



BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING - MINUTES  
713 WASHINGTON STREET  
HOBOKEN, NJ 07030  
FEBRUARY 28, 2023  
7:00 p.m.

MEETING OVERVIEW

THE BOARD VOTED TO HIRE AN ARCHITECT AND ENGINEERING FIRM TO HELP COMPLETE PLANS FOR A NEW HVAC SYSTEM. THE BOARD ALSO VOTED TO ACCEPT AND SUBMIT THE SCHOOL'S ANNUAL REPORT AND FORM 990 TAX RETURN FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2022. REPORTS FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND PRINCIPALS OF THE K-8 SCHOOL AND HIGH SCHOOL WERE PROVIDED.

1. **Call to Order**. The meeting was called to order at 7:04 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
Grace Guandique	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  
Lizzie Palma, Principal of K-8  
Joanna Weintraub, Principal of High School  
Jodi Howlett, board attorney

3. **Acceptance of Minutes for January 17, 2023**

Minutes of the previous public special Board meeting held January 17, 2023, were made 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 17, 2023.

#### ROLL CALL VOTE

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

#### 5. Education

- 5.1 Resolved, that the Board of Trustees approves the submission of 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.

#### Roll Call Vote

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

#### 6. Personnel

- 6.1 Resolved, that the Board of Trustees approves the resignation of Teacher, Alyssa Roth, Apprentice Teacher, effective February 23, 2023.
- 6.2 Resolved, that the Board of Trustees approves the extension of contract for Mary Kate Rogan as Apprentice Teacher through June 30, 2023.
- 6.3 Resolved, that the Board of Trustees approves a correction to the contract of Jennifer Feit so that she is paid on the grid to reflect her actual education level of MA +30 backdated to her start date. (She had been paid as MA.)
- 6.4 Resolved, that the Board of Trustees approves professional development programs for Matthew Persico to attend Live Online Event on What's New in Young Adult Literature. The event will take place on Thursday, March 23, 2023. The total cost of the event is \$279.00.
- 6.5 Resolved, that the Board of Trustees approves professional development programs for Padma Lingechetty-Isom to attend Live Online Seminar on Helping Your Struggling Readers Who Have Fallen Behind. The event will take place on Tuesday, April 18, 2023. The total cost of the event is \$279.00.

#### Roll Call Vote

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

## 7. **Board Business**

- 7.1 Resolved, that the Board of Trustees approves the hiring of architect Nelson Benevides to complete an architectural plan needed to submit to the City of Hoboken planning department to evaluate a proposal to install a new HVAC system in the building at 713 Washington Street. Total cost will not exceed \$5,000. Proposal is attached.
- 7.2 Resolved, that the Board of Trustees approves the hiring of a structural engineering firm, JAG Engineering, to evaluate the feasibility of placing an HVAC unit on the bulkhead of the roof of the building at 713 Washington Street. Total cost will be \$4,900. Proposal is attached.

#### Roll Call Vote

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

Joy Wheeler		X			
Dana Wissing	2	X			

## 8. **Finance**

- 8.1 Resolved, that the Board of Trustees approves the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR) for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2022, and authorizes that report to be filed with the State of New Jersey Board of Education (attached.)
- 8.2 Resolved, that the board of Trustees approves the filing of Form 990 tax return for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2022 (attached.)
- 8.3 Resolved, that the Board of Trustees approved the Treasurer's Report and Secretary's Report for January 2023 (attached.)
- 8.4 Resolved, that the Board of Trustees approves the bills list from January 13, 2023 to February 14, 2023. (attached.)
- 8.5 Resolved, that the Board of Trustees approves the approves the following payrolls:

