



MINUTES OF BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING  
JUNE 21, 2022 - 7:00 PM

MEETING OVERVIEW

THIS WAS A JOINT MEETING WITH THE BOARD AND MEMBERS OF THE FRIENDS OF HOBOKEN CHARTER SCHOOL. PRESIDENT JEFF TENNENBAUM PRESENTED AN OVERVIEW OF THAT ORGANIZATION’S ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND FUTURE PLANS. THE BOARD OF HCS ACKNOWLEDGED THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF OUTGOING FRIEND’S PRESIDENT PATTY FERNANDEZ AND VICE PRESIDENT LIRAN MIGNONE.

HCS BOARD OF TRUSTEES PRESIDENT LAUREN CALMAS WAS RECOGNIZED AND THANKED FOR HER 9 YEARS OF SERVICE A BOARD PRESIDENT. LAUREN IS STEPPING DOWN AS PRESIDENT BUT WILL REMAIN ON THE BOARD. ASSUMING THE ROLE OF HCS BOARD OF TRUSTEES PRESIDENT IS JOY WHEELER.

1. **Call to Order.** The meeting was called to order by Lauren Calmas at 7:04.
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 <sup>1</sup>
Mark Silberberg	X	
Joy Wheeler	X	
Dana Wissing	X	

<sup>1</sup>Arrived at 7:35.

Deirdra Grode, Executive Director; Steve Literati, CFO and Board Secretary and Board Treasurer; Lizzie Palma, K-8 Principal; Joanna Weintraub, 9-12 Principal, Jane Mylan, Jeff Tennenbaum, Patty Fernandez, Adriana Loaiza Ojeda, Michael Horn, Rob Johansen, and Yaphet Smallwood.

3. **Acceptance of Minutes for May 10, 2022**

Minutes of the previous public special Board meeting held May 10, 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 May 10, 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	1	X			
Joy Wheeler		X			
Dana Wissing	2	X			

**4. Public comment/questions on agenda items for the meeting**

Two parents expressed ongoing concerns with the classroom culture of their children’s class, and a parent shared ideas for additional clubs.

Leadership from the Friends of Hoboken Charter School presented a recap of that organization’s accomplishments as well as a look forward. Jeff Tennenbaum reviewed the past year’s fundraising efforts, which rebounded after a difficult year influenced by the Covid pandemic. Next year will build on the progress made in 2021-2022.

Board member Dana Wissing shared information on SEL and school culture from a webinar she attended at the New Jersey School Board Association.

**5. Board Miscellaneous**

Deirdra Grode read the following proclamation from Hoboken Mayor Bhalla honoring HCS Board President Lauren Calmas:

In honor of her 9 years of service as Hoboken Charter School Board of Trustees Board President, Mayor Bhalla has shared the following proclamation.



**6. Board Business**

- 6.1 Resolved, that the Hoboken Board of Trustees approves the Resolution in Recognition and Appreciation of The Friends of Hoboken Charter School (FoHCS),

WHEREAS, the Friends of Hoboken Charter School volunteered their time and energy to plan and implement a wide variety of initiatives – including a major gala – to raise money for HCS, bring the HCS community together safely, and express appreciation for HCS teachers and staff during a school year that continued to be challenging for all due to the pandemic; and

WHEREAS, Patty Fernandez will be stepping down from Friends leadership at the conclusion of this school year, after assuming a leadership role for four years, and Liran Mignone will be stepping down from Friends leadership after two years in a leadership role; and

WHEREAS, Patty Fernandez and Liran Mignone helped ensure the aforementioned initiatives were carried out successfully in spite of the challenges, in addition to assisting with events related to the opening of the new Upper School and recognition of those who made it’s opening possible.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Hoboken Charter School Board of Trustees recognizes and extends our utmost appreciation to the Friends of Hoboken Charter School for the efforts outlined above, which have had a positive impact on the HCS community this school year, and to Patty Fernandez and Liran Mignone for their time, commitment, and leadership of the Friends over the past four and two years, respectively.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution of Recognition and Appreciation be duly recorded and saved in the permanent minutes of the Hoboken Charter School Board of Trustees on this 21st day of the month of June in the year 2022.

- 6.2 Resolved, that the Board of Trustees approves the resignation of Lauren Calmas as Board President effective upon the adjournment of this June 21 meeting.
- 6.3 Resolved, that the Board of Trustees approves the appointment of Joy Wheeler as Board President effective upon the adjournment of this June 21 meeting.
- 6.4 Resolved, that the Board of Trustees approves the Hoboken Charter School Nutrition and Wellness Policy that has been in place since 2014 and is required to be approved following the School administrative review by the New Jersey Department of Agriculture (attached as Appendix.)

