



MINUTES OF BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
713 WASHINGTON STREET
HOBOKEN, NJ 07030
OCTOBER 18, 2022
7:00 p.m.

MEETING OVERVIEW

PRINCIPALS JOANNA WEINTRAUB AND ELIZABETH PALMA PROVIDED A SUMMARY OVERVIEW OF THE RESULTS NEW JERSEY STUDENT LEARNING STANDARDS ASSESSMENT (NJSLA) AND GRADUATION PROFICIENCY ASSESSMENT (GPA) ASSESSMENTS TAKEN BY STUDENTS IN SPRING 2022. RESULTS OF THESE ASSESSMENTS WERE GENERALLY IN LINE WITH PAST PERFORMANCES OF STUDENTS AT THE SCHOOL; HOWEVER, THERE WERE SOME VARIATIONS DUE TO THE SMALL SIZE OF THE SCHOOL'S GRADE COHORTS. GENERALLY, HCS STUDENTS PERFORMED AT A HIGHER LEVEL THAN STATE AVERAGES.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GRODE AND BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR LITERATI PROVIDED AN UPDATE ON THE NEW HEALTHCARE PLANS THAT WILL BE OFFERED TO SCHOOL EMPLOYEES IN NOVEMBER.

1. **Call to Order.** The meeting was called to order by Joy Wheeler at 7:08.

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 June 30, 2022 via notification to City Hall, the City Clerk's Office on Washington Street, *the Bergen Record*, *The Hudson Reporter* 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, Principal of Upper School

Lizzie Palma, Principal of Lower School

Danielle Panizzi, Board Attorney

Mike and Julie Tobin, parents

Brayah O'Connor and Amber Rodriguez, student representatives to board

Danyel Laroza, student

3. Acceptance of Minutes for September 20, 2022

Minutes of the previous public special Board meeting held September 20, 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 September 20, 2022.

ROLL CALL VOTE

| TRUSTEE | MOTION | YES | NO | ABSTAIN | ABSENT |
|------------------|--------|-----|----|---------|--------|
| John Berger | | X | | | |
| Lauren Calmas | 2 | X | | | |
| Amanda Grant | | X | | | |
| Lisa McIntyre | | | | | X |
| Kelly Pansy | | | | X | |
| Christine Sheedy | | | | X | |
| Mark Silberberg | 1 | X | | | |
| Joy Wheeler | | X | | | |
| Dana Wissing | | 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. There were no comments or questions.

5. Presentation

Elizabeth Palma and Joanna Weintraub reported on the results of the 2022 NJSLA & NJGPA. Key points were:

- The tests were administered in Spring 2022.
- This is the first NJSLA test given since 2019.
- The state instituted the NJGPA (Graduation Proficiency Assessment) for 11th grade students.
- The results were typical of our historical trends and are in line with the Start Strong assessment presented last year. Start Strong is a shorter, light version of the NJSLA that is completely computer-scored. It was given in the Fall of 2021 as a method to predict how students would perform.
- There are significant variations between the grades due to the small cohorts in each. This is typical of how HCS has performed historically and to be expected given our class sizes.
- HCS generally performs above the state average in grades 3 to 8 and HCS performs at about the state averages in grades 9 to 11.

6. Personnel

- 6.1 Resolved, that the Board of Trustees approves Mary Kate Rogan as Apprentice Teacher Leave Replacement Teacher effective October 20, 2022 through March 31, 2023, subject to completion of a county sub license, certification and/or criminal background check.

- 6.2 Resolved, that the Board of Trustees approves the resignation of Teacher Kevin Flynn effective October 28, 2022.
- 6.3 Resolved, that the Board of Trustees approves the resignation of Teacher Shaun Procaccini effective October 31, 2022.

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 | 1 | X | | | |
| Mark Silberberg | | X | | | |
| Joy Wheeler | | X | | | |
| Dana Wissing | | X | | | |

7. Finance

- 7.1 Resolved, that the Board of Trustees approved the Board Secretary and Treasurer's Reports for September 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 September, 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.
- 7.2 Resolved, that the Board of Trustees approves the bills list from September 17, 2022 to October 14, 2022. (Attached schedule.)
- 7.3 Resolved, that the Board of Trustees approves the approves the following payrolls:

| Date | Amount |
|--------------------|--------------|
| September 15, 2022 | \$160,218.82 |
| September 30, 2022 | \$166,793.92 |

- 7.4 Resolved, that the Board of Trustees approves hiring of DMR Architecture Planning to produce a Long-Range Facilities Plan for HCS, subject to a check of references of that firm. (Proposal attached.)
- 7.5 Resolved, that the Board of Trustees approves an Employee Health Care Plan that is described in the attached briefing. (Proposal attached.)

ROLL CALL VOTE

| TRUSTEE | MOTION | YES | NO | ABSTAIN | ABSENT |
|---------------|--------|-----|----|---------|--------|
| John Berger | | X | | | |
| Lauren Calmas | 1 | | | X | |
| Amanda Grant | | X | | | |

| | | | | | |
|------------------|---|---|--|--|---|
| Lisa McIntyre | | | | | X |
| Kelly Pansy | | X | | | |
| Christine Sheedy | | X | | | |
| Mark Silberberg | | X | | | |
| Joy Wheeler | | X | | | |
| Dana Wissing | 2 | X | | | |

8. Enrollment

Enrollment as of October 14, 2022

| Grade | Enrolled Students | Grade | Enrolled Students |
|-------|-------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|
| K | 22 | 9 | 25 |
| 1 | 23 (overenrolled) | 10 | 26 |
| 2 | 22 | 11 | 24 |
| 3 | 22 | 12 | 24 |
| 4 | 22 | | |
| 5 | 22 | | |
| 6 | 23 | | |
| 7 | 21 | | |
| 8 | 22 | Total Students Enrolled | 298 |
| | | Total Funded Students | 297 |

9. Executive Director's School Report

HCS continues to work toward its strategic goals that were presented at the October Friends meeting and the September Board Meeting.

