



**BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 15, 2022 -- 7:00 PM**

MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

THE SCHOOL’S INDEPENDENT OUTSIDE AUDITORS, DARREN FUSARO AND CHUCK DEMEOLA, REVIEWED THE SCHOOL’S ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND FORM 990 TAX RETURN, RESPECTIVELY. THERE WERE NO AUDIT FINDINGS, AND THE SCHOOL WAS FOUND TO BE IN A STRONG FINANCIAL CONDITION WITH GOOD CONTROLS. RESULTS OF THE SCHOOL’S LOTTERY HELD ON JANUARY 20 WERE DISCUSSED.

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

1. **Call to Order.** The meeting was called to order by Lauren Calmas at 7:05.
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		X
Lauren Calmas	X	
Amanda Grant		X
Lisa McIntyre	X	
Kelly Pansy	X	
Christine Sheedy		X ¹
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
 Lizzie Palma, K-8 Principal
 Darren Fusaro, Partner, McIntee Fusaro Del Corral, LLC
 Chuck DeMeola, Partner, DeMeola Zawacki Mingione, LLC
 Chris Weigand, Parent and member of the public

¹Christine Sheedy joined the meeting at 8:32.

3. Acceptance of Minutes for January 18, 2022

Minutes of the previous public Board meeting held January 18, 2022, 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 January 18, 2022.

ROLL 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	2	X			
Joy Wheeler					X
Dana Wissing	1	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.

Parent Chris Weigand commented on the financial reports, reports by the school’s auditors, and asked about when the school would provide guidance on students wearing masks.

5. Personnel

5.1 Resolved, that the Board of Trustees extends the contract for Derek G. Koffi-Ziter for the role of Teacher through the end of the school year. The vote on this resolution was combined with the four resolutions in Section 7 (Educational Planning).

6. Finance

6.1 Resolved, that the Board of Trustees approved the Board Secretary and Treasurer’s Reports for January 2022, 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 January 31, 2022, 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 January 10, 2022, to February 9, 2022. (Attached schedule.)

6.3 Resolved, that the Board of Trustees approves entering into an agreement with Smileysimpact LLC to renovate the main office at a cost of \$5,500.

6.4 Resolved, that the Board of Trustees approves entering into an agreement with Metro Fire & Safety Equipment, Inc. to perform testing and overhaul the fire sprinkler system at the 713 Washington Street building at a cost of \$5,416.

6.5 Resolved, that the Board of Trustees approves the submission of a grant application for the federal Emergent and Capital Maintenance Fund, which if approved would award the school \$26,010.

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

Date	Amount
January 15, 2022	\$153,197.29
January 31, 2022	\$155,241.07

ROLL CALL VOTE

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

7. Educational Planning

7.1 Resolved that the Hoboken Charter School Board of Trustees approves the professional development for Elizabeth Palma, Principal K-8, to attend a Live Online Two-Day Event: Strengthen Your RTI Program! Powerful Strategies to Increase the Success of Your Current Response to Intervention Program on April 19-20, 2022. The total cost is \$595.

7.2 Resolved that the Hoboken Charter School Board of Trustees approves the professional development for Maddie Courtney, Teacher, to attend a virtual all-day training on March 22, 2022 entitled: Best, Powerful Co-teaching Strategies to Accelerate Student Success. The total cost is \$279.

7.3 Resolved that the Hoboken Charter School Board of Trustees approves the professional development for Brittany Fiorillo, Teacher, to attend a virtual all-day training on March 22, 2022 entitled: Foundations Level 1 Virtual Launch Workshop. The total cost is \$289.

7.4 Resolved that the Hoboken Charter School Board of Trustees approves The Special Education Medicaid Initiative (SEMI) Waiver.

Whereas the Hoboken Charter School approved the submission of Special Education Medicaid Initiative (SEMI) Waiver to NJDOE which will exempt the Hoboken Charter School from participating in the SEMI Program. Participation is mandated for districts with more than 40 Medicaid eligible students.

