



BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING  
DECEMBER 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, the *Hudson Reporter*, the *Bergen Record* 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 November 16, 2021**

Minutes of the previous public Board meeting held November 16, 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 November 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. Personnel**

5.1 Resolved, that the Board of Trustees extends the contract for Derek G. Koffi-Ziter for the role of Leave Replacement Teacher through April 7, 2022.

**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 October 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 November 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. (Attached schedules.)

6.2 Resolved, that the Board of Trustees approves the bills list from November 10, 2021, to December 14, 2021. (Attached schedule.)

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

Date	Amount
November 15, 2021	\$149,969.28
November 30, 2021	\$159348.90

**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 – November 8, 2021

Grade	Current
K	22
1	22
2	22
3	22
4	22
5	22
6	22
7	22
8	22
9	26
10	25
11	26
12	21
Total	296

**8. School Calendar Reminder**

Thursday, December 23 – 1 p.m. dismissal – All after school activities are canceled  
Friday, December 24 – Friday, December 31 – School is closed for the Winter Break  
Monday, January 3 – School resumes  
Thursday, January 6 – Lottery application deadline, due by 5:00 p.m. sharp  
Monday, January 17 – School will be closed for MLK Day observance  
Tuesday, January 18 – Board of Trustees Meeting at 7 p.m.  
Thursday, January 20 – HCS Lottery 10 a.m.

**9. K-12 Report**

Our World History students studied period poverty worldwide and specifically Bill A3388, which will provide access to free menstrual products in all public schools in New Jersey. They then worked with representatives from The Flow Initiative to package over 10,000 period products for people in need. The 11<sup>th</sup> graders then met with Mr. Kunkel’s 7<sup>th</sup> graders to discuss their work, augmenting the 7<sup>th</sup> graders’ study of the Pink Tax in connection with exploring unit rate in math class.

HCS held a second vaccine clinic during the school day for our students aged 5-11.

HCS released a school Facebook page which will highlight the school experience at HCS as well as promote charter advocacy and dispel myths around charter schools.

Representatives from three Hoboken charter schools (board members, parents and administrators) have been meeting to address charter advocacy efforts.

Deirdra Grode has been participating in a Community of Practice with charter leaders from around the country committed to equity to discuss ways in which we can accelerate learning to address learning loss via intentional scaffolding, building knowledge and vocabulary, prioritizing standards, modifying guided reading, diagnosing essential missed learning and incorporating text sets.

## 10. Lower/Middle School Report

On Saturday, November 20, HCS had four teams compete in the virtual FIRST Lego League Robotics competition.

- Coding Cougars – 8<sup>th</sup> graders
- CouGears – mixed 4<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> grade
- Roboken – 5<sup>th</sup> graders
- Robotic Llamas Jr – 4<sup>th</sup> graders

There were 24 teams participating. For the robot results, the top scorers were the Robotic Llamas in 5th place followed closely by the CouGears in 6th. The Robotic Llamas received the breakthrough award. And a special congratulations to robotics advisor Mr. Kunkel who was recognized by the First Lego League as the Mentor of the Year.

On Monday and Tuesday December 6 and 7, Middle School Artsbridge students participated in their end of trimester share session. Offerings in the fall included world drumming, craftivism, improvisation and acting.

On Wednesday, December 15, the K-8 music program, led by Mr. Gavarny, hosted their first in person winter concert in two years at All Saints. Performances included the K-3 singers, the fourth graders on the recorder, the 5/6 and 7/8 concert bands, and the jazz band.

Over the weekend of December 18, the third, fourth and fifth graders performed *The Jungle Book* at the Hoboken Children's Theater, led by director Mr. Persico.

To kick off this holiday season, the fourth graders have teamed up with The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society (LLS) in their "Light the Night" campaign for the fourth year in a row. During this two week campaign, students are part of a "Hero Squad," raising money in whatever way they can for patients with blood cancers, many of them being children just like themselves. Simultaneously, students are participating in Common Core STEM lessons, with a focus on learning about cells to inspire students to be scientists working toward a cure, as well as a social emotional learning curriculum to teach empathy and other important skills. Their campaign is now running until Friday, December 17th. The fourth graders have ambitiously set their goal at \$15,000, having raised over \$12,000 in the first week.

Both the Lower and Middle School Student Government Associations held their executive board and class representative elections.

New elective and Artsbridge classes began for the second trimester. Elective offerings include sustainable fashion, machines and Minecraft, yearbook, technology student association (TSA) and wiz kids. Artsbridge offerings include music tech, beginning monologues, intermediate acting, mural design and guitar.

The fifth grade class led a board game donation as a part of their reading of *The Breadwinner*, which focuses on life in Afghanistan under the Taliban. The board games will be donated to Afghani refugee families starting their lives in the United States.

## 11. Upper School Report

In an ongoing effort to support our Juniors and Seniors stay on the path towards post-secondary plans, we

hosted the ASVAB, a test that can be used by students considering the military as well as students looking to pass their graduation testing requirement. In an effort to rebuild community, our Seniors worked with their advisor to organize a Friendsgiving event as well as a Bake Sale to raise money towards their end of year events.

Upper School staff have been specifically focusing on curriculum this year. While working with Sara Wicht on Social Justice and Service Learning, we took time to consider the Learner Centered aspects of our curricula. Teachers spent time in departments reviewing the updated 2020NJSLS with an eye to prioritizing and vertical alignment across the grades.

Cheer and Basketball teams have begun practice with an eye to the 2022 season!

**12. New Business**

**13. Public Comments**

**14. Looking Ahead**

December 24, 2021	Due date for submission of School Security grant (“Alyssa’s Law”) application.
January 4, 2022	Deadline for submitting AudSum financial statements to state.
January 12, 2022	Auditors’ meeting with Finance Committee
January 18, 2022	Review of audit results with board
January 18, 2022	Presentation by Chris Kunkel on Fall Start Strong test results
By February 1, 2022	Commissioner makes a determination about HCS renewal or denial of charter
February 5, 2022	Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) due to state

**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, December 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, December 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: \_\_\_\_\_