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		X			
Joy Wheeler		X			
Dana Wissing	1	X			

**7. Personnel**

- 7.1 Resolved, that the Board of Trustees approves Natalia Londono as School Social Worker for the 2022-2023 school year effective August 29, 2022, subject to completion of a county sub license, certification and/or criminal background check.

- 7.2 Resolved, that the Board of Trustees approves Hannah Dayan as Teacher for the 2022-2023 school year effective August 29, 2022, subject to completion of a county sub license, certification and/or criminal background check.
- 7.3 Resolved, that the Board of Trustees approves Elizabeth Burger as Teacher for the 2022-2023 school year effective August 29, 2022, subject to completion of a county sub license, certification and/or criminal background check.
- 7.4 Resolved, that the Board of Trustees approves Deirdra Grode as Hoboken Charter School Educational Director for the 2022-2023 school year.
- 7.5 Resolved, that the Board of Trustees approves the resignation of Samantha Polak for the 2022-2023 school year.
- 7.6 Resolved, that the Board of Trustees approves the resignation of Debra Scheibe for the 2022-2023 school year.

**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		X			
Joy Wheeler		X			
Dana Wissing	1	X			

**8. Finance**

- 8.1 Resolved, that the Board of Trustees approved the Board Secretary and Treasurer’s Reports for May 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 May 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.)
- 8.2 Resolved, that the Board of Trustees approves the bills list from May 10, 2022, to June 13, 2022. (Attached schedule.)
- 8.3 Resolved, that the Board of Trustees approves the approves the following payrolls:

Date	Amount
May 15, 2022	\$157,437.89
May 31, 2022	\$157,488.93

- 8.4 Resolved, that the Board of Trustees approves the administration’s decision to not pursue a federal grant to provide services to homeless students affected by the Covid pandemic under the American Rescue Plan (ARP).

## 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	2	X			
Joy Wheeler		X			
Dana Wissing		X			

### 9. Enrollment

Enrollment as of June 21, 2022

Grade	Enrolled Students	Grade	Enrolled Students
K	22	9	26
1	22	10	25
2	22	11	26
3	22	12	21
4	22		
5	23		
6	21		
7	22		
8	22	Total Students Enrolled	296

### 10. K-12 Report

The Friends of HCS honored the 713 Rebuild Committee and the Joint Facilities Committee and Volunteers for the 711 Washington Street Project on the roof of 713 Washington Street on June 3rd and shared the prototypes of two plaques that will be mounted on the school buildings this summer in recognition of their tremendous contributions.

2nd graders read their original poetry to their 10th grade reading buddies on the 713 rooftop on June 17th.

In honor of PRIDE month, students across the lower, middle and upper school divisions engaged in learning and action in support of the LGBTQ+ community. Lower school students learned about notable figures of the LGBTQ movement, the history of the PRIDE flag and the importance of PRIDE Month. Students created and displayed their learning through a hallway display for their school community to view. Middle school students learned about Pride month by educating themselves on different terms within LGBTQ+, the importance of historical events and people within the community, and ended with identifying organizations to aid and educate people. They concluded the unit by making different types of pride flags using felt. The upper school LGBTQ+ Alliance created t-shirts for a fundraiser supporting local LGBTQ+ supporting organizations and hosted a PRIDE Movie Night.

### 11. Lower/Middle School Report

Congratulations to fourth grade teacher Jennifer Tarangelo who was selected by the New Jersey Public Charter Schools Association "Charter Teachers Tell Their Story" Campaign, which highlighted exceptional educators throughout the state who identify creative ways to help their students succeed.

On Saturday, May 14, a few 4th graders competed in the FIRST Lego League Liberty Science Invitational. It was our first in person competition at this level since 2019. They did a fantastic job and represented HCS well. This event drew teams from all over the region and as far away as West Virginia and Illinois. They finished 19th

out of 30 teams, which at an event like this is very good for young rookies They also won the Core Values Award, which is given to teams that display extraordinary enthusiasm and spirit, know they can accomplish more together than they could as individuals, and show each other and other teams respect at all times. And they danced around a lot with their llama hats and stuffed llamas. Congrats to the team and their advisor, Mr. Kunkel!

