



BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING - MINUTES  
713 WASHINGTON STREET  
HOBOKEN, NJ 07030  
MAY 9, 2023

MEETING OVERVIEW

TEACHERS MATT MESSENGER AND DARI LYONS GAVE A PRESENTATION ON THE RESTORATIVE PRACTICES PROGRAM IN THE HIGH SCHOOL. TEACHER CONTRACTS AND MAJOR SERVICE VENDOR CONTRACTS WERE ALSO APPROVED BY THE BOARD.

1. **Call to Order**. The meeting was called to order by Christine Sheedy 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
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 9-12  
Jodi Howlett, board attorney  
Anetha Brady

Dari Lyons, high school teacher  
 Liz Burger, high school teacher  
 Matt Messenger, high school teacher

**3. Acceptance of Minutes for April 18, 2023**

Minutes of the previous public special Board meeting held on April 18, 2023, 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 that took place on April 18, 2023.

**ROLL CALL VOTE**

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

**4. Acceptance of Minutes for May 3, 2023**

Minutes of the previous public special Board meeting held on May 3, 2023, 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 that took place on May 3, 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	1	X			
Kelly Pansy					X
Christine Sheedy		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. There were no public questions or comments.

## **6. Presentations**

- Mr. Matthew Messenger and Ms. Dari Lyons – Presentation on Restorative Practices

Mr. Messenger and Ms. Lyons presented on restorative practices and their implementation in the HCS Upper School.

## **7. Personnel**

- 7.1 Resolved, that the Board of Trustees approves Gabriella Fredette as Teacher for the 2023-2024 school year, subject to completion of a county sub-license, certification and/or criminal background check.
- 7.2 Resolved, that the Board of Trustees approves the professional development for Dari Lyons, Teacher, to attend a two-day virtual training entitled Restorative Practices for Educators: Foster positive classroom and school culture in July 2023 via International Institute for Restorative Practices (IIRP) for \$450.
- 7.3 Resolved, that the Board of Trustees approves the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator and Finance Committee and authorizes and approves offering contracts to the following instructional and non-instructional employees for the 2023-2024 academic year:

<b>First Name</b>	<b>Last Name</b>
Anne	Ajamian
Madeline	Courtney
Giselle	David
Paige	Davidson
Brittany	Fiorillo
Sean	Gavarny
Gigi	Girgis
Amelia	Katz
Brett	Keeler
Christopher	Kunkel
Padma	Lingechetty-Isom
Steve	Literati

Salma	Malik
Hennessy	Mediavilla
Martha	Mendez
Maria	Nunez
Maria	Ortiz
Elizabeth	Palma
Matthew	Persico
Mary Kate	Rogan
Courtney	Salerno
Sidney	Sanchez
Josefa	Silva
Jennifer	Tarangelo
Amanda	Thiede
Irene	Tran
Juan	Ventura
Jenna	Wernikowski
Anne	Ballman
Oliver	Brantome
Elizabeth	Burger
Hannah	Dayan
Jennifer	Feit
Melissa	Fisher
Marc	Kutchma
Dari	Lyons
Jessica	Nieves
Beatty	Stires
Sophia	Touri
Paige	Trillo

Joanna	Weintraub
James	Zisa

#### ROLL CALL VOTE

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

### 8. **Finance**

- 8.1 Resolved, that the Board of Trustees approves the renewal contract for Giant Steps for substance abuse testing.
- 8.2 Resolved, that the Board of Trustees approves the renewal contract for Colette Robinson, Doctor of Physical Therapy, LLC.
- 8.3 Resolved, that the Board of Trustees approves the renewal contract for Audra Rose, Occupational Therapy.
- 8.4 Resolved, that the Board of Trustees approves the renewal contract for D. W. Putt, Educational Services.
- 8.5 Resolved, that the Board of Trustees approves the renewal contract for Bedford Psychological Services, PC.
- 8.6 Resolved, that the Board of Trustees approves the renewal contract Preferred Home Health Care and Nursing Services.
- 8.7 Resolved, that the Board of Trustees approves the renewal contract Prompt MD for school physician services.
- 8.8 Resolved, that the Board of Trustees approves the renewal contract for Batia Zumwalt for behaviorist services.
- 8.9 Resolved, that the Board of Trustees approves awarding a contract to Nu-Way Concessionaires, LLC to provide student meals for a two year period beginning July 1, 2023 following a Request for Proposals issued by the School. (Summary attached.)

- 8.10 Resolved, that the Board of Trustees approves the one-time payment of no more than \$100,000 to employees of the school to positively affect the retention and attraction of talented employees.
- 8.11 Resolved, that the Board of Trustees approves opening bank accounts at Chase Bank and Citizens Bank branches in Hoboken. (Separate approval sheets.)
- 8.12 Resolved, that the Board of Trustees approved the Board Secretary and Treasurer's Reports for April 2023, 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 April 30, 2023, 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.)
- 8.13 Resolved, that the Board of Trustees approves the bills list from April 15, 2023 to May 4, 2023. (attached.)
- 8.14 Resolved, that the Board of Trustees approves the approves the following payrolls:

Date	Amount
April 15, 2023	\$161,608.48
April 30, 2023	\$166,093.99

#### 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 <sup>1</sup>			
Joy Wheeler					X
Dana Wissing		X			

<sup>1</sup>Mark Silberberg abstained on resolution 8.9, but voted Yes on all other resolutions in the Finance section.

#### 9. **Enrollment**

As of May 9, 2023

Grade	Enrolled Students
K	22
1	23 (overenrolled)
2	22

3	22
4	22
5	22
6	23
7	21
8	22
9	25
10	27
11	22
12	24
Total Students Enrolled	297
Total Funded Students	296

## **10. Executive Director's School Report**

The Hoboken Public Library set up a pop-up library for all HCS K-12 students onsite the HCS campus last week. Each class shopped during an ELA period and could bring books home. Book selections varied per day with a K-4, a 5-8 and a 9-12 library.