Be It Resolved that the Hoboken Charter School Board of Trustees has approved the submission of the Special Education Medicaid Initiative (SEMI) waiver to the NJDOE which will exempt the Hoboken Charter School from participating in the SEMI Program for FY2023.

ROLL CALL VOTE (FOR RESOLUTIONS IN SECTION 7 PLUS RESOLUTION 5.1)

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. Lottery

2022-2023 Lottery Applications

Grade	Hoboken Siblings	Out of district siblings	Hoboken Residents	Out of District Residents	Total # applications	Applications received by deadline of January 6, 2022
Kindergarten:	5	0	199	24	228	
Grade 1:	2	1	86	15	104	
Grade 2:	0	0	63	8	71	
Grade 3:	1	0	44	5	50	
Grade 4:	0	0	22	9	31	
Grade 5:	0	0	30	4	34	
Grade 6:	2	0	20	10	32	
Grade 7:	1	0	15	6	22	
Grade 8:	0	0	8	7	15	
Grade 9:	3	5	23	120	151	
Grade 10:	0	0	4	8	12	
Grade 11:	0	0	2	3	5	
Grade 12:	0	0	0	1	1	
TOTALS	14	6	516	220	756	

9. Enrollment

Enrollment as of February 15, 2022

Grade	Current
K	22
1	22
2	22
3	22
4	22
5	23
6	22
7	22
8	22
9	26
10	25
11	26
12	21
Total	297

10. School Calendar Reminder

Monday-Friday, February 21-25 – HCS will be closed for the February break.

Thursday, March 3 – Upper School Open House 6 p.m.

Thursday, March 10 - Professional Development 1:00 p.m. dismissal for students. Movie day is available.

Tuesday, March 15 – Board of Trustees Meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, March 22 – Board of Trustees Meeting at 7:00 p.m.

11. K-12 Report

On February 10, 2022, Sara Wicht of Wicht Consulting led a session with our 5-12 teachers on culturally responsive teaching and social justice education and how to use these frameworks to guide STEM discipline curriculum development.

Executive Director Deirdra Grode participated in a two-day virtual conference entitled Care, Courage, Commitment: Deepening our Vision of Diverse-by-Design with charter leaders from around the country via the Diverse Charter Schools Coalition annual convening. The convening provided space for leaders to reflect on how to center collective care in intentionally integrated schools and confront racism and disparities in educational access. Breakout sessions Ms. Grode attended included Responding to the Equity Backlash: Background and guidance to help advocates continue to fight for the educational Environments our Kids Deserve, Creating Affinity Spaces for Kids of Color, Embracing Equity- Racial Affinity Space for White Folks and Governing with Equity in Mind.

Deirdra Grode additionally participated in a virtual training via Johns Hopkins entitled COVID Vaccine Ambassador Training: How to Talk to Parents. This course prepared participants to have informed and respectful conversations with people who have questions about COVID vaccination for children. Critical areas for review were around sharing knowledge about COVID-19 and the COVID-19 vaccine, engaging in conversations about vaccine hesitancy in a respectful and empathetic way and directing people to credible sources for further information about COVID-19 vaccines.

HCS held its lottery for the 2022-2023 school year on January 20, 2022. HCS used an electronic lottery system for application submission and to run the lottery itself. HCS had 756 applicants and has reached out to accepted K and 9th grade families and has posted the system-generated waitlist on the website.

12. Lower/Middle School Report

Congratulations to Ms. Tarangelo who was selected by the New Jersey Public Charter Schools Association "Charter Teachers Tell Their Story" campaign. The NJPCSA were looking for exceptional educators, individuals who identify creative ways to help their students to succeed, to share what motivates them to see their students achieve. Ms. Tarangelo will receive a \$2,000 stipend for being selected and will work with NJPCSA to create a 30 second video for the campaign.

HCS had two teams competing in the statewide Future City competition this year, which took place on Saturday, January 15. Both teams won awards. Team Villaterra (Sami Gotimer, Leo Barsky, Hannah Morley and Emily Critz) won the Best Use of Land Surveying Practices Award. Team Ecovio (Spencer Neissen, Andrew Kelly, Filip Loncar and Noah Virgona) won second place, the highest placement in school history and only the second team to crack the top three in the 8 years HCS has been participating. The Future City program has multiple facets upon which students are judged. They have to write a research essay on the year's theme (this year the Circular Economy). They must build a physical model of their city, create a video presentation explaining their ideas, and finally answer questions posed by judges who are professional engineers. Congratulations to our teams and their advisor, Mr. Kunkel!

One of our Middle School elective classes is called Mission Labs. During this time, students work on HCS mission-aligned project-based learning. We have historically culminated our Mission Labs with a share day, but

due to COVID, our classes created videos to share what they have learned and shared those on Friday, January 28.

Our first semester Mission Lab classes were:

- Real World Disney
- Creative Coding
- Environmental Justice Pioneers
- Podcast - Stories of the 'Other'
- International Media
- Lifelong Learning & Living
- Marketing Pink & Blue
- Future City
- Local Environmental History
- Activism and Social Media
- Adaptation Book Club

Congratulations to eighth grader Hannah Morley, who came in first place in the HCS school spelling bee on Friday, February 4. Following classroom competitions last week, students from grades 4-8 competed at the school level for a chance to move on to the Hudson County spelling bee next week. Seventh grader Carolina Fernandez and fifth grader Farrah Clerke came in second and third respectively.

13. Upper School Report

At the end of the 2nd marking period, students in the Art Journaling elective visited art galleries in NYC for students to see contemporary examples of artists exploring their identity through art and to be exposed to art in the gallery setting. We also held Conference Night for students and families to meet formally with teachers. This year, the event was again virtual but saw increased attendance from even pre-pandemic events.

The Upper School began a new semester with new electives for the third marking period. Our Juniors are all participating in a College and Career course. In this class students learn about postsecondary options, explore career interests and career paths, and are introduced to the college search and application process as well as the job search and interview process.

Other grades have the opportunity to participate in another round of elective classes including: Conversations on Race and Privilege, Graphic Novels as Activism, Health Care Careers, Hudson County Stories- Multimedia Production, Organizers and Activists- Examples in History, and Social Media Activism.

Local dietician, Norah Candito, volunteered to speak with 10th grade menstruating students about Menstrual Health.

After the lottery, we held an Accepted Student Q & A session to help families decide whether to accept the spot. We also held a tour and information session for our HCS 7th graders, as they begin to think about high school. Middle School families are invited to reach out to Principal Weintraub directly with any questions.

14. New Business

Mark provided an update on the strategic plan and associated dashboard. Lisa offered to help Joanna procure gym space for the school. Dana mentioned that a Friends meeting was scheduled for the following night to discuss financial topics.

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

16. **Looking Ahead**

March 1, 2022	Special Board meeting to review and approve the annual financial report to be submitted to the state and Form 990 IRS return for the year ended June 30, 2021.
March 15, 2022	Submission of 2021 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report
March 15, 2022	Review of 2023 Budget (first draft)
March 22, 2022	Final Review of 2023 Budget (if required)
April 15, 2022	Submission of board members' financial disclosure forms due

17. **Executive Session**

With a motion by Lisa McIntyre that was seconded by Mark Silberberg, members of the board voted unanimously to enter into closed session at 8:42.

18. **Return to Open Session**

With a motion by Lisa McIntyre that was seconded by Mark Silberberg, members of the board voted unanimously to return into open session at 9:14

19. **Vote on Student Discipline**

19.1 Resolved, that the Hoboken Charter School Board of Trustees affirms the Chief School Administrator's determination that the Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying case presented did not meet the definition of the Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights with respect to the conduct of Student ID No. 22025120.

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			

20. 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, February 15, 2022.

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, February 15, 2022.

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			

Certified by Board Secretary: Steve Literati

Date: 2/17/22

Adjournment: 9:22