



BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING  
713 WASHINGTON STREET  
HOBOKEN, NJ 07030  
DECEMBER 20, 2022  
7:00 p.m.

- 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 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		
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 15, 2022**

Minutes of the previous public special Board meeting held November 15, 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 November 15, 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					

**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 approves Arlington Rowley as Teacher effective December 12, 2022, subject to completion of a county sub license, certification and/or criminal background check.
- 5.2 Resolved, that the Board of Trustees approves Martha Mendez as Instructional Aide effective January 5, 2023.
- 5.3 Resolved, that the Board of Trustees approves the resignation of Teacher, Alexis Morales, effective December 23, 2022.
- 5.4 Resolved, that the Board of Trustees approves Paige Trillo as Teacher effective January 3, 2023.

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 Treasurer’s Report and Secretary’s Report for November 2022, as per the attached. October’s Secretary’s Report, which was not available at last month’s board meeting, is included for you review and approval.
- 6.2 Resolved, that the Board of Trustees approves the bills list from November 12, 2022 to December 13, 2022. (Attached schedule.)

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

Date	Amount
November 15, 2022	\$174,937.01
November 30, 2022	\$164,030.87

6.4 Resolved, that the Board of Trustees approves the approves the submission of the partial audited financial statements for the year ended June 30, 2022 required for the AUDSUM submission to the NJ Department of Education (attached.) This submission is due on January 5, 2023.

**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 as of December 20, 2022

Grade	Enrolled Students	Grade	Enrolled Students
K	22	9	26
1	23 (overenrolled)	10	27
2	22	11	23
3	22	12	24
4	22		
5	22		
6	23		
7	21		
8	22	Total Students Enrolled	299
		Total Funded Students	298

**8. Executive Director’s School Report**

HCS submitted an application to Building Hope Impact for the Model Charter School Award based on our experience with community engagement, innovation and student empowerment. Semi-finalists will be announced in February.

HCS is preparing to build its alumni network. Work has begun in outlining our goals, exploring CRMs, collecting data predating our SIS and seeking interns and community experts to support the process.

Executive Director Deirdra Grode attended a virtual three-day PD series entitled Teaching Towards Social Justice, Civic Engagement, and Project-Based Learning. This series delved into bringing opportunities to address social justice and civic engagement via PBL to Grades 2-9. She left invigorated and with resources and contacts to support and extend our work around PBL, civic engagement and social justice at HCS.

One goal this year is to increase community partnerships to add new programming in the day and after school. In addition to MSC, the Jackson Street facility, the Hoboken Shelter, the JC Community Garden, Mad Science, The Lighthouse and the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, we have added Urban Arts, Shenaaz Dance Academy, Tenafly Nature Center, Tiger Schulmann Karate, Barat Foundation, Educational Arts Team and Vineyard to increase after school and school day programming. We have also been pursuing WinterRKids, Hoboken Sailing Club (sailing), Compass (skiing and swimming) and the Shipyard Marina/Hoboken Boat Charters (fishing) to explore additional options. Lastly, we have increased our partnerships with Sokolow Dance Company and Speranza Theater programming to our upper school.

Another one of our goals for this year is to increase using the community and world outside school to extend our school walls and learning via field experiences and field trips. We have been finding great field trip opportunities to reinforce student learning across grades and disciplines. Field trips have been numerous already and have included museums, colleges, a farm, theaters, Camp Mason and we are also bringing back the Lincoln Center and Carnegie Hall partnerships back this year.

## **9. Lower/Middle School Report**

During the months of November and December, the Lower and Middle School Student Government Associations held their elections.

On Sunday, November 13, our 8th grade robotics team, The Robotic Llamas, had their first main competition of the season. They came out strong, ranking second in their league currently. They also set the current state high score, also 8th in the nation, during one of their matches.

On Saturday, November 19, HCS had five different teams compete at our local FIRST Lego League robotics competition. All five teams put in tons of work to get there and did a great job. The seventh grade team, the CouGears, came in 9th place out of 44. The big winners of the day were the 5th grade Robotic Llamas. They came in 8th (just narrowly outscoring the 7th graders) but also performed very well in their judging session. They won the Motivate Award, given to teams that embrace the culture of FIRST LEGO League through team building, team spirit and displayed enthusiasm. They also advanced to the state championship.

