



BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING  
JUNE 15, 2021  
7:00 PM

MEETING HIGHLIGHTS:

Executive Director Deirdra Grode reviewed upcoming deadlines for the school administration, including:

- Completion of the 2021 annual report (due August 1).
- Submission of a Safe Return Plan to access ESSER III funds (due June 24<sup>th</sup>).
- Application to renew the charter of the school (due October 2021).

It was noted that commencement ceremonies would take place on June 22<sup>nd</sup> at Sinatra Park Amphitheater at 2:00 pm (8<sup>th</sup> grade) and 4:00 pm (12<sup>th</sup> grade.)

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

1. **Call to Order:** 7:04 by Lauren Calmas.
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		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, Principal, K-8

**3. Acceptance of Minutes for May 11, 2021**

Minutes of the previous public Board meeting held May 11, 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 Meeting on May 11, 2021.

**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					X
Joy Wheeler					X
Dana Wissing	2	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 comments.

**5. Personnel**

- 5.1 Resolved, that the Hoboken Charter School Board of Trustees accepts the resignation of Erick Peralta, Teacher, effective June 30, 2021.
- 5.2 Resolved, that the Hoboken Charter School Board of Trustees approves a contract with Sophia Touri as Teacher for the 2021-2022 school year, subject to completion of a county sub license, certification, and/or criminal background check.
- 5.3 Resolved, that the Hoboken Charter School Board of Trustees accepts the resignation of Adam Hunt, Teacher, effective June 30, 2021.
- 5.4 Resolved, that the Board of Trustees approves Deirdra Grode as Hoboken Charter School Executive Director for the 2021-2022 academic year.
- 5.5 Resolved, that the Board of Trustees approves Alyssa Roth as Kindergarten apprentice for the 2021-2022 academic year.
- 5.6 Resolved, that the Board of Trustees approves the work agreement for Tomasina Perez as lunch aide for the 2021-2022 academic year.
- 5.7 Resolved, that the Board of Trustees approves the work agreement for Kenneth Bollhardt as Upper School Security for the 2021-2022 academic year.

**ROLL CALL VOTE**

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

**6. Finance**

6.1 Resolved, that the Board of Trustees approves a contract with PromptMD Urgent Care Center for school physician services for the 2021-2022 school year.

6.2 Resolved, that the Board of Trustees approves the renewal work agreement for Batia Zumwalt, Behavior Therapist Consultant.

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

6.4 Resolved, that the Board of Trustees approves the bills list from May 6, 2021 to June 9, 2021. (Attached schedule.)

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

Date	Amount
May 15, 2021	\$139,647.77
May 31, 2021	\$134,213.17

**ROLL CALL VOTE**

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

**7. Educational Planning**

7.1 Resolved, that the Hoboken Charter School Board of Trustees approves professional development training with Pollyanna, Inc. for the faculty and staff to engage in a toolkit training on their K-8 Racial Literacy Curriculum\*. The training will occur at HCS during our summer orientation onsite and will cost \$5,000.

The Provident Bank Foundation grant will cover the cost of the training.

\*This curriculum is designed to help students gain knowledge about race as it has been constructed in the United States and aims to help students acquire an awareness of their own racial socialization and skills for engaging in productive conversations about race and racism.

The underlying goal of the curriculum is to build bridges and connections—for all students to recognize similarities among their peers along lines of race, while also celebrating perceived differences. We hope to plant seeds that will encourage and enhance racial literacy, geographical awareness, and cultural competence both in the classroom and throughout one's life.

#### 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	2	X			
Mark Silberberg					X
Joy Wheeler					X
Dana Wissing		X			

### **8. Enrollment**

Enrollment – June 15, 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

### **9. School Calendar Reminder**

Friday-Tuesday, June 18, 21, 22 – 1 p.m. dismissal for students.

Tuesday, June 22 – Last day of school

Tuesday, June 22 – 8<sup>th</sup> grade Commencement Ceremony will take place at Sinatra Park Amphitheater at 2 p.m.

Tuesday, June 22 – 12<sup>th</sup> grade Graduation Ceremony will take place at Sinatra Park Amphitheater at 4 p.m.

### **10. K-12 Report**

#### Charter Renewal

Every 5 years, HCS engages in a process with the NJDOE to renew its charter. The charter renewal process gives charter school operators an opportunity to present clear and compelling evidence of their achievements over the course of the charter term and to demonstrate their academic, fiscal and organizational viability. It is also an occasion for charter schools to examine their progress towards meeting their missions, goals, and objectives; to assess their strengths and needs; and to plan their course for the future.

After receiving the renewal application, the NJDOE conducts a site visit and structured interviews with each charter school's board of trustees, school administrators, teachers and other school representatives. These interviews and visit are one part of the NJDOE's comprehensive review of each charter school up for renewal. The Commissioner also evaluates assessment results, annual reports, the renewal application, monitoring reports,

public comments, financial reports, and other relevant evidence in order to render a decision about the renewal of a charter.

Anticipated Timeline (the application and timeline has not yet been released by the NJDOE)

- The renewal application for charter schools eligible for renewal is due to the district board of education, the executive county superintendent and the Commissioner of education by typically mid-October of the renewal year.
- The district board of education may submit comments regarding the renewal application of the charter school to the Commissioner within 30 days of receipt.
- The application for renewal is reviewed and evaluated by the NJDOE and they will conduct an on-site visit (unless virtual do to covid) of the school which may include classroom visits, interviews with key stakeholders and document review.
- The Commissioner will grant or deny the renewal of the charter in the new year (typically Feb).

