

Board Meeting via Zoom
Wednesday, January 13, 2021
6:30 pm

AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Reminder for Public Comments
3. Adoption of January 2021 Agenda
4. Approval of December 2020 Minutes
5. Network Update
6. School Leadership Update
7. Adjournment

Board of Trustees Meeting via Zoom

Wednesday, December 9, 2020

6:30 pm

Minutes

Trustees Present

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

Also Present:

Emily Carson, Head of School, Harlem Hebrew
Jon Rosenberg, Chief Executive Officer, Hebrew Public
Emily Fernandez, Chief Schools Officer
Michelle Galeotti, Senior Director of Operations
Lauren Murphy, External Relations Manager, Hebrew Public
16 Members of the Public

I. Call to Order

Linda Aristondo opened the meeting at 6:30 pm and acknowledged the resignation of a board member, Basil Smikle Jr., who was a founding trustee of the Harlem Hebrew board. His contributions were significant and he continues to serve on the national board of Hebrew Public as well as on the board of the NY Charter School Center.

2. Reminder to for Public Comments

Linda Aristondo reminded everyone in attendance to use the “chat” feature to sign up for public comments or to email the board at info@hebrewpublic.org or boardharlem@hebrewpublic.org and the comments will be addressed within 48 hours.

3. Adoption of December 2020 Agenda

Linda Aristondo asked for a motion to adopt, Sara Bloom made a motion to adopt the December 2020 agenda. Reverend Linda Tarry-Chard seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

4. Approval of the November 2020 Minutes

Linda Aristondo asked for a motion to approve, Sara Bloom made a motion to approve the November 2020 minutes. William Allen seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

5. Hebrew Public Network Reopening Update | Network Update

Emily Fernandez, Chief Schools Officer & Jon Rosenberg, CEO of Hebrew Public informed the board of the following:

- Hebrew Public School Planning
 - Senior leadership is working very closely with the Heads of School in all 4 of the managed schools (3 in New York, 1 in Philadelphia)
 - Focus on High-quality in-person learning option for children and to support families
 - Social and emotional benefits
 - Academic benefits
 - Responding to Parent Inquiries Regarding Offering More In-Person Instruction
 - While the NYC Mayor recently announced potential programmatic changes for in-person learning in some public schools, the Hebrew Public network of schools has not-- across all three NY schools (*Philadelphia Hebrew Public is 100% remote due to local circumstances*)
 - Hebrew Public will only commit to changes we can fully, thoughtfully, and safely commit & deliver to for our families
 - Hebrew Public is taking a very close look at whether or not the school can expand in-person days

- Dependent on the number of children in-person cohort, size of classrooms available to allow for social distancing, number of children in-person cohort, and number of staff needed for remote learning...etc
 - Hebrew Public is striving to continuously improve remote programming as well as our hybrid programming
 - Families can expect transparency about changes, decisions via written communication and Town Halls
 - Harlem Hebrew has maintained Kindergarten 4 days a week even with a very strained budget, the school has doubled down on K staffing
- Rolling out Mandatory Testing for Hybrid Students and Staff
 - Network-wide at our NY schools
 - Weekly Testing for 100% of staff and 20% of students
 - Consent forms need to be signed by student guardians
 - Limited exemption categories following the City Department of Health guidelines
 - Massive expense for private testing, no funding from City or State
 - Families are encouraged to ask questions to leadership regarding testing

6. Board Action: Vote on Harlem Hebrew Safety Plans

Linda Aristondo asked for a motion to approve the Harlem Hebrew safety plan, Scott Wickham made a motion to approve the plan. Sara Bloom seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

7. Leadership Update

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

- Biggest Update & Impact
 - NYC schools closed for in-person learning by Mayor DeBlasio on November 18th
 - Harlem Hebrew returned to the school building for grades K-8 on December 7th
- General School Updates
 - The second round of Chugim launched, a Hebrew & Israeli Culture enrichment program where students participate in classes of their choice on Wednesdays
 - Student Council
 - Making announcements to the building
 - Participating in a can drive

- December's Edition of The Harlem Hebrew Herald was released
- Harlem Hebrew student, Annette Bansa was a winner of the network-wide Draw Me a City competition
- Following November's Native American Heritage Month, one of Harlem Hebrew's sixth-grade class began communicating with the same tribe they studied and created a presentation about-- The Wiyot tribe.
 - The class presentation is now being featured in The Wiyot culture center
- Family Support
 - Hebrew open house for current families
 - Virtual open house for prospective incoming families
- Staff Instructional Focuses
 - Continuously working to enhance in-person & remote learning
 - Engaging in weekly professional development
 - Coaching & feedback for all staff
 - Introducing guided reading to current ELA classes
 - Building a stronger Israeli studies curriculum
 - Creating fun and joyful culture on top of learning and rigor
 - Morning meeting
 - Assemblies
 - Dress-down fun for both hybrid & fully remote students

8. Discussion

Linda Aristondo lead a discussion regarding the two vacant board officer positions and disclosed the potential of stepping-down from the board due to scheduling conflicts. The outcome of the discussion was Linda Aristondo agreed to stay on as Chair through early Spring 2021, or until the board votes on a replacement. The Governance Committee members will be supported in their search to fill the vacant seats by the CMO, Hebrew Public.

9. Adjournment

Linda Aristondo asked for a motion to adjourn. Sara Bloom made a motion to adjourn. Reverend Linda Tarry-Chard seconded, and the meeting adjourned at 7:11 pm.