



BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING – MEETING MINUTES
713 WASHINGTON STREET
HOBOKEN, NJ 07030
NOVEMBER 15, 2022
7:00 p.m.

MEETING OVERVIEW

JEFF TENNENBAUM, PRESIDENT OF THE FRIENDS OF HOBOKEN CHARTER SCHOOL, GAVE AN OVERVIEW OF THAT GROUP’S FUNDRAISING INITIATIVES FOR THE 2022-23 SCHOOL YEAR.

SIDNEY SANCHEZ, ART TEACHER, AND EMMA ROONEY, 11TH GRADE STUDENT, GAVE A PRESENTATION ON THE MURAL THAT WAS RECENTLY COMPLETED IN THE STAIRWELL OF THE HIGH SCHOOL THROUGH THE MURAL AND PUBLIC ART ELECTIVE. MS. SANCHEZ ALSO PRESENTED ON THE K-12 ART PROGRAM.

1. **Call to Order.** The meeting was called to order by Joy Wheeler at 7:13.

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 June 30, 2022 via notification to City Hall, the City Clerk’s Office on Washington Street, *the Bergen Record*, *The Hudson Reporter* and the *Jersey Journal*.

Roll Call

TRUSTEE	PRESENT	ABSENT
John Berger	X	
Lauren Calmas	X	
Amanda Grant	X	
Lisa McIntyre		X
Kelly Pansy	X	
Christine Sheedy	X ¹	
Mark Silberberg	X	
Joy Wheeler	X	
Dana Wissing	X	

¹Left meeting at 8:30.

Also in attendance were the following:

Deirdra Grode, Executive Director

Steve Literati, CFO and Board Secretary and Board Treasurer

Lizzie Palma, K-8 Principal

Joanna Weintraub, 9-12 Principal

Jeff Tennenbaum, President of the Friends of Hoboken Charter School
Danielle Panizzi, Board Attorney
Sidney Sanchez, Art Teacher
Emma Rooney, 11th grade student

3. Acceptance of Minutes for October 18, 2022

Minutes of the previous public special Board meeting held October 18, 2022, were 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 October 18, 2022.

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	1	X			
Joy Wheeler	2	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.

5. Presentations

Sidney Sanchez, Art Teacher, and Emma Rooney, 11th grade student, gave a presentation on the mural that was recently completed in the stairwell of the high school through the mural and public art elective. Ms. Sanchez also presented on the K-12 art program.

Jeff Tennenbaum, President of the Friends of Hoboken Charter School, provided an update on the annual fundraising initiatives and sought input on annual fundraising.

6. Personnel

- 6.1 Resolved, that the Board of Trustees approved Oliver Brantome as Teacher effective November 4, 2022, subject to completion of a county sub license, certification and/or criminal background check.
- 6.2 Resolved, that the Board of Trustees approved professional development programs for Elizabeth Palma and Melissa Fisher titled “Differentiated Instruction That Works” on January 9-12 2023 at a total cost of \$2,790. This program is sponsored by the Bureau of Education and Research.

- 6.3 Resolved, that the Board of Trustees approved a professional development program for Deirdra Grode titled “Teaching Towards Social Justice, Civic Engagement and Project-Based Learning” provided by the Reading and Writing Project of Teachers College at Columbia University. The cost is \$700.

ROLL CALL VOTE

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

7. Finance

- 7.1 Resolved, that the Board of Trustees approved the Treasurer’s Report for October 2022, as per the attached. The Secretary’s Report, normally certified by the Board Treasurer and approved by the Board, is not yet available for review because of ongoing final accounting adjustments being made to Fund 20 related to accounting for ESSER grants. October’s Secretary’s Report will be distributed at the December Board meeting.
- 7.2 Resolved, that the Board of Trustees approves the bills list from October 15, 2022 to November 11, 2022. (Attached schedule.)
- 7.3 Resolved, that the Board of Trustees approves the approves the following payrolls:

Date	Amount
October 15, 2022	\$170,537.26
October 31, 2022	\$170,665.63

ROLL CALL VOTE

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

8. Enrollment

Enrollment as of November 15, 2022

Grade	Enrolled Students	Grade	Enrolled Students
K	22	9	26
1	23 (overenrolled)	10	26
2	22	11	24
3	22	12	24
4	22		
5	22		
6	23		
7	21		
8	22	Total Students Enrolled	299
		Total Funded Students	298

9. Executive Director's School Report

October holidays provided many opportunities for inter-age experiences as the Upper School Volunteer buddies met and walked with the Kindergarten in the HCS inaugural Halloween parade and the 11th and 3rd graders created a banner together for the parade. Upper school students and 4th grade students experienced El Dia de los Muertos by creating an ofrenda arch with flowers of the dead from colored tissue paper in the Art Room and in the Spanish Room created calavera masks (skull masks) and read in Spanish on the Day of the Dead together.

