



BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING  
APRIL 20, 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 meeting held March 16, 2021 is 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 March 16, 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. Resolution of Recognition and Appreciation of the Friends of Hoboken Charter School**

WHEREAS, it was the original vision of Hoboken Charter School’s founders to provide a fully integrated K-12 school, cohesive in mission and instructional philosophy via a permanent, shared campus; and

WHEREAS, the Friends of Hoboken Charter School purchased the residential building at 711 Washington Street in August 2019 and had it transformed into an innovative educational space, thus realizing the aforementioned vision; and

WHEREAS, FoHCS Treasurer Rob Johansen acted as HCS’ financial steward, volunteering his time and expertise to secure the financing to purchase and renovate 711 Washington Street, manage the overall project budget, and refinance 713 Washington Street; and

WHEREAS, FoHCS Trustee Karen Platt volunteered her time and expertise to handle all legal matters related to purchasing and renovating 711 Washington Street, including hiring attorneys for the building acquisition and to represent us with the Hoboken Zoning Board, and reviewing all contracts with the architect, general contractor, and subcontractors; and

WHEREAS, the Friends of Hoboken Charter School provided additional support to enable the acquisition, renovation, and opening of 711 Washington Street, including applications to and approvals from the Historical Commission, City Council, Zoning Board of Adjustments, the Hudson Street Alliance, All Saint’s Episcopal Church and School, and State Farm Insurance; parent outreach to solicit attendees and speakers at public meetings, and planning and executing a ribbon-cutting ceremony to mark the official opening while in the midst of the global Covid-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the Friends of Hoboken Charter School volunteered their time and energy to plan and implement a wide variety of initiatives to raise money for HCS, bring the

HCS community together safely, and express appreciation for HCS teachers and staff during a school year that was exceptionally challenging for all due to the pandemic.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Hoboken Charter School Board of Trustees recognizes and extends our utmost appreciation to the Friends of Hoboken Charter School for the efforts outlined above and their positive impact on the HCS community this school year and for many years to come.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution of Recognition and Appreciation be duly recorded and saved in the permanent minutes of the Hoboken Charter School Board of Trustees on this 20<sup>th</sup> day of the month of April in the year 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					

**6. Personnel**

6.1 Resolved, that the Hoboken Charter School Board of Trustees accepts the resignation of Benjamin Wagor, Teacher, effective June 11, 2021.

**7. Educational Planning**

7.1 Resolved, that the Hoboken Charter School Board of Trustees approves the Leaving the Village workshop on Community Building Circles and Restorative Conversations with the full upper school team. The workshop was led by Kelvin Oliver. The cost of \$1800.00 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					

## 8. Finance

8.1 Resolved, that the Board of Trustees approved the Board Secretary and Treasurer's Reports for March 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 March 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.)

8.2 Resolved, that the Board of Trustees approves the bills list from March 11, 2021 to April 13, 2021. (Attached schedule.)

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

Date	Amount
February 15, 2021	\$136,137.42
March 31, 2021	\$141,353.15

### 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					

## 9. Enrollment

Enrollment – April 20, 2021

Grade	Current	Grade	Current	Grade	Current
K	22	5	22	9	25
1	22	6	22	10	24
2	22	7	22	11	24
3	22	8	22	12	26
4	22			Total	297

## 10. School Calendar Reminder

Monday, May 3 – Students in grades K-8 to begin fulltime on-site schedule.

Tuesday, May 11 – Board Meeting will begin at 7 p.m.

## 11. K-12 Report

On March 23, HCS had its ribbon cutting for the opening of the new HCS campus comprised of the bridged 711 and 713 Washington Street facilities. Mayor Bhalla, Councilperson Emily Ball Jabbour and Members of the Friends of HCS, the HCS Board of Trustees and HCS staff celebrated together with all K-12 students and staff, current and past K12 families and supporting members of the community via a well-attended live stream. A virtual tour was also shared with the community. Numerous media outlets covered the story and included the

virtual tour. It was a joyous event!

