



BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING - MINUTES
OCTOBER 19, 2021
713 WASHINGTON STREET
HOBOKEN, NJ 07030
5:45 PM

MEETING OVERVIEW:

The meeting started at 5:45 and went into closed session to discuss a matter involving student discipline. Following the conclusion of this matter, the board discussed newly hired teachers, and approved two new agreements. Updates were provided on strategic initiatives, activities and plans of Friends of HCS, and city's PILOT program, and the upcoming school charter renewal.

The meeting was on-site, and started at 5:45 p.m. The meeting moved immediately into closed session. The meeting reopened at 8:20 p.m. for the general agenda.

1. **Call to Order.** The meeting was called to order by Lauren Calmas at 5:50.
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 an in-person meeting with a time change on October 8, 2021, via notification to City Hall, the City Clerk's Office on Washington Street and the *Hudson Reporter*, the *Bergen Record* 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
Joanna Weintraub, 9-12 Principal

3. Executive Session

On the motion by Lisa McIntyre, seconded by Kelly Pansy, the Board of Trustees voted unanimously to enter into executive session at 5:52 pm to discuss an issue related to student discipline.

At the conclusion of this disciplinary hearing, the following resolutions were voted on:

- 3.1 Resolved, that the Hoboken Charter School Board of Trustees accepts the Chief School Administrator's determination that the Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying case presented met the definition of the Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights with respect to the conduct of Student ID No. 12029101.

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			

- 3.2 Resolved, that the Hoboken Charter School Board of Trustees approves the following:

Whereas, Student ID No. 12029101 has been duly noticed and afforded the opportunity to participate in a hearing before the Board of Trustees, and has been afforded certain due process rights; and
Whereas, Student was advised of their right to appeal to the Commissioner of Education; and,
Whereas, Student participated in a hearing before the Board of Trustees, which took place on October 19, 2021, and has been afforded certain due process rights; and

Whereas, the preponderance of the evidence indicated that he/she engaged in prohibited conduct and that said behavior constitutes cause for further discipline.

Now, therefore, be it resolved that Student ID No. 12029101 will be suspended and placed in an interim alternative placement for the remainder of the 2021-2022 school year.

Be it further resolved that upon the recommendation of the Executive Director, Student ID No. 12029101 will attend and complete any counseling recommended by her individualized academic program to the satisfaction of the District Administration.

Be it further resolved that Student ID No. 12029101 will be excluded from participating in all Hoboken Charter School extracurricular school activities and is not permitted on any school property or at any other school function without prior approval of the Executive Director for the remainder of the 2021-2022 school year.

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			

4. **Return to Open Session.** The board voted unanimously to return to open session following a motion by Lisa and a second by Kelly at 8:20 pm.
5. **Acceptance of Minutes for September 21, 2021**

Minutes of the previous public Board meeting held September 21, 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				X	
Lauren Calmas		X			
Amanda Grant	2	X			
Lisa McIntyre				X	
Kelly Pansy		X			
Christine Sheedy		X			
Mark Silberberg		X			
Joy Wheeler					X
Dana Wissing	1	X			

6. **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.

7. **Personnel**

7.1 Resolved, that the Board of Trustees approves Erick Peralta as Substitute Teacher on an as needed basis, subject to completion of a county substitute certificate, and/or criminal background check.

7.2 Resolved, that the Board of Trustees approves Mikaela Kafka as Substitute Teacher on an as needed basis, subject to completion of a county substitute certificate, and/or criminal background check.

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			

8. **Policy**

8.1 Resolved, that the Board of Trustees approves the Employee Vaccination Policy.

ROLE 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	1	X			
Joy Wheeler					X
Dana Wissing	2	X			

9. Finance

9.1 Resolved, that the Board of Trustees approved the Board Secretary and Treasurer's Reports for September 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 September 30, 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.)

9.2 Resolved, that the Board of Trustees approves the bills list from September 15, 2021, to October 6, 2021. (Attached schedule.)

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

Date	Amount
September 15, 2021	\$141,648.69
September 30, 2021	\$145,519.80

9.4 Resolved, that the Board of Trustees approves the execution of proposals from DeMeola Zawacki Mingione & Co., LLC to assist in the audit leading to the preparation of the 2021 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report and the preparation of the school's Form 990 federal income tax filing (attached.)

9.5 Resolved, that the Board of Trustees approves the renewal contract with Giant Steps.

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	2	X			
Mark Silberberg		X			
Joy Wheeler					X
Dana Wissing		X			

10. Educational Planning

- 10.1 Resolved, that the Hoboken Charter School Board of Trustees approves the professional development for Amanda Thiede, Teacher, to attend Helping Your Struggling Readers Be More Successful (Grade 6-12) presented by Institute for Educational Development at the Wilshire Grand Hotel – West Orange, NJ on November 3, 2021. The total cost is \$279.00

ROLL CALL VOTE

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

11. 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	25
11	27
12	23
Total	298

12. School Calendar Reminder

Thursday, November 4 – Virtual Open House K-8 6:00 p.m.

