



BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
FEBRUARY 23, 2021

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

1. **Call to Order**
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*.

Roll Call

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

Deirdra Grode, Executive Director
Steve Literati, CFO and Board Secretary and Board Treasurer

3. **Acceptance of Minutes**

Minutes of the previous public Board meetings held January 19, 2021 and January 27, 2021 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 Meetings on January 19, 2021 and January 27, 2021.

ROLL CALL VOTE

TRUSTEE	MOTION	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
John Berger					
Lauren Calmas					
Amanda Grant					
Lisa McIntyre					
Kelly Pansy					

Christine Sheedy					
Mark Silberberg					
Joy Wheeler					
Dana Wissing					

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. Educational Planning

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

5.2 Resolved, that the Hoboken Charter School Board of Trustees approves the full K-3 Team to participate in a session called Talking about Race, Power and Identity in Early Elementary School on April 15 presented by Roots ConnectED. The cost is \$719.70 paid via the Provident Bank Foundation Grant.

5.3 Resolved, that the Hoboken Charter School Board of Trustees approves Ben Wagor and Anne Ballman, US History Teachers, and SK Duff, K-12 Art Teacher, to participate in a session called Centering Hope and Social Action: Encouraging Our Students to Work Towards Change on Feb 18 presented by Roots ConnectED. The cost is \$204.00 paid via the Provident Bank Foundation Grant.

5.4 Resolved, that the Hoboken Charter School Board of Trustees approves the full K-4 team to participate in a session called Setting Up Classroom Norms for Important Conversations About Current Events in K-5 Classrooms on March 25 presented by Roots ConnectED. The cost is \$885.24 paid via the Provident Bank Foundation Grant.

5.5 Resolved, that the Hoboken Charter School Board of Trustees approves Heather DeSimone Curtin, Social Worker, to attend The Zones Full Day Webinar via Zones of Regulation on Wednesday, April 21. The cost is \$199 paid via the Provident Bank Foundation Grant.

5.6 Padma Lingechetty-Isom, MS Humanities Teacher, attended the Community Works Institute (CWI) Winter Virtual Institute from January 28-30 with the theme of Teaching for Place and Human Connection. The cost was \$329 and paid via the Provident Bank Foundation Grant.

ROLL CALL VOTE

TRUSTEE	MOTION	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
John Berger					
Lauren Calmas					
Amanda Grant					

Lisa McIntyre					
Kelly Pansy					
Christine Sheedy					
Mark Silberberg					
Joy Wheeler					
Dana Wissing					

6. Finance

6.1 Resolved, that the Board of Trustees approved the Board Secretary and Treasurer’s Reports for January 2021, 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 31, 2021, 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 January 13, 2021 to February 15, 2021. (Attached schedule.)

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

Date	Amount
January 15, 2021	\$132,663.01
January 31, 2021	\$132,575.80

ROLL CALL VOTE

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

7. Enrollment

Enrollment – February 23, 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

8. School Calendar Reminder

Tuesday, March 16 – Board Meeting will begin at 7 p.m.

Tuesday, March 23 – Board Meeting will begin at 7 p.m.

9. K-12 Report

HCS conducted its lottery for the 2021-2022 school year on January 22. The event was streamed live. 617 applicants applied for the 47 vacancies. Accepted student and family events have since occurred.

Padma Lingechetty-Isom, Middle School Humanities Teacher, attended the Community Works Institute's winter institute on Place Based Service-Learning and Sustainability on January 28-30. In this virtual three-day training, she learned strategies for exploring place and identity to create a sense of belonging, mattering, and civic responsibility within students. CWI's Collaborative Ethnography process builds perspective, skills and inclusive narratives that contribute to understandings around cultural-societal experiences related to social justice. Participants engaged in work to use social justice and critical inquiry lenses to assess local, national and global resources and recognize what has been included and what is missing.

Deirdra Grode submitted the first of four reports to Provident Bank Foundation on the school's progress on goals outlined in the Restorative/Social Justice Initiative. The report highlighted 9 professional development trainings, student celebrations, family sessions and curriculum work across grades K-12.

10. Lower/Middle School Report

HCS had two teams compete in the regional FIRST Lego League tournament on Saturday, January 16. The teams worked to build and program a robot to meet the year's game challenge as well as do a design project around the RePlay theme. Both teams worked hard and did a fantastic job despite all the challenges of this season.

HCS participated in a debate tournament on January 23. In the novice division, sixth graders Carolina Fernandez and Alexander Goran won 11th place for the team award. Carolina won 4th best speaker out of 90 participants in the Novice Division as well as best novice speaker at HCS. HCS also won 2nd place in the highest percentage of wins in the novice division. Eighth grader Finn Getz won best speaker at HCS in the Varsity division.

Many of our Lower School classes recently held their end of unit publishing parties in writing, which focused on nonfiction or persuasive writing.

HCS had two teams participate in the New Jersey Future City competition on Saturday, February 6. This year's theme focused on designing a city of the future on the Moon.

On February 9, the K-8 program hosted a virtual accepted family visit for our incoming kindergarten families. Families were able to meet with administration and learn more about HCS's mission and program.

11. Upper School Report

We had a successful administration of the PSAT for our 10th and 11th graders. Families had the option of sending their students to take it on site, others spent the time taking a practice test to aid them in the future.

This year we held Upper School Conference Night as a virtual event. Families could sign up for times in advance, or join and wait in waiting rooms. This seemed to increase attendance over previous years and we will consider continuing the practice of holding the event virtually.

The end of January saw the beginning of a new marking period and students were able to start new elective classes. This marking period, staff designed courses for Freshmen to meet the specific needs of this year's 9th

graders who have not had the opportunity to experience high school in person. Sophomores are again engaging in Explorations. This course is designed to give 10th grade students the opportunity to explore an area of personal interest as they learn and develop research and writing skills. Juniors and Seniors chose from a career based elective on Forensics, social justice activist tool electives on Art Activists or Microlending, and a learner centered elective on Autobiographies.

The Upper School also held a Celebration for the 2nd marking period recipients of the Cougar Citizen Awards, Honor Roll, and High Honors.

We sent an initial welcome communication to students accepted in the lottery and held a virtual Accepted Student Event. We are preparing for similar events specifically for HCS 8th graders and families as well as a Spring Open House.

12. New Business

13. Public Comments

14. Looking Ahead

2022 Budget Process	Schedule to be discussed, including board meetings in March 16 and 23. Finance Committee meeting scheduled to precede board meetings
Board Conflict of Interest Disclosures	April 30 deadline. Online submission. Board secretary review and certification.
Request for Proposal for Custodial Service	TBD
Update on Contracts	April 20 board meeting
Approval of 2021-22 contracts	May 11 board meeting

15. Executive Session

16. Return to Open Session

17. 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, February 23, 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, February 23, 2021.

ROLL CALL VOTE

TRUSTEE	MOTION	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
John Berger					
Lauren Calmas					
Amanda Grant					
Lisa McIntyre					
Kelly Pansy					
Christine Sheedy					
Mark Silberberg					

Joy Wheeler					
Dana Wissing					

Certified by Board Secretary _____

Date _____ Adjournment _____