#### Safe Return Plan

To access ESSER III funds, schools that anticipate participation must submit a Safe Return Plan to the NJDOE by June 24, 2021. Additionally, the plan must be posted on the school's website. Districts must seek public comment on their plan and consider feedback when finalizing the plan. Key areas to the plan are around mask wearing, physical distancing, handwashing and respiratory etiquette, cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, contact tracing, diagnostic and screening testing, efforts to provide vaccinations and appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety. Districts have the ability to revise their plans every 6 months or sooner if necessary.

HCS has completed a draft Safe Return Plan according to the NJDOE template and has also prepared a more comprehensive document for community review that also includes information on how we will assess for learning loss and provide supports to address any loss. This more comprehensive document has been shared with the K-12 community of faculty, staff and families alongside a survey requesting feedback to help inform our plan for a full-time onsite return of all K-12 students and staff in September.

#### Other K-12 News

We submitted our 6 month progress report update on the Provident Bank Foundation grant and are planning for summer orientation and Fall 2021 professional development to support our restorative practices initiative for the culmination of the grant funds.

The Friends of HCS sponsored an end of the year party for the K12 staff which occurred on June 11, 2021 in the courtyard which progressed to the rooftop. It was the first time our K12 staff has come together for socialization this school year and was an incredible evening for all. It was a celebration of the completion of a year that held incredible challenges yet incredible achievements. We also celebrated Ian Smit for his 12 years of service to HCS as he begins his retirement.

Padma Lingechetty-Isom, middle school humanities teacher, led a powerful and important professional development session for the K12 staff around culturally responsive pedagogy with particular focus on the experience of BIPOC staff and students in white-dominant spaces.

Mr. Kunkel received a grant for a high-powered laptop for computer aided design (CAD) and 3D printing applications for the Middle/Upper School robotics team, Roboken.

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

Eighth grade students completed their reading of Shakespeare's *Macbeth* with a rooftop performance during the week of May 17.

As a part of their reading of *Refugee* and coupled with learning about issues of identity and intersectionality,

sixth graders met with All Saints Head of School Jill Singleton on the roof to speak about the Lighthouse in Hudson County and her work with asylum seekers. Students then created a campaign to collect donations for the Lighthouse.

Eighth grader Narina Girotra was featured in the Hoboken Patch for her work in creating a social justice-based online apparel line.

On May 24, Holocaust survivor Mark Schonwetter spoke to the fourth-grade class via Zoom about his experience as a young child living in hiding in Poland during the Holocaust.

On Tuesday, May 25, fourth graders shared their American Revolution research projects during a publishing party out in the courtyard.

On Thursday, May 27, the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society of NJ hosted their end of year Hero Squad Virtual Award Ceremony. The fourth-grade class participated in this campaign for the third straight year. Hoboken Charter School came in 1st place as the #1 Fundraising School Per Capita in New Jersey and placed 4th as the #4 Fundraising School in New Jersey overall. Viraj Khosla and Madigan Frasier placed as top online fundraisers in NJ.

On Monday, June 7, the third-grade class held their wax museum in the courtyard. Students presented research of individuals who have had a positive impact on the world in character as that individual.

On Tuesday, June 8, the fifth-grade class presented their original ancient Greek myth plays at Elysian park for their classmates and families.

On Tuesday, June 8 and Wednesday, June 9, the K-8 program held their second annual virtual summer gathering via YouTube Premiere. The program featured student submissions and was organized by Mr. Gavarny.

On Thursday, June 10, the K-8 program participated in Field Day at Pier A, organized by Mr. Flynn and supported by over 30 family volunteers.

## **12. Upper School Report**

On May 17th, the 11th and 12th graders participated in a virtual field trip with Mr. Nicholas Pellitta, an attorney with the Norris McLaughlin law firm. Mr. Pellitta presented personal accounts of his work with hate crimes focused on his work with the 2011 Tyler Clemente hate-crime case. This event was arranged through the New Jersey State Bar Foundation.

May 19th, the Freshmen and Sophomore advisors hosted a Movie Night for the 9th and 10th graders on the roof of the 713 building. This event was a great way to start re-building community before our return to school next year.

All students in the Upper School participated in the Child Assault Prevention Program provided us by a grant and coordinated by Ms. Curtin, the school social worker.

Teachers are continuing to support students who were affected by the pandemic, working to strengthen their skills and looking towards continued growth next year.

We are celebrating our Seniors this year with a Senior Night on June 15th. This night includes presentations of their Senior Projects as well as a Senior Awards Dinner on the rooftop.

### **13. New Business**

Dana Wissing noted that Joe Fung was resigning from the board of the Friends of Hoboken Charter School. Lauren requested that we schedule at least one joint board meeting with the Friends during the next year. The board tentatively scheduled board meetings for July 20<sup>th</sup> and August 17<sup>th</sup> for board meetings over the summer.

**14. Public Comments.** There were no comments from the public.

### **15. Looking Ahead**

Submission of Safe Return Plan to NJDOE and posted on HCS website	June 24, 2021
Approval of school annual report due on Aug 1	July board meeting
Approval of adjustments to appropriations for individual expense accounts	July board meeting
Application of PPP loan forgiveness	Due September 2021

### **16. Executive Session**

### **17. Return to Open Session**

### **18. 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, June 15, 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, June 15, 2021.

#### **ROLL CALL VOTE**

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

Certified by Board Secretary: Steve Literati

Date: June 18, 2021

Adjournment: 8:09 pm