During the week of November 28, the Middle School closed out the first trimester with presentations from their Artsbridge electives:

- World Drumming (5/6)
- Guitar (7/8)
- Dance (5-8)
- Drawing and Paper Arts (5-8)
- Art Exploration (7/8)
- Bringing Literature to Life (5/6)

On Friday, December 2, our Middle School Mission Lab classes shared their work from the trimester from the following classes:

- Debate
- Tech Projects/Challenge Math/Future
- Sports and Society

- The Big Apple
- International Media
- Green Bosses
- Adaptation Book Club

In December, K-4 students spent the month exploring human rights. Through our new HCS-designed K-4 Social Justice Read Aloud Curriculum, K-4 students will understand the concept of human rights and what some of those rights are, and they will gain familiarity with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR). Critical to this work will be ways in which people, including youth, and organizations have worked and continue to work for change. Each grade will explore at least one focus area as outlined below.

- Kindergarten - Hunger and Food Insecurity (Article 25)
- 1st Grade- Homelessness (Article 25)
- 2nd Grade- Right to Education (Article 26)
- 3rd Grade - Safety and Security with a Focus on Refugees (Articles 13-15)
- 4th Grade - Voting Rights (Article 21)

The 4th graders are back at it again for their fifth year in a row, teaming up with the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society (LLS) in their “Light the Night” campaign to kick off this holiday season. 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 16th.'

Our Lower and Middle School classes participated in the following field trips:

- Girls Who Code members visit Spyscape to view exhibits explaining how computer exploits, aka hacking, comprises a large portion of modern day spying.
- The fifth grade visited MoMath
- The eighth grade visited the Museum of Illusion
- The third and fourth grades attended a production of "A Christmas Carol" at Mile Square Theater

Over the past weeks, in lieu of health class, K-4 students engaged in a series of lessons around wellness, mindfulness and stress management with Mikaela and/or Martha Mendez. Students explored the following:

- how to know when you are worried;
- how to sort worries into what you can and cannot control and address the things you can control;
- reframing your mindset - Instead of “I am stuck at home,” try thinking, “I’m lucky that I am healthy and safe at home.” Also, instead of focusing on worries, what ifs, I cant’s and I’m scared, think of I’ll try and I can alternatives;
- finding bravery when afraid;

- using guided imagery to find a peaceful and calming place;
- seeking out adults (a parent/caretaker, teacher, Ms. Londono, etc.) when in need of support; and
- numerous additional techniques to shrink your worries and reduce stress including grounding, deep breathing and progressive muscle relaxation.

Techniques were shared with families for their reinforcement in the home with the goal of supporting students in their development of strategies to manage and reduce stress and worries and support mindfulness.

**10. Upper School Report**

The Murals and Public Art Elective students unveiled their amazing stairwell mural at the Upper School in an event with their teacher, Ms. Sanchez. The students studied murals as activism, developed visuals to represent the causes about which they feel passionate, and created a cohesive mural that covers the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> floors of the Upper School stairwell. Students included visual statements about diversity at HCS, abortion and LGBTQ+ rights, BLM and justice for people of color. These are all connected by a rainbow of hope!

We hosted celebrations for our Girls Volleyball team as well as for Cougar Citizens, Scholar Athletes, Honor Roll and High Honors at the end of Marking Period 1.

Juniors and Seniors have continued to meet with colleges, learning about their many options. Ms. Feit took a group into NYC to visit schools there as well. Ms. Feit has worked diligently to get to know all of our Seniors in record time, we hosted a workshop with NJ Higher Education Student Assistance Authority (HESAA) to support families with the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

**11. Public Comments**

**12. Looking Ahead**

January 5, 2023	AUDSUM report due to State DOE
January 17, 2023	Chris Kunkel will present HCS Start Strong data
February 6, 2023	ACFR due to State DOE
February 28, 2022	Matthew Messenger and Anne Ballman – Restorative Practices Presentation

**13. New Business/Report from Committees**

**14. 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 20, 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, December 20, 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					

Certified by Board Secretary:

Date:

Adjournment: