

Board of Trustees Meeting via Zoom

Wednesday, October 14, 2020

6:30 pm

**Minutes**

**Trustees Present**

Vanessa Goldberg-Drossman
Scott Wickham
Sara Bloom
William Allen
Reverend Linda Tarry-Chard

**Also Present:**

Emily Carson, Head of School, Harlem Hebrew  
Jon Rosenberg, Chief Executive Officer, Hebrew Public  
Valerie Khaytina, Chief External Officer, Hebrew Public  
Shlomit Aroubas, Harlem Hebrew PTO Representative  
Lauren Murphy, External Relations Manager, Hebrew Public  
I Member of the Public

**I. Call to Order and Reminder to for Public Comments**

Sara Bloom opened the meeting at 6:32 pm and reminded everyone in attendance to use the “chat” feature to sign up for public comments or to email the board at [info@hebrewpublic.org](mailto:info@hebrewpublic.org) or [boardharlem@hebrewpublic.org](mailto:boardharlem@hebrewpublic.org) and the comments will be addressed within 48 hours.

**2. Adoption of October 2020 Agenda**

Sara Bloom made a motion to adopt the October 2020 agenda. Scott Wickham seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

### **3. Approval of the September 2020 Minutes**

Sara Bloom made a motion to approve the September 2020 minutes. Vanessa Goldberg-Drossman seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

### **4. Approval of Academic Calendar**

Sara Bloom made a motion to approve the 2020-21 academic calendar. Scott Wickham seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

### **5. Leadership Update**

Emily Carson, Head of School informed the board of the following:

- Launch of Hybrid Learning
  - Social distancing measures are in place
  - Kids are wearing masks all-day
  - 2 cohorts (Monday & Tuesday | Thursday & Friday)
- Chugim, Hebrew and Israel enrichment program
  - Morah Marissa leads the program on Wednesdays
  - Cooking in Israel
  - Travel in Israel
  - Diversity in Israel
- Wednesday assemblies have begun again
  - Take place within-grade spans, initially launched in Spring
- Launched Harlem Hebrew Herald
  - Student newspaper
  - Run by Ms. Stephanie (Middle school social studies teacher)
  - Current events, important to global citizenship
  - Published Monthly
- Back to school night
  - Virtual field trips to classroom names
  - Opportunity to meet all teachers
- The High School admissions process for 8th Graders has started

- Streamlining Communication
  - Weekly school newsletter archive on the website
  - Weekly classroom newsletters
  - School website is updated and has all schedules and calendars
  - School contact sheet can be found on the website
  - Archive of past family events on the website
    - For those who might not have been able to attend live
- Upcoming Events
  - Book Character Day (both cohorts will celebrate)
  - Native American Heritage Month
  - End of the first quarter
  - Family Conferences

## **6. PTO Update**

- Working together to come up with meaningful ways to bring our community together
- Next Wednesday will be the first PTO virtual meeting
- Class Parent Project Launching Soon
  - Teachers recruiting parent volunteers
  - Fostering relationships in and outside of the classroom
  - Will help create virtual events: playdates, movie nights...etc
- Fall Book Fair
  - November 12 - November 24
- Parent “Hangout” Meetings
  - Periodic meetings
  - Sharing academic and social issues
  - Guest speakers
- New Harlem PTO logo!

## **7. Network Update**

- Potential COVID-19 Closures
  - Hebrew Public Brooklyn schools were mandated to close
    - Did not correlate with school infection rate, correlated with community infection rate
    - Successfully pivoted to fully remote learning even though the closure was so abrupt

- Presentation of the proposed resolution for discussion: changing approved maximum enrollment
  - Compliance:
    - Under NY state charter law, it is required to have no less than 85% of our authorized max enrollment
    - Currently, our authorized maximum enrollment number is 783 students
      - The number is tied to old projections that HH's model would be 3 full classrooms per grade K-8 with an avg max 29 children per class
    - Struggled to get even close to that number even now that the school has a full K-8 grade span
    - 489 students currently enrolled in school
  - Recruitment and Enrollment efforts have been robust and active
    - Community Outreach
    - Canvassing the Neighborhood
    - Social Media Ads
    - Print Ads
  - The entire Charter sector is struggling with enrollment challenges
    - It has become less predictable with the pandemic
  - Funding per pupil has not increased, and the governor has reserved the right to reduce funding in the middle of the year
    - Massive uncertainty with public aid
  - Harlem Hebrew will run a risk if the Charter is not formally amended-- the State will take action against the school
    - A way to show compliance and good faith is to submit an amendment to the Charter proposing to lower the maximum enrollment number
  - We will likely be changing the new number of maximum enrollment to 525 students at the November meeting
    - 85% of that number is 446 students, a number we can not fall below
    - This change will allow us to have as many as 21 sections, with an average of 25 kids per class
    - This will help better predict future enrollment
  - A board vote will take place during the November meeting
- Key terms of KIPP Agreement

- Progress is being made on a draft lease for a five-year term (the initial term of KIPP's charter)
- Changing the max enrollment ties into KIPP agreement
  - Until Harlem Hebrew's debt structure changes, even with the 1-year rent deferral, it will be hard financially, if the school cannot make an agreement with KIPP
  - KIPP is diverse by design which aligns with Harlem Hebrew's school mission

## **8. Adjournment**

Sara Bloom moved to adjourn at 7:31 pm.