

Board Meeting via Zoom
Wednesday, May 19, 2021
6:30 pm

AGENDA

1. Call to Order & Reminder for Public Comments
2. Adoption of May 2021 Agenda
3. Approval of April 2021 Minutes
4. Formal Vote to elect Tanya Jones to the Harlem Hebrew Board of Trustees pending approval by NYSED
5. School Leadership Update
6. PTO Update
7. Network Update
8. Public Comments
9. Executive Session
10. Adjournment

Board of Trustees Meeting via Zoom

Wednesday, April 7, 2021

6:30 pm

Minutes

Trustees Present

Vanessa Goldberg-Drossman
Sara Bloom
Linda Aristondo
William Allen
Scott Wickham
Tanya Jones (<i>Prospective Board Member</i>)

Also Present

Emily Carson, Head of School, Harlem Hebrew
 Jon Rosenberg, Chief Executive Officer, Hebrew Public
 Valerie Khaytina, Chief External Officer, Hebrew Public
 Emily Fernandez, Chief Schools Officer, Hebrew Public
 Elly Rosenthal, Chief Financial Officer, Hebrew Public
 Lauren Murphy, External Relations Manager, Hebrew Public

1. Call to Order & Reminder to for Public Comments

Linda Aristondo opened the meeting at 6:30 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 or boardharlem@hebrewpublic.org and the comments will be addressed within 48 hours.

2. Adoption of April 2021 Agenda

Linda Aristondo asked for a motion to adopt, Sara Bloom made a motion to adopt the April 2021 agenda. Vanessa Goldberg-Drossman seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

3. Approval of the March 2021 Minutes

Linda Aristondo asked for a motion to approve, Sara Bloom made a motion to approve the March 2021 minutes. Vanessa Goldberg-Drossman seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

4. Leadership Update

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

- General School Updates
 - Spring break last week
 - Teachers returned to the building for preparation of student return
 - 4th round of chugium, Israeli clubs on Wednesday mornings
 - School enrollment lottery was held today
- Student Updates
 - Down to four finalists for the Harlem Hebrew mascot, announcement of the winner will be made at the assembly next week!
 - Closed out women's HERstory month
 - Spotlight on women in the Harlem community
 - Monthly Fun
 - Israeli studies co-taught with homeroom teachers and a Hebrew teacher
 - Harlem studies lessons, outside exploring
 - Teacher Planned Events,
 - Team leaders (one per grade-span and Hebrew teachers)
 - Meet with Emily Carson biweekly
 - Grades K-2 spring clubhouse, each teacher planned a different event with a fun engaging activity (virtual field trips, karaoke...etc)
 - Grades 3-4 all joined in a special assembly dedicated to Women's History Month, lead by the teachers
- Family Updates
 - Informational Meetings
 - Open house with prospective families
 - Spring Family Town Hall
 - 4th-grade family meeting re: middle school
 - Hebrew Public network hosted a COVID-19 vaccine panel
 - Fun Family Events
 - Ring in the Spring in Central Park
 - 47 attendees including teachers and fully remote students participated

- 4th & 5th grade scavenger hunt
 - Around the Harlem Hebrew community
 - Hebrew Public Network Academy
 - Extracurricular classes for students
- Upcoming News
 - School Reopening
 - Next week, April 12th
 - Teachers are setting up classrooms and practicing in-person lessons
 - State Exams
 - ELA & Math for hybrid students only
 - Dress rehearsal will take place for students and teachers to practice
 - Teacher Appreciation Week
 - All staff will be celebrated, leadership is working on plans for each day
 - March Student of the Month (since spring break was in session)
 - Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month
 - 8th Grade High School Transitions Celebration
 - Special assembly to celebrate completing the application and share plans for the future
 - More Fun Family Events
 - Hebrew Public's Israel Independence Day Dance Party via Zoom
 - Enrollment Efforts
 - Kindergarten sports day in the park, created by current K families
- Staffing Updates
 - Morah Abev returns from family leave
 - Ms. Stephanie begins maternity leave
 - Ms. Adams, Acting Director of Operations shifting position to part-time
- Staff Focuses
 - Strong reopening and maintaining strong remote programming
 - Many of the teachers who are teaching remote do so from the building because they support hybrid students, lunch, arrival/dismissal
 - Strong facilitation of state exams
 - Bringing joy and fun to rigorous learning in the spring
 - Leadership focus on next year planning
 - Interviews for open positions are being held

5. PTO Update

- Book Collection - Class Contest - Book Fair
 - Who can collect the most kids books
 - PTO will create an organized solution to selling the books

- All items from the book fair will be \$1
- **Bookmark Design Competition**
 - Simultaneous with the book collection
 - 1 student from each grade will win
 - Producing 150 copies of the winning bookmarks and will sell them for \$1 during the book fair
- **Teacher Appreciation**
 - Will be celebrating the staff members of Harlem Hebrew
- **Outdoor Family Events Upcoming**

6. Network Update

Jon Rosenberg, CEO of Hebrew Public shared the following:

- **Charter sector won a lawsuit against NYC around the obligation to provide COVID-19 site-based testing in charter schools**
 - NYC was previously only providing testing to District schools
 - All Hebrew Public schools are currently still paying 3K per week for private site-based testing
- **School Student Recruitment**
 - Challenging recruitment season across charter sector
 - Some families have transitioned to private schools
 - Some families have left NYC since the pandemic
 - Pandemic related factors
 - 50-60% application reduction compared to prior years according to peer organizations
 - In terms of Harlem Hebrew
 - March 30, 2021 - 320 applications
 - Numbers are still slowly rising
 - March 30, 2020 - 575 applications
 - About a 40% fall off
 - Strong social media presence to generate more interest
 - Pandora and YouTube ads
 - Mailers
 - Hosting in-person prospective family events
- **Further Differentiating our Schools**
 - For every new family that completes the registration process for our schools will receive a free week of summer day camp in August that will include a Hebrew and Israel immersion component through our community partnership
- **Harlem Hebrew is in a Renewal Year**
 - Currently in the 2nd Term of a 4 year renewal, operating for 8 years
 - Application will be released in the end of May and is due by end of July

- New York State Education Department (NYSED) is the authorizer for Harlem Hebrew
 - NYSED Representative will Visit the school
 - NYSED Representative will Interview Board members
 - Another interview will take place next Fall for the renewal year
 - Between January and April of 2022, NYSED will make a renewal decision
- Will require community and PTO support
- New Amendments will be introduced with community input for board members to vote on
 - Substantial time will be given for board members to review all documents prior to voting
- Elyse Castellano on the Hebrew Public team is playing a critical role in the organization and execution of the renewal process
 - Board will have a 3-4 hour strategy session in May
- KIPP Deal
 - Two years in the works, but an agreement could not be reached
 - A subtenant may be possible in the future
- Summer 2021
 - Designing 4 different programs to bridge the gap our students are facing
 - Individual/small group tutoring
 - Intense support instructional services
 - Mental health support for trauma
 - Subsidized day camp model with Kids in the Game
 - In-person, outdoor activities
 - Hebrew language component for one hour a day
 - A few number of children with significant need will be selected to attend the residential camp, Ramapo for Children
 - Student selection will be based on academic performance 2020-21 and school staff input on who will benefit the most from participation

7. Executive Session

No votes or actions were taken during this time.

8. Adjournment

Linda Aristondo motioned to adjourn the meeting, Sara Bloom seconded, the motion carried unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 8:05 pm.