Date	Amount
January 15, 2023	\$167,405.62
January 31, 2023	\$168,852.69

### ROLL CALL VOTE

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

## 9. **Enrollment**

As of February 28, 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

#### 10. Lottery 2023-2024

<i>Grade</i>	<i>Hoboken Siblings</i>	<i>Out of district siblings</i>	<i>Hoboken Residents</i>	<i>Out of District Residents</i>	<i>Total # applications</i>	<i>Applications received by deadline of January 12, 2023.</i>
<b>Kindergarten:</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>195</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>245</b>	
<b>Grade 1:</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>79</b>	
<b>Grade 2:</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>56</b>	
<b>Grade 3:</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>42</b>	
<b>Grade 4:</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>30</b>	
<b>Grade 5:</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>28</b>	
<b>Grade 6:</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>31</b>	
<b>Grade 7:</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>29</b>	
<b>Grade 8:</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>10</b>	
<b>Grade 9:</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>159</b>	
<b>Grade 10:</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>13</b>	
<b>Grade 11:</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>6</b>	
<b>Grade 12:</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>452</b>	<b>251</b>	<b>729</b>	

#### 11. Executive Director's School Report

HCS has been actively working to increase our social media presence to better educate our own community as well as those outside our community on our mission in action. Efforts are being made to increase activity as well as viewership.

HCS will partner with the Friends of HCS again to launch a survey around parent expertise in areas that could support the school and Friends (for example, accounting, CRM management, alumni affairs, website design, social media specialist, etc.)

Black History Month has been celebrated throughout the K-12 program through student and school-led initiatives in curriculum and programming. See our social media for images of this important work!

#### 12. Lower/Middle School Report

As a service learning project, the sixth grade class organized a toiletry drive for The Lighthouse organization, as a part of their reading of the book "Refugee". This organization helps provide resources for refugees in the area.

On Saturday January 14, HCS continued its tradition of having middle school teams participate in the statewide Future City Competition, which was in person for the first time in three years. Presenting members from two teams showed off their work to judges, who are professional engineers, at the competition held at Rutgers. Using the Engineering Design Process (EDP) and project management skills, students showcase their solutions to a citywide sustainability issue. This year's challenge asks students to address climate change in their city. Both teams worked very hard with all aspects of the competition, which includes a research essay, a scale model, and the in person judging presentation. The teams have been working since September during enrichment elective and mission lab.

The two teams were:

- Seventh graders Julia Mylan and Madison Danni, who presented and were assisted by Mya Watson, Leeanah Groomes, Avery Chavez and Lola Franceski with their city "Dominia."
- Eighth graders Jordyn Eisen, Mark Pitino and Zander Goran who presented and were assisted by fifth graders Nysha Mehendiratta, Brooke Dalton, Chiara Cascetta and Juju Haddad with their city "Arrosa." This team won 8th place out of 60+ teams!

In January, 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 Debate Mission Lab sent Arielle Noy, Max Goski, and Claire Goodman as a novice team to the January tournament in the New York Debate League. Arielle won Best Speaker at HCS, the team won 5th place in the novice division, and HCS won the second place trophy for highest percentage of wins.

Congratulations to all the participants in our annual schoolwide grade 4-8 spelling bee on Friday, January 27. A special thank you to Ms. Isom for coordinating the event and a special shout out to our winners: Carolina Fernandez (first place), Adrian Mehta (second place) and Max Goski and Viraj Khosla (third place). Carolina competed at the Hudson County spelling bee at High Tech High School.

During Black History Month, HCS K-4 students engage in the celebration of Black historical figures who have changed the course of history and explore critical events and movements in Black history. Children's literature written and illustrated by Black authors and artists and stories centered in the Black experience are valuable tools for this work.

On Tuesday, February 7, HCS celebrated the 100th day of school. The K-4 classes placed students in multi-grade groups and completed activities to celebrate the day.

Students in the K-8 program participated in the following field trips:

- The Robotic Llamas, our Middle School First Tech Challenge (FTC) robotics team, visited with FTC team Beaks and Bolts from West Caldwell Tech school in preparation for their upcoming tournament.
- The fourth grade class visited the State House in Trenton on Wednesday as a part of their unit on NJ government.
- The kindergarten and sixth grade classes visited the Hoboken Public Library.
- The eighth grade visited the United Nations to visit their exhibit on the Holocaust and human rights to support their reading of Elie Wiesel's "Night".
- The fifth grade class took a trip to the Museum of Natural History in New York City to study the exhibits on early humans. They found examples of tools from the Stone Age as well as artifacts from early civilizations around the world.