The K12 team continues to participate in mission-aligned professional development this school year. The Provident Bank Foundation has helped support the use of numerous new opportunities for our team's growth. HCS partnered with Roots ConnectEd and Leaving the Village since our last meeting for sessions with our teachers on Community Building Circles, Restorative Conversations, Talking About Race, Power, & Identity in Early Elementary School and Classroom Norms for Important Conversations About Current Events in K-5 Classrooms.

We had another full day of testing about 250 HCS K-12 students, staff and families onsite on April 14. The combination of the post-break remote week with schoolwide testing before onsite return and the ongoing weekly testing has enabled us to continue operations safely as our region continues to be in high activity level. Also, through a partnership with Riverside Medical Group, our K12 teachers and staff have had an opportunity to begin their vaccination process. In advance of the fulltime opening on May 3rd for K-8, all HCS teachers and staff will have had an opportunity to be fully vaccinated.

The United States Department of Education (USED) responded to the New Jersey Department of Education's (NJDOE) assessment waiver request and determined that due to the impact of COVID-19, the Start Strong assessments in English language arts (ELA), math, and science may serve as New Jersey's required general assessments for the 2020-2021 school year. Therefore, the spring 2021 New Jersey Student Learning Assessments (NJSLA) administration will be canceled and the Start Strong assessments in ELA, math, and science will be administered in fall 2021. NJDOE will be providing more information and guidance regarding state assessments shortly. As soon as HCS receives more information from the NJDOE, particularly around the proposed fall test administration, we will communicate that to students and families.

## **12. Lower/Middle School Report**

The second trimester ended on Friday, March 19. Students in the Middle School reflected on their growth over the course of the trimester and applied for one of our four Trimester 2 Cornerstone Awards. Twenty-seven middle schoolers spoke of their growth around one of our four cornerstones: academic, personal, civic, or artistic growth. Students were recognized with certificates and a small treat when we returned from spring break.

The K-8 program continues to plan for our full-time reopening, which will begin on Monday, May 3.

## **13. Upper School Report**

After settling in to the new building, and a very successful Ribbon Cutting ceremony, we were able to host many of the Lower and Middle School classes on tours of the new space. Students learned about the Upper School program as they toured the building. The ever resourceful K-8 teachers brought Remote students along via Zoom.

Marking Period 3 ended on Monday, April 19th which means a final elective switch for the students. In MP4, Seniors will be working with mentors to develop Graduation Projects. Juniors will be working with the College and Career Counselor to explore post secondary options. Sophomores had a choice between Poetry as Advocacy- Finding Your Voice and Introduction to Psychology. Freshmen choose between Are Animal Rights a Social Justice issue? and a Queer History of Theater. There is also a Learning Lab class to support students who are struggling with learning gaps due to COVID.

Seniors to Seniors- The 12th graders completed a study of the poetry of Shakespeare (alongside other poems such as Naomi Shihab's "Gate 4", Ross Gay's "A Small Needful Act", Fatimah Asghar's "I Don't Know What Will Kill Us First: The Race War or What We've Done to the Earth") by writing their own works. As a way to connect and share the human experience during the isolation created by COVID, these Seniors then partnered with Meal on Wheels at the Hoboken Senior Center to share the poems in meal deliveries. The 12th graders are

hoping this will become a continued connection and so are also providing an opportunity for the senior citizens to respond.

**14. New Business**

**15. Public Comments**

**16. Looking Ahead**

Board Conflict of Interest/Ethics 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
Submission of ESSER II grant application	Due May 12
Approval of school annual report due on Aug 1	To be distributed in advance of July board meeting
Application of PPP loan forgiveness	Due September 2021

**17. Executive Session**

**18. Return to Open Session**

**19. 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, April 20, 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, April 20, 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 \_\_\_\_\_