Students across K-12 are honoring AAPI Heritage Month via a variety of learning activities and experiences. Meanwhile, we are preparing for a schoolwide collaborative project for PRIDE month.

K-12 students have been busy creating masterpieces for our K-12 art show that occurs tonight at HCS.

Middle school students had an opportunity to interview upper school students for their photojournalism mission lab. We are always pleased to find opportunities for our students to connect across divisions in support of student learning.

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

On April 21, author David Rottenberg visited HCS to read his book, "Gwendolyn, the Graceful Pig" accompanied by a ballet interpretation performed by members of the American Liberty Ballet company to grades K-3, followed by a Q&A.

The kindergarten, third and sixth grade classes attended an event at Red Bulls Stadium on Tuesday, April 25 focused on weather education day, tying into their respective science units.

On Wednesday April 26, Mr. Mark Schonwetter, a survivor of the Holocaust, came to HCS to speak to students in grades 4, 5, 7 and 8 about his experience, related to their recent units in ELA and SS (he spoke to our 6th graders in 2021). He has created the Mark Schonwetter Holocaust Education Foundation to teach students about the Holocaust and lessons that can be learned and related to today. He shared his experience and participated in a Q&A with students.

The Green Bosses Mission Lab worked diligently at selling their bags, plants and gardening supplies at Hoboken's Green Festival in April. They raised \$250 for the Liberty Humane Society

and the NJ Humane Society. Thank you to their advisor, Ms. Ortiz and to Ms. Sanchez and Ms. David for coming out to support our students!

On Friday, April 28, HCS parent volunteers from Ernst & Young came to school to host a sustainability workshop for kindergarten. Students completed activities and learned about waste and recycling.

Over the weekend of April 29-30, some members of the 5th grade robotics team, the Robotic Llamas Jr, participated in the Menlo Park Mashup offseason competition. They did a great job, winning the third place Innovation Award for their project on electric car charging in Hoboken and came in first place in the robot game. This is the first time an HCS team placed first in the robot game in FLL! Congratulations to the team and their advisor, Mr. Kunkel!

After learning about the 3 Rs (reduce, reuse, recycle), the second grade class had a virtual field trip with Sims Municipal Recycling in New York. Students were able to tour their factory and learn how they sort through recyclables.

May is Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month and K-4 students will be learning about AAPI culture, heroes, history, contributions and achievements through read alouds over the next few weeks. Middle School students in the art contractors elective decorate classroom doors in celebration of AAPI Heritage Month. Seventh and eighth graders draw inspiration from cherry blossom trees and lucky cat, while the fifth and sixth grade class create decorations inspired by Indian art and culture.

## **12. Upper School Report**

We held a successful in-school SAT day for the Juniors. It is helpful for students to take this important test in a familiar atmosphere. The school worked to provide a breakfast and snacks to help students do their best!

Our Seniors have almost all solidified their plans for post secondary life. They worked one on one with our Academic Guidance Counselor to create college lists and received acceptances from many colleges and programs including:



Bergen County Community College  
Bloomfield College  
Caldwell University  
City College of New York  
College of Mount St Vincent  
CUNY Hunter College  
Drexel University  
Fairleigh Dickinson University-Metropolitan  
Felician University  
Georgian Court  
Hudson County Community College  
John Jay College of Criminal Justice  
Kean University  
Marymount Manhattan College  
Manhattanville College  
Molloy College  
Monmouth University  
Montclair State University  
Morgan State University  
New Jersey City University  
New Jersey Institute of Technology  
New York Institute of Technology  
Pace University  
Parisian Beauty Academy  
Penn State  
Quinnipiac University  
Ramapo College  
Rider University  
Robert Fiance Beauty School  
Rutgers - Newark  
Rutgers - New Brunswick  
St. John's University  
Saint Peter's University  
Seton Hall University  
Stevens Institute of Technology  
Stockton University  
SUNY University at Albany  
Binghamton University Binghamton Advantage Program  
SUNY Stony Brook University  
The College of New Jersey  
Total Image Beauty Academy  
University of Bridgeport  
University of Connecticut  
University of Essex  
University of Kent  
University of Loughborough  
University of East Anglia  
University of Surrey  
William Paterson University

Our Counselor, Ms. Feit, is continuing to support these students as they enroll while working carefully with the Juniors as they begin to immerse in the process. Juniors have the option of taking a College and Career elective this marking period, and Juniors and families were invited to a College Admission Planning workshop with guest speaker, Kimber Decker, a college financial aid and admissions counselor with over 35 years experience.

A student committee organized and hosted Cougar Night, a late night event for all students to spend time together at school. Events like this are important to build community with students who live in many different communities in our area. Students also worked with staff to design and hold a pep rally in support of our Boy's Volleyball team.

13. **Public Comments.** There were no comments from the public.

14. **Looking Ahead**

July 15	School to issue Request for Proposals (RFP) for custodial services.
August 1, 2023	Approval of School Annual Report, to be distributed in advance of the board meeting.

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

Lauren Calmas reported on PILOT program discussions in the city of Hoboken.

16. **Executive (Closed) Session.** With a motion by Dana that was seconded by Lauren, the board unanimously voted to enter into a closed session at 9:02. Matters related to student discipline were discussed.

17. **Return to Open Session.** With a motion by Dana that was seconded by Lauren, the board returned to open session at 9:36.

18. **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, May 9, 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, May 9, 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		X			
Joy Wheeler					X
Dana Wissing	1	X			

Certified by Board Secretary: Steve Literati

Date: May 12, 2023

Adjournment: 9:36