### **13. Upper School Report**

We had some inspiring visitors this month. Stevens University students visited to discuss college and career opportunities with students interested in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics). Volunteers from Ernst and Young (including parents of LS students) visited with Seniors to talk college and career opportunities.

Classes were able to take trips outside of the school. Cross Cultural Perspectives and Introduction to African American History classes visited the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture. Students had a chance meeting with author and CUNY Professor Dr. Vanessa K. Valdes who took the time to teach them about Langston

Hughes and about the center. The Music Club visited the GRAMMY Museum Experience in the Prudential Center to see exhibits showcasing careers in the music industry.

Students began new electives for Marking Period 3.

- Juniors are taking a Mission Aligned course called Experiences. The Experiences course allows students to engage in a personalized experience that reaches to the world outside of school. Experiences may include an internship, research, or a creative project.
- Others chose from the following Social Justice activist tool focused courses:
  - **Animodules**- Using the power of art and creativity to communicate through sculpture. Students will be working with an outside artist from the Barat Foundation thanks to a grant from the Hudson County Arts in Education program.
  - **Alternative and Renewable Energy Resources**- Students learn how to be an educated consumer by examining the negative impacts fossil fuels have on our planet and evaluate the benefits / drawbacks of shifting to alternative and renewable energy resources through various documentaries, interviews, and independent research.
  - **LatinX Studies**- A study of the effects of colonialism, immigration, and modern politics on the peoples of Latin America across the Americas to raise awareness of the effects of colonialism, xenophobia, racism, colorism, or white supremacy on the Latinx community.
  - **Music as an Activist's Tool**- Student analyze and create popular music with social justice messages.
  - **World and Character Building** -Students explore themes such as Afrofuturism, and the common historical depiction of the exclusion of LGBTQ+, and POC characters through story building, researching, and creating in an illustrative 2D medium.

Students took leadership over our celebration of Black History Month in organizing a Student Performance Showcase with the theme of Dreams and proceeds to benefit the ACLU. Upper classroom also organized a Spirit Week with themed days such as Melanin (wear shades of brown) Monday, Tribute (to the African American flag) Tuesday, Black Culture Wednesday, Throwback Thursday and Blackout Friday (to show support for the BLM movement). Students worked in a committee to ensure that the Black Pride inherent in these days was not cultural appropriation.

14. Public Comments

15. Looking Ahead

March 17, 2023	ACFR due to state DOE.
March 21, 2023	Board meeting review of 2024 Budget.
March 28, 2023	Tentative board meeting to finalize 2024 Budget.
April 30, 2023	Personal financial disclosure statements from Board members and Administrators must be submitted to state and certified by Board Secretary.

16. New Business/Report from Committees

Mark will organize Deirdra’s review for the end of the school year. The board will also consider a reorganization of board committees.

- 17. Closed Session. By a motion by John Berger that was seconded by Christine Sheedy, the board voted unanimously to enter closed session at 8:02.
- 18. Return to Open. By a motion by John Berger that was seconded by Christine Sheedy, the board boted unanimously to return to open session by 8:39.

## 19. HIB Matters

One case involving an allegation of Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying (HIB) by a student was discussed in closed session. With respect to the HIB matter, the board voted as represented by the table below.

Resolved, that the Hoboken Charter School Board of Trustees accepts the Chief School Administrator's determination that the Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying case presented met the definition of the Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights with respect to the conduct of Student ID #4093639833.

### ROLL CALL VOTE

TRUSTEE	MOTION	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
John Berger		X			
Lauren Calmas		X			
Amanda Grant					X
Grace Guandique		X			
Lisa McIntyre					X
Kelly Pansy		X			
Christine Sheedy	2	X			
Mark Silberberg	1	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 28, 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, February 28, 2023.

### ROLL CALL VOTE

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

Certified by Board Secretary: Steve Literati

Date: March 17, 2023

Adjournment: 8:42