New HCS teachers and staff across K-12 engaged in a professional development session with Ms. Grode on developing curriculum guided by principles of social justice education, service-learning and learner-centered practices. Also, explored was the value of leveraging our K12 model to enrich the instruction and experience for all students.

10. Lower/Middle School Report

The Robotic Llamas fifth grade Lego Robotics team volunteered their time in the FIRST Mid Atlantic booth at the Brickfest Expo on Saturday, October 15. During their time in the booth they explained to expo attendees what they do in FIRST Lego League and demoed their robot. They also had a Zoom meeting later that week with Hoboken city transportation planner Greg Francese to discuss their project on EV charging.

Local author Raakhee Mirchandani came to HCS to read her new book My Diwali Light to the K-8 students on Monday, October 24. She and Mayor Ravi Bhalla spoke about their family experiences and traditions with the holiday. Students reflected on how they have brought light to others and what has brought light to them. Ms. Mirchandani answered questions from students about the holiday and the book and led the middle schoolers in a reflective writing exercise.

In honor of Accessibility Awareness Month, fourth graders read, "All the Way to the Top," learning about Jennifer Keelan, a disability rights activist with cerebral palsy who climbed her way to the top of the Capitol Building to inspire Congress to pass the Americans with Disabilities Act. They then analyzed pages from the text, writing about how the ADA could have helped Jennifer at the time. Finally, they brainstormed a list of accommodations for individuals with disabilities that we see in our day-to-day lives, and future accommodations that could help make life easier. In Kindergarten, students read "It's Okay to be Different: A Children's Picture Book About Diversity and Kindness" by Sharon Purtill and learn about differences/similarities. Students create a classroom agreement about being a good friend to everyone.

In November, we celebrate Native American Heritage Month at HCS. The books in our new Social Justice Read Aloud Curriculum featured here support our work in honoring our nation's original inhabitants. For K-4 students, big ideas explored this month include the following:

- The word “heritage” when used this way means the things we do and the way we live that are passed down from our ancestors.
- Native Americans were the first people to live on the land we now call the United States.
- Before people from Europe came here and took the land for themselves, there were many different groups of people that lived here. Each group had their own traditions, ways of speaking, eating, dressing and celebrating. Each of these traditions had to do with the land they live on- as the Native Americans see themselves as part of the land and nature.
- When the Europeans came and moved the Native Americans off of the land that was their home, they had to move to new land that was different and foreign, and it made them very sad- many of them even died. But all of these groups of Native Americans brought with them their traditions and culture. Still, to this day, when they want to celebrate their heritage, many dress in their special clothes and engage in their special celebrations with food and music that their ancestors would eat and dance to.

This month, we think and learn about Native Americans so we can appreciate their rich and diverse culture and the injustices (the things that happened to them that weren't fair) that they suffered and overcame.

The K-8 program has participated in several experiential learning class trips:

- To celebrate the end of Hispanic Heritage Month, middle schoolers had the opportunity to see the musical "On Your Feet: The Story of Emilio and Gloria Estefan" at the Papermill Playhouse.
- Eighth graders took a walking tour of Revolutionary War sites in lower Manhattan that serve as the setting of their new novel, "Chains."
- Fourth graders visited Waterloo Village as a part of their social studies unit on the Lenape Indians.
- Second and third grade classes visited the Crayola Factory for a STEM-related trip.

11. Upper School Report

The Student Leadership Committee planned and hosted an amazing Halloween Dance. Thank you to the Friends of HCS for sponsoring snacks and decorations!

We have had many colleges visiting the school, speaking with small groups of Juniors and Seniors.

The first marking period ended on November 10th, and students enrolled in marking period 2 electives. All 10th graders participate in the Mission Series required course called Explorations. In Explorations, students learn research and writing skills as they learn about an area of personal interest and connect it to greater society through social justice themes. Other grades could choose from the following: College and Career, Uncovering Violence in Conspiracy Theories, Art as Identity: Figure Drawing, and Acting as Activism, offered through our Artsbridge program in partnership with Speranza Theatre Company.

12. Public Comments. There were no public comments.

13. Looking Ahead

November 21, 2022	Employee healthcare selections due
November 30, 2022	Current employee healthcare plan expires
December 1, 2022	New healthcare plan begins.

14. New Business/Report from Committees

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, November 15, 2022.

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 15, 2022.

ROLL CALL VOTE

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

Certified by Board Secretary: Steve Literati

Date: November 28, 2022

Adjournment: 9:04