



A K - 12 SERVICE LEARNING SCHOOL

BOARD MINUTES

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
FEBRUARY 24, 2020
360 FIRST STREET, 2ND FLOOR
HOBOKEN, NJ 07030
6:00 PM

Call to Order

Roll Call

TRUSTEE	PRESENT	ABSENT
John Berger	X	
Lauren Calmas	X	
Amanda Grant		X (arrived at 8:35)
Lisa McIntyre	X	
Christine Sheedy	X (left at 9:08)	
Mark Silberberg	X	
Joy Wheeler		X

Deirdra Grode, Executive Director/Board Secretary 2/24/2020

Also in attendance: Deirdra Grode, Joanna Weintraub, Mark Wenczel, board attorney, and Melissa Fisher

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 announcement was shared on February 12, 2019 to City Hall and the City Clerk's Office on Washington Street and for advertisement in the *Hudson Reporter*, *Bergen Record* and the *Jersey Journal*.

Summary Notes

The open session of the February 24th board meeting consisted primarily of several committee reports. Lauren Calmas provided an update on the school's financial status as well as Finance Committee discussions around a possible change to the payroll schedule for the 2020-2021 school year. Amanda Grant provided updates on the capital campaign work and efforts to secure long term supportive partnerships. Lauren Calmas also provided a 709-711 facilities update. The 709-711 project is on track for a September opening!

Lisa McIntyre provided an update on work with Enrollhand toward extending highly effective middle school STEM programming through the upper school and creating additional interage experiences in STEM for our K-12 students.

The Board also discussed opportunities to share and promote our mission via signage, logo and promotional materials. Reports regarding the K-12 program can be found in the meeting agenda as well.



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Approve Minutes

Minutes of the previous public Board meetings held January 21, 2020 are available for review and/or correction and approval.

I move that the minutes of the Hoboken Board of Trustees Meeting on January 21, 2020 be approved.

Moved by _____ Mark Silberberg _____ Seconded by _____ Lisa McIntyre _____

Action taken _____ Approved _____

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

Executive Session

The meeting went into closed session at 6:14 p.m. via motion from Mark Silberberg and seconded by Lisa McIntyre.

Return to Open Session

The meeting re-opened at 8:35 p.m. via motion from Lisa McIntyre and seconded by John Berger.

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.

1. Educational Planning

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

Action taken _____ Approved _____

- I. **Whereas**, the Chief School Administrator has recommended that the suspension of student bearing identification number 02024220 (“Student”) be continued;
Whereas, on 2/24/20, a formal disciplinary hearing was held before the Board of Trustees in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:16-7.3;
Whereas, at the formal disciplinary hearing, the Board of Trustees received testimony from the Hoboken Charter School administration and the Student and his/her family;



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Whereas, at the formal disciplinary hearing, the administration presented evidence that the Student engaged in conduct in violation of the Student Code of Conduct and recommended that the Student be suspended for a total of eighty-four (84) consecutive school days through the end of the 2019-2020 school year;

Whereas, after hearing testimony from the administration and the Student and his/her family, the Board of Trustees determined that the preponderance of the evidence indicates that he/she engaged in conduct that is in violation of the Student Code of Conduct; and

Whereas, after extensive deliberations, the Board of Trustees determined to uphold the administration's recommendation to suspend the Student for a total of eighty-four (84) consecutive school days, effective from Tuesday, February 4, 2020 through the end of the 2019-2020 school year, including graduation.

Be it Resolved that the Hoboken Charter School Board of Trustees hereby upholds the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator to continue the suspension of the student bearing identification number 02024220 through the end of the 2019-2020 school year, including graduation;

Be it Further Resolved that the Board of Trustees shall review the student's suspension, in consultation with the Chief School Administrator, at every meeting of the Board of Trustees that occurs during the term of the suspension for purpose of determining the status of the student's suspension, the appropriateness of the suspended student's educational program, and whether the suspended student's current placement should continue or whether the student should return to the general education program;

Be it Further Resolved that during the term of the Student's suspension, the Hoboken Charter School Board of Trustees shall provide home instruction services for the Student in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:16-10.2;

Be it Further Resolved that the Board of Trustees hereby determines that the Student shall not be present on any of the Board of Trustees' school premises before, during, and after the regularly-scheduled school day during the period of his/her suspension; and

Be it Further Resolved that the Board of Trustees hereby determines that the Student shall not be permitted to participate in any athletic, co-curricular and/or extra-curricular activities and ceremonies sponsored by the Board of Trustees, including but not limited to dances and graduation, and shall not be present for, or attend, any Board of Trustees' sponsored activities, including but not limited to dances and graduation, either on Board of Trustees' premises or in any school district or other premises where the Hoboken Charter School is participating in the activities or ceremonies during the period of suspension.

- II. Resolved that the Board of Trustees approves The Special Education Medicaid Initiative (SEMI) Waiver.

Whereas the Hoboken Charter School approved the submission of Special Education Medicaid Initiative (SEMI) Waiver to NJDOE which will exempt the Hoboken Charter School from participating in the SEMI Program. Participation is mandated for districts with more than 40 Medicaid eligible students.

Be It Resolved that the Hoboken Charter School Board of Trustees has approved the submission of the Special Education Medicaid Initiative (SEMI) waiver to the NJDOE which



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will exempt the Hoboken Charter School from participating in the SEMI Program.
Participation is mandated for districts with more than 40 Medicaid eligible students.

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

2. Finance

Moved by _____ Lisa McIntyre _____ Seconded by _____ John Berger _____

Action taken _____ Approved _____

- I. Resolved, that the Board of Trustees approved the Board Secretary and Reconciliation Report(s) for January 2020, 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 January 2020, 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.
- II. Resolved, that the Board of Trustees approves the bills list from January 22, 2020 through February 24, 2020.
- III. Resolved, that the Board of Trustees approves the following payrolls:

Date	Amount
February 3, 2020	125,866.88
February 14, 2020	128,597.77

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



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3. Information Items

Enrollment – February 24, 2020

Grade	Current	Grade	Current	Grade	Current
K	22	5	22	9	27
1	22	6	22	10	23
2	22	7	22	11	26
3	22	8	22	12	24
4	22			Total	298

School Calendar Reminder

- March 12 – Professional Development Day-students will have a 1:00 p.m. dismissal. Movie Day is available for K-8 students.
- March 17 – FoHCS Meeting – 713 Washington Street at 6:00 p.m.
- March 17 – Board Meeting at 713 Washington Street at 7:00 p.m.
- March 24 – Board Meeting at 360 First Street at 7:00 p.m.
- April 9 – 1:00 p.m. prompt dismissal. No Afterschool activities.
- April 10-17 – School is closed for the Spring Break
- April 21 – Board Meeting at 713 Washington Street at 7:00 p.m.
- April 23 – Professional Development Day-students will have a 1:00 p.m. dismissal.
- April 24 – FoHCS Meeting – 713 Washington Street at 8:45 a.m.

K-12 Report

On Feb 2, our middle and upper school robotics team, Roboken, competed in their league tournament. After a season of hard work, they came in to the event ranked first in northeast NJ. They held that position throughout the day and ended up as the captain of the winning alliance. This advances them to the NJ state championship.

They also won the Design Award, which recognizes design elements of the robot that are both functional and aesthetic. Finally, they were first runner up for the Inspire Award, which is the highest award and is given to teams who perform well in all aspects of judging. As first runner up, they also would have advanced to states had they not already as the winning captain.

The team had a great day performing exceptionally both on the field and in judging. Their success is a testament to their work ethic and being a well-rounded team.

Lower/Middle School Report

Middle schoolers Finn Getz and Sami Gotimer won first place for the school award for the highest percentage of wins via ESU Middle School Debate Program in NYC this month. They are two members of Ms. Lingechetty-Isom's Debate Club. HCS joined the NY Debate League in September 2018 and over the past year and a half have taken a lot of time to observe, learn, and practice this method of debate and were thrilled with this win. HCS hopes to continue this level of success in upcoming tournaments.

On Friday, February 13, HCS lower school students observed No One Eats Alone Day. As in years past,



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students mix with other K-4 students to promote an inclusive environment and build friendships and community.

Through the Stevens Duckling Program, run by the Student Athlete Advisory Council (SAAC) of Stevens Institute of Technology, current student athletes led a lesson with 6th grade science through which students built a catapult to launch their projectile farthest while learning about force and motion.

Upper School Report

We had a successful Upper School Conference Night. Families were invited to pick up a copy of their 1st semester report card and to meet with teachers. Many students attended with their families, resulting in productive conversations.

The end of January saw the beginning of a new marking period and students were able to start new elective classes. This marking period, the Sophomores are all engaging in Explorations. This course is designed to give students an opportunity to explore an area of personal interest as they learn and develop research and writing skills. Other students were able to choose from an array of electives including Media Art (an interactive multimedia design and production course developed in partnership with Stevens University), Global Issues (a student-led discussion and research based examination of global current events), Afro-musicology (students explore the evolution of African music), Fashion for a Better Tomorrow (fashion as activism), SAT prep, and Blogging in Spanish. Electives are designed by staff, with input from students, and focus on Social Justice themes, the arts, and/or 21st century life and career skills.

Board of Trustees Committee Reports

New Business

Public Comments

Executive Session

The meeting went into closed session at 9:35 p.m. via motion from Lisa McIntyre and seconded by John Berger.

Return to Open Session

The meeting re-opened at 9:41 p.m. via motion from Lisa McIntyre 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 Monday, February 24, 2020.

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 Monday, February 24, 2020.

Moved by _____ Lisa McIntyre _____ Seconded by _____ John Berger _____

Action taken _____ Adjourned _____



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Certified by Board Secretary _____

Date 2/24/2020 Adjournment 9:41 pm

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