



**A K - 12 SERVICE LEARNING SCHOOL**

**BOARD MINUTES**

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING  
MARCH 17, 2020  
713 WASHINGTON STREET\*  
HOBOKEN, NJ 07030  
7:00 PM

**Call to Order**

Roll Call

TRUSTEE	PRESENT	ABSENT
John Berger	X	
Lauren Calmas	X	
Amanda Grant	X	
Lisa McIntyre	X	
Christine Sheedy	X	
Mark Silberberg	X	
Joy Wheeler	X	

Deirdra Grode, Executive Director / Board Secretary March 17, 2020

Also in attendance: Kelly Pansy, Lizzie Palma and Joanna Weintraub

**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*.

**Summary Notes**

The Board of Trustees and administration discussed the transition from onsite to remote learning and plans for moving forward, especially in light of an anticipated longer closure. In addition to discussing the goal of incorporating more opportunities for classroom and divisional human interaction, connection and engagement, opportunities to reinforce the School’s mission of service were discussed as it could pertain to the community in these challenging times.

Deirdra Grode then presented the FY21 budget noting efficiencies in a unified campus and areas of anticipated increased and decreased spending. Since the Board approved the presented budget in this first of two scheduled March meetings, they cancelled the second March meeting.

Joy Wheeler shared an update on 709-711 Washington Street, Amanda Grant provided updates on the capital campaign work and efforts to secure long term supportive partnerships (the pitch deck is being finalized and the targeted supporter list is being amended in light of the national emergency) and Lisa McIntyre shared that Enrollhand was extending their focus area beyond STEM for their grant writing and funds search. There will be a new focus on restorative practices.



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**Approve Minutes**

Minutes of the previous public Board meetings held February 24, 2020 are available for review and/or correction and approval.

I move that the minutes of the Hoboken Board of Trustees Meeting on February 24, 2020 be approved.

Moved by \_\_\_\_\_ John Berger \_\_\_\_\_ Seconded by \_\_\_\_\_ Mark Silberberg \_\_\_\_\_

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			

**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. Finance**

**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			

Moved by \_\_\_\_\_ Mark Silberberg \_\_\_\_\_ Seconded by \_\_\_\_\_ Lisa McIntyre \_\_\_\_\_

Action taken \_\_\_\_\_ Approved \_\_\_\_\_

- I. Resolved, that the Board of Trustees approved the Board Secretary and Reconciliation Report(s) for February 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



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of the monthly financial report (appropriations section) certifies that, to the best of its knowledge, as of February 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 February 25, 2020 through March 17, 2020.

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

Date	Amount
February 28, 2020 (March 1 <sup>st</sup> Payroll)	\$124,612.88
March 13, 2020	\$147,885.39

IV. Resolved, that the Board of Trustees approves 2020-2021 School Year Budget and submittal to the NJDOE.

### 2. Information Items

#### Enrollment – March 17, 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 24 – Board Meeting via teleconference
- 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.
- May 12 – Board Meeting at 360 First Street at 7:00 p.m.
- May 14 – Professional Development Day-students will have a 1:00 p.m. dismissal.
- May 22 – 1:00 p.m. dismissal for Memorial Day weekend. Afterschool programs are not available.
- May 24 – School Closed for Memorial Day
- June 2 – Summer Gathering for grades K-8 at Frank Sinatra Park 6:00 p.m. The rain date is Wednesday, June 3, 2020.
- June 11 – Field Day for grade K-8 at Pier A Park. The rain date is Friday, June 12.
- June 11- 1:00 p.m. dismissal. Afterschool programs are not available.
- June 12, 15, & 16 – 1:00 p.m. dismissal for students only.
- June 16 – Last day of school for grades K-12.



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- June 16 – Commencement Ceremony for the 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Graduating Class of 202 will take place at St. Matthew’s Parish Hall at 3:00 p.m.
- June 16 – Graduation Ceremony for the Senior Graduating Class of 2020 will take place at HOPES Hall at 7:00 p.m.
- June 16 – Board Meeting at 713 Washington Street at 7:00 p.m.

### **K-12 Report**

The HCS Mission and Integration Team led the K-12 faculty and staff in discussions around preparation for the move to a shared campus and continuity of experience for our K-12 students.

