



MINUTES OF BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING  
DECEMBER 15, 2020

**BOARD MINUTES**

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

- Call to Order:** 7:04 PM by Lauren Calmas
- 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	X	
Lisa McIntyre	X	
Kelly Pansy	X	
Christine Sheedy		X
Mark Silberberg	X	
Joy Wheeler	X	
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) were present. No parents were present. Christine Sheedy arrived at the meeting at 8:00 PM.

- Acceptance of Minutes**

Minutes of the previous public Board meetings held November 17, 2020 are 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 November 17, 2020.

**ROLL CALL VOTE**

TRUSTEE	MOTION	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
John Berger		X			
Lauren Calmas		X			
Amanda Grant	1	X			
Lisa McIntyre				X	

Kelly Pansy		X			
Christine Sheedy					X
Mark Silberberg	2	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.

**5. Personnel**

5.1 Resolved, that the Hoboken Charter School Board of Trustees accepts the resignation of Brittany Kieran, Teacher, effective December 13, 2020.

5.2 Resolved, that the Hoboken Charter School Board of Trustees approves a contract with Debra Scheibe, Teacher, starting on December 16, 2020 for the 2020-2021 academic year.

**6. Finance**

6.1 Resolved, that the Board of Trustees approved the Board Secretary and Treasurer’s Reports for November 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 November 30, 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. (Attached schedules.)

6.2 Resolved, that the Board of Trustees approves the bills list from November 6, 2020 to December 8, 2020. (Attached schedule.)

6.3 Resolved, that the Board of Trustees approves School administrative management to apply for forgiveness for the PPP loan received in June 2020.

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

Date	Amount
October 15, 2020	\$138,800.27
October 30, 2020	\$134,545.22

**ROLL CALL VOTE (Resolutions 5.1 – 6.4)**

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

## 7. Enrollment

Enrollment – November 15, 2020

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

Deirdra led a brief discussion on outreach efforts, which could include obtaining mailing addresses from the housing authority and doing mass mailings.

## 8. School Calendar Reminder

Wednesday, December 23 – All Schools have a 1:00 p.m. dismissal for the Winter Break. K-8 will be all-remote.

Thursday - Friday, December 24-January 1, 2021 – All Schools are closed for the Winter Break.

Monday, January 18 – All Schools closed for Dr. Martin Luther King Day

Tuesday, January 19 – Board Meeting will begin at 7 p.m.

It was noted that Covid testing was performed on December 2, and that another test of students and staff would be performed after the holiday break.

## 9. K-12 Report

The administrative team continues to review local, regional, and state data to inform our decision-making around COVID-19 protocol and stays in communication with the local health department. With the region's November move to High activity level, HCS moved the program to fully remote for the week after Thanksgiving and provided onsite testing for staff, students, and household members to support a safe return to onsite instruction. Insight from members of the Pandemic Response Team has been invaluable.

On November 19, 2020, Deirdra Grode and Mark Frasier (parent) as well as Madigan Frasier and Kayla Pansy (4<sup>th</sup> grade students) engaged in outreach for HCS at a Hoboken Housing event to share information about the school and its lottery and to distribute applications.

The Middle and Upper School robotics team, "Roboken," hosted their annual hour of code event for students in grades 2-5 on Tuesday, December 8.

## 10. Lower/Middle School Report

The administration reviewed results from the hybrid learning survey disseminated to families last month. Some of the takeaways were:

- The majority of families (59%) feel that the amount of work students are engaged with in our current model is sufficient.
- Families provided feedback around the use of technology and logistics that we are addressing (sending links to student emails, not just guardian emails, streamlining work submission for remote students in Lower School, etc.).
- Families are overwhelmingly grateful for our teachers and for the opportunity to have students onsite for school 4 days a week.

Our K-4 classes held their first publishing parties over the last month. Families were able to participate remotely through Zoom.

Three former HCS students - Aly Calmas, Julia Critz and Tessa Weaver received word that they were awarded Distinguished Honorable Mention Award in the 2020 Bow Seat Ocean Awareness Contest Poetry Category. Over 5,300 contest submissions were received from around the world. The group won this award for a poem they wrote last year in eighth grade science class and will receive a \$100 cash scholarship. Their incredible poem, "Reversible Damage," asks the reader to read down from the first line for despair and read up from the last line for hope.

The Middle School debate team participated in a debate tournament on Saturday, December 5. Finn Getz, Narina Girotra, and Sami Gotimer worked as a team and won 11th place in the Varsity Division. Finn also won fourth place in the Speaker Awards in the Varsity Division. Congratulations to the team and their advisory, Ms. Lingechetty!

## **11. Upper School Report**

The Upper School continues to maximize the opportunities of remote learning as we await the completion of the building. Teachers schedule one on one and small group sessions to support learners. They utilize the chat feature on zoom and Google Classroom to individualize feedback so that each student progresses and is challenged. Advisors and our school social worker are providing opportunities to support students as they develop executive functioning and management skills to cope with the stress of learning on their own. We continue to provide events that develop community as well, from Junior Jackbox online game events to Zoom holiday potlucks.

Seniors continue to work with the College and Career Counselor on their post high school plans. College acceptances are just beginning to come in, as other due dates are just approaching. Students have reported acceptances to the following schools:

Arizona State University  
Butler University- Indiana  
Michigan State University  
Montclair State University (+ Presidential Scholars Program)  
New Jersey City University  
University of Maine  
Western New England University  
Westminster College- Pennsylvania  
William Patterson College (+ Football program recruit)

## **12. New Business**

Mark Silberberg reported from the Management Committee that he and Deirdra were working towards goals and tracking and would have something to present at the next board meeting.

Joy Wheeler provided an update on inspections at the 709 building which are required for a TCO.

Dana Wissing provided an update on Friends of HCS efforts to raise funds on behalf of the school. That organization set a goal of \$40,000 for this year. Some of the efforts included a pie sale, a holiday craft kit sale, and a sale of masks. Friends also led the effort to give holiday gifts to teachers and staff.

Lauren Calmas provided an update on the negotiations with the city on the PILOT program. The role of advocacy was discussed.

Amanda Grant led a discussion about naming opportunities for a significant donor.

13. **Public Comments** – There were not public comments.
14. **Executive Session** – Started at 9:04 with a motion by Lauren Calmas and seconded by Lisa McIntyre.
15. **Return to Open Session** – the meeting returned to open session at 9:23 by motion by Lauren Calmas and second by Lisa McIntyre.
16. **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, December 15, 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, December 15, 2020.

**ROLL CALL VOTE**

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

Certified by Board Secretary: Steve Literati

Date: 12/15/20

Adjournment: 9:30