- Since the September meeting, the K-4 teachers have rolled out our new Social Justice based Hispanic Heritage read aloud curriculum and have begun rolling out our new Accessibility Awareness read aloud curriculum.
- We have gotten into full swing with the implementation of Responsive Classroom, Zones of Regulation and our new Advisory models in grades 5-12.
- Community building has been a priority with community building experiences central to classroom, division-level and advisory work.
- We have resumed field trips to pre-Covid levels and are happy to support experiential learning through these opportunities for our students.
- In an effort to support the Home-School connection and partnership, the HCS Special Education Parent Advisory Committee hosted a back-to-school executive functioning webinar for families on Tuesday, October 4. We opened this event up to other families in the community as well.
- During the week of October 3-7, 2022, HCS observed the annual New Jersey Week of Respect. This week is recognized statewide in all schools in accordance with the Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights as a means of highlighting and promoting social emotional learning and a safe and supportive learning environment. As in previous years, HCS observed this week with school-wide activities that promote respect and kindness for all (door decorating contests, wearing blue to stand up for bullying, creating a schoolwide kindness tree). Events like these bolster our community and with positive social-emotional impacts.
- Communicating our unique school mission is a priority. On October 13th, HCS hosted an Open House for prospective K-12 families. Middle and upper school students served as panelists and tour guides and families could learn about the unique program offerings of our lower, middle and upper schools and the value of an integrated, mission-driven K-12 experience. On Thursday, September 29, the K-12 program welcomed families to school for Back to School Night. Families had the

opportunity to hear presentations from their child's teachers, tour the building and meet support staff. Our unique mission was underscored in each classroom with how our mission comes to life in each classroom.

- I sent a one-page document that highlighted our mission to all K-12 families in advance of our Back to School Night and these are posted in all K-12 classrooms and have been distributed at Open House events.

10. Lower/Middle School Report

On Thursday and Friday September 22-23, 84 Middle School students and 10 staff members participated in an overnight team building trip at YMCA Camp Mason in Hardwick, NJ. Students were divided in mix grade groups and went canoeing, completed a mid-ropes course, climbed a vertical playpen, and participated in other collaborative games and activities. It was fantastic to see students work together, build new friendships and participate in awesome outdoor activities.

On Tuesday, October 11, Kaéla Edwards (a previous HCS community member) and Erin Cassidy, two Seton Hall School of Law students, presented to the 4th grade about safe investing. After an engaging presentation, students designed a company and brand and determined if they should go public with the company. This presentation helped kick off the class' participation in the Stock Market Game.

The Middle School Future City elective visited the Skyscraper Museum on Friday, October 7 to help with their planning for this year's theme.

Students in grades K-4 are exploring accessibility awareness through read alouds this month. There are many positive outcomes for students as they see representation of those with disabilities and explicitly learn about physical and cognitive differences as well as finding commonalities with all people- despite differences. These benefits include the development of empathy and emotional intelligence, the reduction of implicit bias, stereotyping and bullying and the overall promotion of inclusivity. Our students will take these skills and learnings with them beyond school.

11. Upper School Report

The Student Leadership Committee is composed of a leader representing each grade. These students will serve as Student Board Representatives and attend board meetings throughout the school year. This Student Leadership Committee planned a Spirit Week to kick off volleyball season and is planning a Halloween dance. We have also had student leaders representing us at high school fairs and the Open House for prospective students.

We partnered with the organization SuitUp again this year, providing an opportunity for our Seniors. They visited the marketing firm Wunderkind, located in the WTC, to participate in a friendly pitch competition. Our students worked with mentors in the industry to develop and present their ideas.

The end of October has many state testing dates with the Start Strong pre-tests in all grades and the PSAT for grades 10th and 11th.

12. Public Comments

A parent shared that he didn't think enough information about the safety of the venue of the Camp Mason trip was shared in advance of the trip.

13. Looking Ahead

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|------------------|---|
| October 27, 2022 | School's auditor Darren Fusaro will visit the school as part of his audit process |
|------------------|---|

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|-------------------|--|
| November 15, 2022 | Friends of HCS Leadership Update |
| November 30, 2022 | Current employee healthcare plan expires |
| December 1, 2022 | New healthcare plan begins. |

14. New Business/Report from Committees

Dana Wissing mentioned that a date had been set for the School Gala on March 10, 2023 at the W Hotel.

15. Executive Session. With a motion by Christine Sheedy that was seconded by John Berger and approved unanimously by board members present, the board went into closed executive session at 8:49. A confidential matter involving a student was discussed.

16. Return to Open Session. With a motion by Christine Sheedy that was seconded by John Berger and approved unanimously by board members present, the board returned to open session at 9:02.

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, October 18, 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, October 18, 2022.

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 | | | |

Certified by Board Secretary: Steve Literati

Date: October 19, 2022

Adjournment: 9:05 pm