



BOARD MINUTES

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING - MINUTES
JANUARY 19, 2021**

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

1. **Call to Order.** The meeting was called to order by Lauren Calmas at 7:03.
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*.

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	

Also present were Deirdra Grode (Executive Director), Steve Literati (CFO and Board Secretary), Joanna Weintraub (High School Principal), and Lizzie Palma (K-8 Principal).

3. **Acceptance of Minutes**

Minutes of the previous public Board meetings held December 15, 2020 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 December 15, 2020.

ROLL CALL VOTE

TRUSTEE	MOTION	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
John Berger					X
Lauren Calmas		X			
Amanda Grant		X			
Lisa McIntyre	1	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. There were no members of the public present at this meeting.

5. Personnel

5.1 Resolved, that the Hoboken Charter School Board of Trustees accepts the resignation of Leonard Moretti, Teacher, effective January 3, 2021.

5.2 Resolved, that the Hoboken Charter School Board of Trustees approves a contract with Erick Peralta, Teacher, starting on February 1, 2021 for the 2020-2021 academic year.

Ms. Weintraub provided an overview of Mr. Peralta’s background: he is a New Jersey native, a graduate of Rutgers, and fluent in Spanish. He will assume the role of science teacher on February 1.

ROLL CALL VOTE

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

6. Finance

6.1 Resolved, that the Board of Trustees approved the Board Secretary and Treasurer’s Reports for December 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 December 31, 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 December 9, 2020 to January 12, 2021. (Attached schedule.)

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

Date	Amount
December 15, 2020	\$139,477.58
December 31, 2020	\$135,546.03

6.4 Resolved, that the Board of Trustees approves School administrative management to submit an updated FY2021 budget to the State of New Jersey Department of Education on or before February 15, 2021 (see attached.)

Mr. Literati explained that there were two items that would need to be updated in the revised budget submission due on February 15th. The first involves recognizing an expense for the school’s contribution to the Friends of Hoboken Charter School made last year. This is currently on the balance sheet as Prepaid Rent. The second involves recognizing as revenue the proceeds from the PPP loan the school received last fiscal year as that loan is forgiven by the federal government. These items are largely offsetting. Any other material changes to the budget will be brought to the attention of the Finance Committee and the Board.

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			

7. Enrollment

Enrollment – January 19, 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

2021-2022 Lottery Applications

Grade	Hoboken Siblings	Out of district siblings	Hoboken Residents	Out of District Residents	Total # applications	Applications received by deadline of January 7, 2021.
Kindergarten:	8	0	208	18	234	
Grade 1:	0	0	71	7	78	
Grade 2:	1	0	48	7	56	
Grade 3:	0	0	20	4	24	
Grade 4:	0	0	19	3	22	
Grade 5:	3	0	18	1	22	
Grade 6:	0	0	20	3	23	
Grade 7:	0	0	16	1	17	
Grade 8:	2	0	11	3	16	
Grade 9:	1	8	16	88	113	
Grade 10:	1	0	2	6	9	

Grade 11:	0	0	2	0	2	
Grade 12:	0	0	0	1	1	
TOTALS	16	8	451	142	617	

Ms. Grode reported that the admission lottery would be held on January 22.

8. School Calendar Reminder

Monday – Friday, February 15-19, 2021 – All schools are closed for winter recess.
 Tuesday, February 23 – Board Meeting will begin at 7 p.m.

9. K-12 Report

HCS resumed instruction following the winter break in a fully remote model. No earlier than January 6, 2021, all K-12 staff as well as all K-8 students who hoped to resume onsite instruction on January 11 provided proof of a negative COVID test to HCS. Over 250 students, staff and household members participated in onsite testing we provided. Two community members tested positive through this testing initiative.

This month, students across grades K-12 have been examining civil rights and activism and Dr. King’s statement that “Life’s most persistent and urgent question is, ‘What are you doing for others?’” Although we could not safely congregate and march down Washington Street as a school this year, we found alternative ways to honor the legacy of Dr. King as a community as students sought inspiration from activists and reflected on principles that empower and prepare them to promote equity, challenge injustice and become agents of change. This year, we asked families to support and reinforce the mission of HCS by facilitating and encouraging conversations with their children about the importance of activism as well and participate in a community Flipgrid compilation which will serve as a virtual gallery to highlight activism this year in lieu of the March on Washington Street.

10. Lower/Middle School Report

On Wednesday, December 16, the Lower and Middle Schools held a virtual winter concert, "Snow Place Like Home" Virtual Holiday Show & Singalong. Organized by music teacher Mr. Gavarny, the show featured video submissions of our K-8 students singing, playing musical instruments and dancing.

Third grade teacher, Jenna Wernikowski, has been named a 2020 New Jersey Exemplary Elementary Educator by the New Jersey Department of Education, one of only 93 teachers in the state to receive the honor this year. Ms. Wernikowski received this award, which seeks to recognize teachers that, "have a positive impact on their students, colleagues and the school community; possess a clear vision for quality teaching and learning; and may ultimately receive recognition at the county, state and national levels."

The fourth graders at Hoboken Charter School teamed up with the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society (LLS) for the third year in a row in their "Hero Squad" campaign. During this three week campaign, students were part of a "hero squad," raising money in whatever way they could for patients with blood cancers, many of them being children just like themselves. With a focus on one hero child with cancer, students fundraised always remembering that, "every hero needs a squad." They made individual online fundraising pages and sent them out to family and friends, as well as offered their time and help in exchange for donations. They even completed a workout with The Max Challenge of Hoboken to earn money raised from sponsors. Simultaneously in class, students participated in Common Core STEM lessons, with a focus on learning about cells to inspire students to be scientists working toward a cure. They also participated in a social emotional learning curriculum to teach empathy and other important skills. Additionally, students learned many other valuable skills such as drafting emails, letter writing, adding money, and creating videos. In just three weeks, only one class of 22 fourth graders raised an incredible \$11,557.45 for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society.

11. Upper School Report

We are delighted to report that staff and administrators are in the new building and setting up. There is much to be done as we prepare for students. Teachers have engaged in training around Trauma Informed Practices and are planning activities to help students transition back to school on-site.

12. New Business

Joy Wheeler, chairperson of the Facilities Committee updated the board on progress on the new building. A ribbon-cutting ceremony will be scheduled for March.

Dana Wissing provided an update on fundraising at the Friends of HCS. Fundraising was constrained this year due to the inability to hold events such as the annual gala.

Kelly Wilson, chairperson of the Finance Committee mentioned the 2022 budget would be the focus of that committee in the coming weeks.

Amanda Grant mentioned that 2 additional grants from family foundations were expected.

13. Public Comments. There were no comments from the public.

14. Executive Session. There was no executive session.

15. Return to Open Session

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, January 19, 2021.

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, January 19, 2021.

ROLL CALL VOTE

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

Certified by Board Secretary Steve Literati

Date Feb 8, 2021 Adjournment 8:49