Secretary and Board Treasurer

Lizzie Palma, K-8 Principal and Joanna Weintraub, 9-12 Principal

3. Acceptance of Minutes

Minutes of the previous public Board meeting held February 23, 2021 is available for review and/or correction and acceptance.

Motion for HCS Board of Trustees to accept the minutes of the Hoboken Board of Trustees Meeting on February 23, 2021

ROLL CALL VOTE

TRUSTEE	MOTION	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
John Berger	1	X			
Lauren Calmas		X			
Amanda Grant					X
Lisa McIntyre				X	
Kelly Pansy		X			
Christine Sheedy	2	X			
Mark Silberberg		X			
Joy Wheeler					X
Dana Wissing		X			

4. 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.

There were no members of the public in attendance.

5. Finance

5.1 Resolved, that the Board of Trustees approved the Board Secretary and Treasurer's Reports for February 2021, 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 February 28, 2021, 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. (Attached schedules.)

5.2 Resolved, that the Board of Trustees approves the bills list from February 16, 2021 to March 10, 2021. (Attached schedule.)

5.3 Resolved, that the Board of Trustees approves the following payrolls:

Date	Amount
February 15, 2021	\$139,235.39
February 28, 2021	\$135,282.51

5.4 Resolved, that the Board of Trustees approves the FY22 budget as presented and discussed. As the board approved the budget as presented, it also agreed that the follow-up meeting tentatively scheduled for March 23, was not needed, and should be cancelled.

ROLL CALL VOTE

TRUSTEE	MOTION	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
John Berger		X			
Lauren Calmas		X			
Amanda Grant		X			
Lisa McIntyre		X			
Kelly Pansy	2	X			
Christine Sheedy		X			
Mark Silberberg	1	X			
Joy Wheeler				X	
Dana Wissing		X			

6. Enrollment

Enrollment – March 16, 2021

Grade	Current	Grade	Current	Grade	Current
K	22	5	22	9	25
1	22	6	22	10	25
2	22	7	22	11	24
3	22	8	22	12	26
4	22			Total	298

7. School Calendar Reminder

Thursday, April 1- 1:00pm day for K-12 students (K-8 remote)

Friday, April 2 – Friday, April 9 – Hoboken Charter School K-12 will be closed for Spring Break.

Monday, April 12 – Friday, April 16 – Hoboken Charter School K-12 will be on remote instruction.

Wednesday, April 14 – Covid Testing at Hoboken Charter School

Tuesday, April 20 – Board Meeting will begin at 7 p.m.

8. K-12 Report

HCS has implemented a weekly testing program for all K-12 students and staff, and we are four weeks into the process. The program has been successful and is improving with each week as we work through the kinks. We hope that this program will allow us to loosen some covid-related restrictions to enable more onsite school while providing an additional safety measure.

HCS administration has consulted with pediatric infection disease experts, the DOH and the NJDOE on reducing program distancing from 6 feet to 3 and has also surveyed K-8 families on their interest in moving to 3 feet to allow for more onsite school time once teachers are vaccinated.

9. Lower/Middle School Report

Lower and Middle School students created cards to welcome the Upper School back onsite on Monday, March 1.

Also on Friday, March 5, the K-2 classes met virtually with Jersey City author/illustrator Cat Min about her new book *Shy Willow* through Little City Books.

The Middle School HCS debate team participated in a debate tournament on Saturday, March 6. In the varsity division, Finn Getz placed 19th out of 138 speakers. In the novice division, Sophie Pitino won 11th place for best speaker, Hayden Faricelli won 7th place for best speaker, and Carolina Fernandez won 6th place for best speaker. As a team, Sophia, Hayden, and Carolina won 3rd place overall. As a school, HCS won 3rd place for highest percentage of wins.

10. Upper School Report

We are absolutely delighted to be teaching and learning in the new building!! Students in 9th and 10th grades attended orientation and team building events on March 1st and 2nd and then began classes in the new building on March 8th. 11th and 12th grades were our first students in the new building on March 4th and 5th!

We are continuing with the Hybrid plan of students attending school on-site 2 days/ week and remote 3 days/ week to allow for physical distancing and cohort separation by grades. Teachers are working hard to make this successful by moving to different classrooms throughout the day.

Alum parent David White and current parent David Lambert have kindly offered their service to help us document and share the new space. Watch for the upcoming video! We hope to have a ribbon cutting ceremony later this month.

We held a virtual Move-Up Day for the 8th graders, complete with a virtual tour of the new space. 8th grade parents received a communication about the Upper School and were invited to contact Principal Joanna Weintraub to discuss the program. We also held a very successful virtual Information Session for interested families.

11. New Business

Amanda Grant reported that 2 donations were pending. The board discussed using social media as a way of building community among school alumni.

Mark Silberberg reviewed a tool to track school strategic initiatives. The board also discussed board membership succession planning, and the importance of including educators on the board.

Dana Wissing updated the board about Friends of HCS fundraising. The annual fund has raised \$52K, which is ahead of last year. 34% of families have donated to the school this year.

12. Public Comments

13. Looking Ahead

2022 Budget Process	Schedule to be discussed, including board meetings in March 16 and 23. Finance Committee meeting scheduled to precede board meetings
Board Conflict of Interest Disclosures	April 30 deadline. Online submission. Board secretary review and certification.
Request for Proposal for Custodial Service	TBD
Update on Contracts	April 20 board meeting
Approval of 2021-22 contracts	May 11 board meeting

14. Executive Session. There was no executive session.

15. 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, March 16, 2021 at 9:51 pm.

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, March 16, 2021.

ROLL CALL VOTE

TRUSTEE	MOTION	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
John Berger		X			
Lauren Calmas		X			
Amanda Grant		X			
Lisa McIntyre		X			
Kelly Pansy		X			
Christine Sheedy		X			
Mark Silberberg	2	X			
Joy Wheeler		X			
Dana Wissing	1	X			

Certified by Board Secretary: Steve Literati

Date: March 25, 2021

Adjournment: 9:51 pm