Congratulations to fourth graders Kevin Johansen and Andrew Susi for winning the Stock Market Game, placing first in the New Jersey North Elementary School Division of the 2021-2022 Yearlong Competitive Session!

On Thursday, May 19, the K-4 classes had their move up day, in which they visited their classes for the coming school year. We also hosted our incoming kindergarteners and their families.

On Friday, May 20, our Middle School bands competed at the High Notes Music Festivals. The 5/6 grade band and the jazz band earned an "Excellent" rating and our 7/8 grade band earned an "Exemplary" rating, the highest rating possible. Thanks to Mr. G for all his hard work!

On Saturday, May 21, the "Girls on the Run" club completed their 5K on Saturday and absolutely crushed it! All of the girls pushed themselves to the finish and we are so proud of them and all of the hard work they put in this season!

The Middle School Student Government Association sponsored a Color Wars tournament during the week of May 23. The grades competed in team building challenges throughout the week, including an escape room, gaga tournament and a trivia contest. The teams raised over \$280 through their "Penny Wars" for St. Jude's Children's Hospital. Congratulations to the seventh grade winning team!

On Saturday June 4, one of our HCS esports teams with members earned a trip to the state finals. Liam Malinsky, Hayden Faricelli, Kieran Nath, Luke Wojciechowicz, Rahul Fernandes and Alex Velazquez represented HCS in the Smash Bros semi finals. Mr Keeler, a Smash pro, has been coaching them. Esports is more than just video games, there is a lot of strategy and team work needed to be successful. Congrats to the team and their advisors Mr. Keeler and Mr. Kunkel!

On Tuesday, June 7, under the direction of Mr. Gavarny, the K-8 program hosted their annual Summer Gathering concert: All Together Now.

Congratulations to Mr. Kunkel for being featured in the Hudson Reporter last week regarding his work at HCS and in particular, his recognition by New Jersey FIRST Tech Challenge New Jersey (FTCNJ) for his contributions to their robotics organization.

On Friday, June 10, the K-8 program participated in Field Day. Thanks to Mr. Flynn and the FoHCS in organizing the fun event.

On Tuesday, June 14, students in grades 5-8 presented their science projects at the Middle School Science Fair.

On Tuesday, June 21, the eighth grade class had their commencement program at HOPES.

## **12. Upper School Report**

The Music Club completed a year of exploring and enjoying music by visiting important music sights in New York. The Exploring Art class went to the Museum of Modern Art to see works they had been studying all year. World History students went to the Irish Hunger Memorial and the Museum of Jewish Heritage to discuss the role of memorials in shaping a shared historical memory of tragic events.

The Joy as Resistance elective worked with an alum parent to experience meditation with sound healing. She shared information with them about the benefits of meditation and taking time to heal.

We continued celebrating our Seniors with a Volleyball Night, Prom, a class trip to Six Flags, and Senior Night. Senior night included presentations of their Senior Projects as well as a Senior Awards Dinner on the rooftop.

These seniors are incredibly accomplished, with 2 graduates having earned at least a semester’s worth of college credit through our dual enrollment program, and 38% of them leaving with some college credit. These 21 seniors were accepted to over 65 different colleges, universities and technical programs and offered a total of \$2,212,456 in scholarship funds.

**13. Public Comments**

There were no public comments.

**14. Looking Ahead**

June 30, 2022	Filing for FEMA grant for allowable Covid expenditures.
June 30, 2022	Filing for ESSER II allowable expenditures reimbursement.
July 6, 2022	Respond to NJ Dept of Agriculture administrative review corrective actions.
July Board Meeting	Discussion and possible resolution to establish and fund a Long Range Facilities Plan for the school.
August 1, 2022	Approval of School Annual Report, to be distributed in advance of board meeting.

The board secretary was directed to conduct a Doodle poll to find convenient times for board meetings in July and August.

The board discussed publicizing the positive role of HCS in the community, especially in light of the moving graduation ceremony at the high school. Joint efforts with other Hoboken charters were also discussed.

Lauren Calmas reminded the board to complete its online Self-Evaluation by June 30<sup>th</sup>.

**15. Executive Session.** By a motion by Mark Silberberg that was seconded by Dana Wissing, the board unanimously approved entry into executive session at 8:42.