Friday, November 5 – K-12 Picture Day

Thursday, November 11 – Professional Development – 1:00 p.m. dismissal for students

Tuesday, November 16 – Board Meeting 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, November 24 – 1p.m. dismissal for students and staff. No after school activities.

Thursday & Friday, November 25 & 26 – School Closed for Thanksgiving Break

13. K-12 Report

Sara Wicht of Wicht Consulting has begun working with teams of teachers (a K-4 team and a 5-12 Humanities team) to support their work in further integrating principles of identity, diversity, justice and action organically and meaningfully into their curriculum. She will work with a 5-12 STEM team later in the school year.

K-12 teachers engaged in a session entitled "Using an Equity Literacy Framework to Disrupt School-Based Inequities" during our October 1pm day. Through this session, our faculty and staff discussed how

strategies for reaching marginalized students that rely solely on individual interventions give educators permission to ignore systems of inequality, rely on stereotypes and focus on deficits. This professional development addressed how to move from a deficit-based approach to an equity and racial literacy framework for meeting the needs of marginalized students and families. Using a common definition of equity, we as a school will work together to define a shared vision of equity in our practice and school, will commit to uncovering existing inequities and will begin to plan ways to disrupt those current inequitable policies and practices as we move to creating and sustaining equitable policies and practices for all students and their families that move from mitigative short-term changes to transformative long-term solutions.

Taking advantage of our new shared campus, buddy classes have met and begun to develop relationships across the buildings. Many classes met up at the park for outdoor meet and greets including a group of mixed age upper school volunteers and the kindergarteners for a scavenger hunt at the park. One particular highlight was when the 11th and 3rd graders teamed up with Brickz4Kidz to build motorized Lego creations.

The 2022-2023 Hoboken Charter School Lottery Application is now available on the school website. All applications must be submitted online this year via our new lottery system- Lotterease. We hope that this program will make registration easier for families to submit applications. Families who do not have access to a computer or internet are invited to complete the application onsite with the assistance of HCS staff.

Nurse Malik partnered with Rite Aid to host a flu shot clinic for HCS on October 14th.

Our 5 Year Charter Renewal Application and numerous supporting documents has been submitted to the NJDOE's Commissioner's Office, the Hoboken Board of Education and the Hudson County Department of Education.

14. Lower/Middle School Report

4th grade students are now officially in the Beginner Band and are starting to play their new instruments up on the roof.

On Wednesday, October 13th, over 35 Middle School students began official training for our Recess Assistant Program. These student volunteers have been paired with lower school classes to provide friendship and mentorship on the playground as well as to model appropriate school behaviors. The program has begun and has been a big success already.

HCS hosted virtual open house events on October 8th for prospective K-8 families and a successful Back to School Night for our current K-8 families on September 24th. The Back to School Night session started with a presentation by the Executive Director and K-8 Interim Lead on mission-aligned priorities for HCS this school year as well as a presentation from members of the Friends of HCS.

15. Upper School Report

October has been filled with events. We had to rearrange our schedules some for the NJ Start Strong assessments and then again for the College Board. 10th and 11th graders took the PSAT and 12th graders sat for the SAT, offered in school for all students.

Our Girls Volleyball team has been very excited about getting back to practice and games. This rebuilding year is being led by a strong group of seniors. Most schools have not allowed fans to attend the games, so we held a pep rally to celebrate the team and our school spirit.

October is always a month of outreach, and we held a (well attended) virtual Open House as well as numerous Information Sessions for local middle schools. Current students joined these events and were incredible representatives of our school.

16. **New Business**

Mark and Deidra reviewed strategic goals and objectives. Deidra read a revised school mission statement:

The Hoboken Charter School is a K-12 community committed to social justice and service-learning grounded in learner-centered practices. We seek personal, civic, academic and artistic growth for all of our members. Through an individualized and shared journey, students come to know who they are and how they can change the world.

The board voted on a motion to approve the new mission statement:

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			

Dana reviewed activity and plans from the Friends of HCS, including an auction and an upcoming annual fund letter. Dana also discussed scheduling a brainstorming session with members of the finance committee to discuss fundraising goals.

Lauren updated the board about discussions with Hoboken's mayor and city council about the PILOT program and shared services.

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

18. **Looking Ahead**

October 26	Charter Renewal Site Visit
By February 1, 2021	Commissioner notifies HCS about renewal or denial of charter

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, October 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, October 19, 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	2	X			
Mark Silberberg		X			
Joy Wheeler					X
Dana Wissing		X			

Certified by Board Secretary: Steve Literati

Date: November 9, 2021

Adjournment: 9:31 pm



Employee Vaccination Policy

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.

713 WASHINGTON STREET | HOBOKEN, NJ 07030 | 201 963 0222 | 201 963 0880 FAX | WWW.HOBOKENCS.ORG