



BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING - MINUTES  
 713 WASHINGTON STREET  
 HOBOKEN, NJ 07030  
 JANUARY 17, 2023  
 7:00 p.m.

MEETING OVERVIEW

THE BOARD WELCOMED A NEW MEMBER, GRACE GUANDIQUE, AT THIS MEETING. TEACHER CHRIS KUNKEL PRESENTED A SUMMARY OF THE RESULTS OF THE STATE ASSESSMENT CALLED START STRONG.

1. **Call to Order**. The meeting was called to order at 7:10 by Joy Wheeler.
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  
 Elizabeth Palma, K-8 Principal  
 Joanna Weintraub, 9-12 Principal  
 Grace Guandique, Board nominee  
 Chris Kunkel, Teacher  
 Jody Howlett, Board Attorney

**3. Acceptance of Minutes for December 20, 2022**

Minutes of the previous public special Board meeting held December 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 December 20, 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	2	X			
Mark Silberberg				X	
Joy Wheeler		X			
Dana Wissing		X			

**4. Board Business/Miscellaneous**

- 4.1 Resolved, that the Hoboken Charter School Board of Trustees elects Grace Guandique to the Board for a three-year term.

**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	2	X			
Mark Silberberg		X			
Joy Wheeler		X			
Dana Wissing		X			

**5. 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.

**6. Presentation**

Mr. Christopher Kunkel gave a presentation on Fall 2022 Start Strong Data

**7. Finance**

- 7.1 Resolved, that the Board of Trustees approved the Treasurer's Report and Secretary's Report for December 2022, (attached.)

- 7.2 Resolved, that the Board of Trustees approves the bills list from December 14, 2022 to January 12, 2023 (attached.)
- 7.3 Resolved, that the Board of Trustees approves the approves the following payrolls:

Date	Amount
December 15, 2022	\$172,611.38
December 31, 2022	\$164,159.61

**ROLL CALL VOTE**

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

**8. Enrollment**

Enrollment as of January 17, 2023

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

**9. Executive Director's School Report**

A video highlighting the HCS mission with recent images of the mission in action will be shared with the HCS community and used for promotional materials. We hope to use this video to also connect with alumni.

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

Students across grades K-4 will explore Civil Rights in January through our new Social Justice Read Aloud Curriculum. Big ideas are as follows:

- How did everyday people help bring about change?
- How did the civil rights movement change the United States?
- What inequalities continue to exist?
- What work remains to be done in the effort to create a just and equitable society?

The Middle School Green Bosses have been venturing out into solicit donations from local businesses for the NJ Humane Society. Several businesses on Washington St. allowed students to put donation boxes in their stores. The class is collecting wet or dry cat and dog food, towels, blankets and old clothes we can upcycle into cat and dog toys or beds.

The fourth graders completed their two week "Light the Night" campaign before winter break, raising a total of \$13,700 for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society.

Eighth grade students had the opportunity to meet Ron Bautista, a candidate for Hudson County Commissioner, as part of their Government and Civics Unit in social studies. Mr. Bautista spoke about his experience launching his campaign for commissioner, what the position entails and the process for developing a vision for improving Hudson County. The students had an opportunity to ask questions about the local government process.

The following classes have participated in experiential field trips outside of the classroom:

- The "Six" Elective visited the Met to view the Tudor Exhibit
- 1st and 2nd Graders attended a performance at Carnegie Hall on January 11 where they listened to artists from around the world perform a vibrant, highly interactive concert. Gullah music with Quiana, Malian traditional music with Yacouba and hip-hop with Soul Science Lab were explored in music class leading up to today's concert, and our students had the opportunity to sing the songs they've learned with these artists and hear some new songs from each performer as well.

## **11. Upper School Report**

The Dance Exploration class and other Upper School Students welcomed Associate Professor and Director of Dance at FAU Clarence Brooks to perform Talley Beatty's "The Mourner's Bench" (1947). One of several dances that speak to social justice issues created during the New Dance Group era (1930-1960), it was originally created in response to Beatty's reading of Howard Fast's book Freedom Road, about the annihilation of utopian communities by the KKK. Says Brooks, "My interpretation speaks directly to continued evidence of racism via police in/accountability, #TakeAKnee, and Black Lives Matter." Students spoke with Mr. Brooks about careers and training in choreography and dance as well as his experience as a dance activist. Thank you to Ms. Samantha Geracht, our Dance Explorations teacher and parent of HCS alums, for bringing this experience to our students!

The Upper School was happy to welcome Ms. Paige Trillo as a new math teacher. Ms. Trillo has jumped right into our community and is getting to know everyone.

Students worked in their math and English Language Arts classes to complete the winter Star360 assessments. These assessments give teachers additional information about student progress and skill growth.

We look forward to discussing student growth at Report Card and Conference Night on Thursday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>. The night will include both virtual and in person meeting options.

**12. Public Comments**

**13. Looking Ahead**

February 15, 2023	Revised 2023 Budget due to state. (Only major variances are reported.)
February 28, 2023	Matthew Messenger and Anne Ballman – Restorative Practices Presentation
February 28, 2023	Darren Fusaro to review Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR) and Chuck DeMeola to review Form 990 federal tax return for board approval
March 17, 2023	ACFR due to state DOE.
March 23, 2023	Board meeting review of 2024 Budget.
March 28, 2023	Tentative board meeting to finalize 2024 Budget.

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

Lauren provided an update on a new PILOT program under consideration by the city of Hoboken. It is in the 3<sup>rd</sup> ward and will be similar to the development at 770 Jackson Street.

Dana Wissing provided an update on initiatives and activities at the Friends organization and noted that they were in the process of updating their website.

Several board members suggested that we invite the mayor and council members to the school’s Gala.

**15. Closed Executive Session.** By a motion by Lisa McIntyre that was seconded by Christine Sheedy, the board unanimously voted to enter into closed session at 8:22. The matter involved student discipline.

**16. Return to Open Session.** By a motion by Lisa McIntyre that was seconded by Christine Sheedy, the board unanimously voted to return to open session at 8:26.

**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, January 17, 2023.

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, January 17, 2023.

**ROLL CALL VOTE**

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

Certified by Board Secretary: Steve Literati

Date: January 31, 2023

Adjournment: 8:26