**16. Return to Open Session.** By a motion by Mark Silberberg that was seconded by Dana Wissing, the board unanimously approved a return to open session at 9:10

**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, June 21, 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, June 21, 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	1	X			

Joy Wheeler		X			
Dana Wissing	2	X			

Certified by Board Secretary: Steve Literati  
Date: July 6, 2022  
Adjournment: 9:12

### **Appendix: Hoboken Charter School Nutrition and Wellness Policy**

The Hoboken Charter School Board of Trustees recognizes that child and adolescent obesity has reached epidemic levels in the United States and that poor diet combined with the lack of physical activity negatively impacts students' health and their ability and motivation to learn. The Board is committed to:

- Providing students with healthy and nutritious foods;
- Encouraging the consumption of fresh fruits and vegetables, low fat milk and whole grains;
- Supporting healthy eating through nutrition education;
- Encouraging students to select and consume all components of the school meal;
- Providing students with the opportunity to engage in regular physical activity.

Hoboken Charter School, in accordance with federal and state requirements, is committed to promoting nutrition and physical activity that fosters lifelong habits of healthy living. Students will be encouraged and given ample opportunity to eat fruits, vegetables, water, low-fat milk and whole grains. HCS ensures that that all students in grades K-12 participate in physical education classes to promote familiarity with athletics and a commitment to healthy physical activity. Students in the lower and middle school have time built into their weekly schedule for regular recess, providing additional opportunity for physical activity. Health is taught at all grade levels from K-12. In health class, students learn about numerous aspects of healthy living and reflect upon their own life choices. It is expected that what they learn in these classes informs their choices outside of the class. HCS is committed to providing a consistent, healthy message to students throughout the school environment. Successful implementation requires involvement from students, parents, school staff, and the community to make nutrition and fitness fun and exciting.

Schools can play a major role in helping students become fit, healthy and ready to learn. One way to accomplish this is for foods offered in schools to support lessons learned in the classroom regarding nutrition and physical activity. What better venue than schools-which have a great impact on children- to support the message that proper nutrition and physical activity are a key part of a healthy lifestyle.

Celebrating the school lunch program and after-school events offer opportunities for schools to reinforce the message that making healthy food choices and being physically active means a healthier body and a sharper mind. With that in mind, Hoboken Charter School shall reduce the purchase of any products containing trans fats. All reimbursable meals shall meet federal nutrient standards as required by the U.S. Department of Agriculture Child Nutrition Program regulations. The following items may not be served, sold or given out as free promotion anywhere on school property at any time at school:

- Foods of minimal nutritional value (FMNV) as defined by U.S. Department of Agriculture regulations;
- All food and beverage items listing sugar, in any form, as the first ingredient;
- All forms of candy.

Likewise, the following list contains healthy items that guardians can consider when packing snack choices for students:

- Fresh fruit
- Vegetables (possibly with hummus or a dip)
- String cheese or cheese cubes
- Yogurt

- Bottled water
- Whole grain granola bars
- Pre-shelled seeds like sunflower and pumpkin
- Popcorn
- Applesauce
- Rice cakes

**Please be aware that we are a nut-aware school. To that end, we ask that students and families not bring to school any food item that contains nuts. The school will also make every effort to ensure that food provided through the lunch program and other vendors is nut free.**

Additionally, all snack and beverage items sold or served anywhere on school property during the school day, including items sold in fundraisers, shall meet the following standards:

1. Based on manufacturers nutritional data or nutrient facts labels:
  - No more than 8 grams of total fat per serving, with the exception of seeds.
  - No more than 2 grams of saturated fat per serving.
2. All beverages offered shall be milk, water or 100% fruit or vegetable juice and shall not exceed 12 ounces, with the following exceptions:
  - Water
  - Milk containing 1% or less fat
3. Whole milk shall not exceed 8 ounces.

Food and beverages served during special school celebrations or during curriculum related activities shall be exempt from this policy with the exception of foods of minimal nutritional value as defined by USDA regulations.

Adequate time shall be allowed for student meal service and consumption, and a pleasant eating environment should be provided. This school district's curriculum shall incorporate nutrition education and physical activity consistent with the New Jersey Department of Education Core Curriculum Content Standards. The HCS Board is committed to promoting the Nutrition Policy with all food service personnel, teachers, nurses, coaches and other school administrative staff so they have the skills they need to implement this policy and promote healthy eating practices. The Board will work toward expanding awareness about this policy among students, parents, teachers and the community at large.

The Board will review, alter, and approve the School Nutrition and Wellness Policy annually.

Exceptions can be made to the policy for students with specific medical needs as per student IEP and 504 Plans.