Deirdra Grode attended a meeting with the leads of all schools in Hoboken, representatives from the Mayor's office and City Council, the Hoboken Police Department and the Hoboken Fire Department earlier on February 27<sup>th</sup> to discuss coordinated safety and security efforts.

The school has been keeping our families abreast of any developments impacting HCS around COVID-19. Deirdra Grode has been in regular conversations with representatives from the State Departments of Health and Education and has participated in daily calls with the City of Hoboken via the Coronavirus Task Force to inform decision-making around safety and the continuity of programming and services. On March 12<sup>th</sup>, in consultation with the City, the four public school districts of Hoboken, including HCS, decided to move to remote learning for the weeks of March 16 and March 30. Administration, faculty and staff had prepared to continue our instructional program remotely in the case of a school closure and was ready to deploy on March 16<sup>th</sup>.

On February 26, HCS students participated in Pink Shirt Day. This year's theme was "Building Bridges to New Beginnings" which focused on our K-12 locations becoming one. Each student in each class created a t-shirt model that portrayed the message that we are all part of a unique, inclusive school environment.

### **Lower/Middle School Report**

On Tuesday, March 3, the Animal Rights Mission Lab had a visitor from the Farm Sanctuary in Upstate New York. The presenter spoke to the work that the sanctuary does to rescue farm animals and students participated in a virtual reality tour of the facility.

On Wednesday, March 4, the kindergarten class had their publishing party where they shared their narrative writing pieces. Also that morning, the fifth grade class shared their own civilizations in fifth grade social studies after learning about the elements of the ancient Mesopotamian civilization.

On Friday, March 6, students from Stevens came to HCS to lead the Lower School in a STEM day. Students were placed into mixed age groups and participated in different STEM-related activities. Seventh grader Narina Girotra has been honored for her exemplary volunteer service with a President's Volunteer Service Award. The award, which recognizes Americans of all ages who have volunteered significant amounts of their time to their communities and their country, was granted by the Prudential Spirit of Community Awards program. HCS nominated Narina for national honors this fall in recognition of her volunteer service. In the Spring of 2019, Narina started a project on air quality and took action by measuring the air quality in Hoboken. She presented the data to HCS and shared it with her city council representative, who in turn asked her to present the research to the entire Hoboken City Council.



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

- Middle School mathletes participated in the MoMathon
- The third and fourth grade visited Lincoln Center

**Upper School Report**

We work hard in the Upper School grades to help expose students to the many options available to them after graduation. On Monday, March 2nd, the 10th and 11th grades attended a College and Career Fair with their class advisors and the College and Career Advisor. The 9th graders met during the same time with the Hoboken Police Department to learn about the Junior Police Academy program. The 12th graders continue to meet with Ms. Polak one on one as they complete college applications and work to understand the differences between their many acceptances and aid packages.

Many planned field trips and events have been postponed due to cautions regarding COVID-19. The Teens Talk About Racism has been rescheduled for May, the students from Stevens Institute of Technology who were coming to lead STEM 150for150 workshops are hoping to be able to come later this year.

**Board of Trustees Committee Reports**

**New Business**

**Public Comments**

**Executive Session**

The meeting went into closed session at 8:23 p.m. via motion from Lisa McIntyre and seconded by Amanda Grant

**Return to Open Session**

The meeting re-opened at 8:39 p.m. via motion from Lisa McIntyre and seconded by Amanda Grant.

**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 17, 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 Tuesday, March 17, 2020.

Moved by \_\_\_\_\_ Lisa McIntyre \_\_\_\_\_ Seconded by \_\_\_\_\_ Amanda Grant \_\_\_\_\_

Action taken \_\_\_\_\_ Adjourned \_\_\_\_\_

Certified by Board Secretary \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ 3/17/20 \_\_\_\_\_ Adjournment \_\_\_\_\_ 8:39 pm \_\_\_\_\_

TRUSTEE	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
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**A K - 12 SERVICE LEARNING SCHOOL**

John Berger	X			
Lauren Calmas	X			
Amanda Grant	X			
Lisa McIntyre	X			
Christine Sheedy	X			
Mark Silberberg	X			
Joy Wheeler	X			

\*MEETING OCCURRED VIA DIAL-IN WITH PUBLIC POSTING OF DIAL-IN NUMBER