



BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 21, 2021  
7:00 PM

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 June 30, 2021, 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 for August 17, 2021**

Minutes of the previous public Board meeting held August 17, 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 August 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					

**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 Board of Trustees approves David Meis for the role of Teacher for the 2021-2022 academic year, subject to completion of a county sub license, certification, and/or criminal background check.

5.2 Resolved, that the Board of Trustees approves Derek G. Koffi-Ziter for the role of Leave Replacement Teacher subject to completion of a county sub license, certification, and/or criminal background check.

5.3 Resolved, that the Board of Trustees approves the resignation of Brian Blackmore effective August 26, 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. Policy**

**First Reading**

6.1 Resolved, that the Board of Trustees will conduct a first reading on a proposed Employee Vaccination Policy.

**ROLE 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. **Finance**

7.1 Resolved, that the Board of Trustees approved the Board Secretary and Treasurer's Reports for August 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 August 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. Note that the Secretary's Report is Preliminary and does not reflect all year-end adjusting entries. (Attached schedules.)

7.2 Resolved, that the Board of Trustees approves the bills list from August 6, 2021, to September 14, 2021. (Attached schedule.)

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

Date	Amount
August 13, 2021	\$43,181.97
August 31, 2021	\$36,507.67

7.4 Resolved, that the Board of Trustees approves the execution of an agreement with Second Set of Eyes, LLC to assist the school with school meal administration and compliance with the NJ Department of Agriculture, not to exceed \$2,000 in total remuneration.

### 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. **Educational Planning**

8.1 Resolved, that the Hoboken Charter School Board of Trustees approves an agreement with Speranza Theater Company to provide middle school Artsbridge courses for the first trimester at a rate of \$1,900 per course. HCS is using Speranza for four courses for Trimester 1, one of which is being paid for by a grant through Hudson County Office of Cultural Affairs.

### 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 – September 21, 2021

Grade	Current
K	22
1	22
2	22
3	22
4	22
5	22
6	22
7	22
8	22
9	25
10	24
11	27
12	23
Total	297

## 10. **School Calendar Reminder**

Thursday, September 24 – Professional Development – 1:00 p.m. dismissal for students

Tuesday, October 5 - NJPCSA Charter Renewal Webinar – 7:00-8:00 p.m.

Thursday, October 7 – Open House K-12 6:00 p.m.

Monday, October 11 – School Closed for Indigenous Peoples’ Day

Thursday, October 14 – Professional Development – 1:00 p.m. dismissal for students

Tuesday, October 19 – Board Meeting 7:00 p.m.

## 11. **K-12 Report**

Our August Staff Orientation provided rich and meaningful opportunities for our K12 team to collaborate and plan for a more cohesive and integrated K12 experience starting this school year. Cross-division teams participated in a Get to Know the Campus Scavenger Hunt and K-12 teachers participated in a training via Pollyanna on Racial Literacy and Cultural Competency. A culminating start of the year celebration has been postponed to this week due to Ida.

We are thrilled to have so many of our incredibly talented staff working across divisions this school year helping us to bring more offerings and continuity and cohesion to our overall programing. These teachers include Mr. Gavarny, Mr. Koffi-Ziter, Ms. Diaz-Ortiz, Ms. Chaykin, Mr. Procaccini and Ms. Ballman.

On Friday, September 10th HCS partnered with Medicine Man Pharmacy to hold an on-site Covid-19 Vaccine Clinic. The Pfizer vaccine was administered, which is now FDA approved for ages 12 and up. We were able to administer nine vaccines to interested students and family members.

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

Our K-8 teachers were excited to return in person to start the year off strong, and we welcomed lots of new students in each of our classrooms. Some staffing changes occurred over the summer. Ms. Davidson and Ms. Roth are a great team and off to a wonderful start in kindergarten, and we are thrilled to have Mr. K-Z

bring his artistic talents to HCS in the art department. We also have two talented special education teachers working with lower and middle school students, Ms. Courtney and Ms. David.

During orientation, our k-4 teachers began training with a new social studies curriculum developed by HCS staff that was designed in alignment with the Anti-Bias Anti-Racist Framework.

Middle School students are taking courses such as Craftivism, World Drumming, Improvisation, Art Journaling, World Drumming, Guitar through our artsbridge and enrichment programs. Mission labs offered this trimester include Podcasting-Stories of the Other, Environmental Justice Pioneers, and International Marketing.

### **13. Upper School Report**

We have had a great start to the year. We are so excited to all be back in school together. We welcomed many new staff members during Orientation and have a wonderful team. The week before school, we welcomed 11th and 12th graders to school to tour the new building, find their lockers, review their schedules etc. The 9th grade and 10th grade students were scheduled for a full orientation as so many of them have never been in the school in person. Thanks to Ida, these were made virtual, but were still good opportunities to review important information. Upperclassmen ambassadors volunteered and attended this event as well.

We have again added courses to our offerings- after Biology, students have a choice of science classes including Hudson River Botany and Zoology and Chemistry for Change. Our Computer Science course, developed in partnership with the Amazon Future Engineers program, has vastly expanded to include students in all grade levels. We are again offering a wide assortment of electives as well. Electives focus on either 21st Century College and Career Readiness Standards or teaching a specific Social Justice Activist tool. For Marking Period 1, students are taking either Foundations, Forensics, Flags and Protest Signs, Speech Writing, Support Lab, Film as Activism, or Animal Rights and Using your Voice to Boycott.

On Wednesday, 9/15, the entire Upper School visited Liberty State Park for community building activities. After a Volleyball tournament, students chose from activities including Meditation by the Hudson, Nature Sketching, Hiking, Volleyball, and Card Games.

### **14. New Business**

### **15. Public Comments**

### **16. Looking Ahead**

Application of PPP loan forgiveness	Due September 2021 – Submitted. Pending approval
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### **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, September 21, 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, September 21, 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 \_\_\_\_\_



### Employee Vaccination Policy – First Read

HCS has a duty to provide and maintain a workplace and learning environment that is free of known hazards. To safeguard the health of our employees and their families, our students and their families and the community at large from COVID-19 that may be reduced by vaccinations, HCS requires its employees to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 unless they are entitled to an exemption as described below.

The HCS School Nurse can provide information on how to access the vaccination. Vaccinations should be run through employees' health insurance where applicable and will otherwise be paid for by the School. All employees will be paid for time taken to receive vaccinations. Employees are to work with their building principal to schedule appropriate time to comply with this expectation.

Employees in need of an exemption from this vaccination expectation due to a medical reason or because of a sincerely held religious belief must submit to the School Nurse a completed Request for Accommodation form to begin the interactive accommodation process. Reasonable accommodations will be granted in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and/or the New Jersey Law Against Discrimination where they do not cause Hoboken Charter School undue hardship (e.g., if they would be unduly extensive, substantial, or disruptive, or if they would fundamentally alter the nature or operation of the School or programs) or pose a direct threat to the health and safety of others. No other exemptions shall be available other than the medical and religious exemptions.

Any employees with an approved medical or religious exemption will be required to undergo regular testing at a minimum of once to twice each week.

Employees serving as occupational therapists, physical therapists, speech therapists, school nurses, or athletic trainers must be fully vaccinated as a mandatory condition of their employment. Because physical contact with students is an inherent and unavoidable job duty for these positions in particular, no accommodation or alternative is possible, and these employees will be strictly ineligible for a medical or religious exemption.

