

Harlem Hebrew Board Meeting Agenda

November 10, 2021, 6:30 pm

Location: Zoom

1. Call to Order & Reminder for Public Comment(s) Sign Up
2. Adoption of November 2021 Agenda
3. Approval of October 2021 Minutes
4. Approval of Harlem Hebrew Safety Plan 2021-22
5. Approval of Harlem Hebrew Bylaw Amendments
6. Approval of Charter Revisions
7. School Leadership Update
8. PTO Update
9. Network Update
10. November 2021 Dashboard Review
11. Public Comments
12. Adjournment

Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

October 13, 2021, 7:00 pm

Location: Zoom

Trustees Present

Vanessa Goldberg-Drossman
Sara Bloom
Linda Aristondo
William Allen
Scott Wickham
Tanya Jones

Also Present

Emily Carson, Head of School, Harlem Hebrew
 MarrLa Merritt, Director of Operations, Harlem Hebrew
 Jon Rosenberg, Chief Executive Officer, Hebrew Public
 Elly Rosenthal, Chief Financial Officer, Hebrew Public
 Lauren Murphy, External Relations Manager, Hebrew Public

I. Call to Order & Reminder for Public Comments

Vanessa Goldberg-Drossman opened the meeting at 7:02 pm and reminded everyone in attendance in order to sign up to make a public comment prior to our board meeting, email boardharlem@hebrewpublic.org. Members of the public who missed the public notices can sign up now by using the chat function. Members of the board and staff do not typically respond to public comments at the time they are made. However, unanswered questions will be responded to within a few business days.

2. Adoption of October 2021 Agenda

Vanessa Goldberg-Drossman asked for a motion to adopt, Tanya Jones made a motion to adopt the October 2021 agenda. Sara Bloom seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

3. Approval of the September 2021 Minutes

Vanessa Goldberg-Drossman asked for a motion to approve, Sara Bloom made a motion to approve the September 2021 minutes. Tanya Jones seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

4. School Leadership Update

Emily Carson, Harlem Hebrew's Head of School updated the board on the following:

- General Updates
 - Three weeks of school officially
 - Beginning of the year assessments
 - MAP testing completed for entire school
 - Starting to analyze data along with reading level data
 - Launching monthly quizzes in ELA
 - Analysis with teachers during Friday PD
 - Leaders analyze in advance
 - Focus on strong routines and procedures
 - This year more than ever it is very important, some kids have not been in a school building ever or consistently in school 5 days a week (last year, hybrid groups only came to school 2x a week in-person)
 - Attention and follow up is required by teachers
 - COVID-19 Routines and Procedures
 - Weekly in-school testing for students whose families consented
 - 4 classes are currently in quarantine
 - Families and all staff are notified day-of
 - In the last month:
 - 1 other additional class and about 38 students individual students have quarantined
- Bussing
 - Operationally & logistically improvements have been made
 - Devoting a lot of attention to bus behavior
 - Actively recruiting bus attendants
 - Interviews are in progress, offers have been made

- Events
 - Student assemblies launched
 - LatinX Heritage Month
 - Back to School Night (already took place)
 - Focused on curriculum
 - Many families attended, at least 40% in each individual session
- Partnership with Hebrew Public Capstone
 - Trip to Israel for eighth graders
 - Family meetings
- Family PowerSchool Access
 - Grading portal, families can access at any time
- Highschool Admissions Meetings
 - NYC has been slow to roll out plans, dates of specialized high school tests were just announced
- Upcoming
 - Launching Harlem Studies
 - Team leaders are planning, working together to come up with themes for each month
 - Launching Student of The Month
 - Native American Heritage Month
 - Book Character Day, October 29th
 - Ending of the 1st marking period at the start of November
- Staff Focuses
 - Analyzing data and adjusting what happens in the classroom based on what individual students need
 - Individual behavior plans
 - SEL as well as instruction
 - Guided reading
 - Book clubs
 - Differentiating math based on the data we have
 - Accommodating the wide variety of student needs

Emily Carson gave a big shout-out to all Harlem Hebrew staff and leaders, who have been working tirelessly, putting in additional work to help our students.

Board Member, Scott Wickham, commented on learning loss due to COVID-19. Scott made a suggestion for addressing differentiated learning levels for students in the same class/grade and noted the importance of flexibility for both students and teachers moving forward. Emily Carson and Scott will continue the discussion offline.

5. PTO Update

Vanessa Goldberg-Drossman updated the board on the following:

- Halloween Welcome Picnic being held on October 24
 - First in-person event in 2 years
 - 27 families RSVP
- New Student Volunteer
 - Kicking off her Bat Mitzvah project for Harlem Hebrew at the picnic
 - Will focus on Harlem Hebrew Together (in memory of former board member, Celia Wickham)
 - Making bracelets and keychains
 - Proceeds will go to the principal fund
 - When a situation arises in the school, a discretionary fund is in place to help that family
- First PTO meeting took place on Zoom
 - Over 30 parents participated
- Still searching for a Co-president

6. Network Update

Jon Rosenberg, CEO, Hebrew Public shared the following:

- Pre-K Proposal
 - Hebrew Public is submitting an RFP (*request for proposal*) for all three NY schools
 - Partnership with a program service provider, AppleTree
 - Ideally, two or three sections of pre-k (*at least 18 students each*)
 - 1 Main Teacher and 1 Assistant Teacher (*ideally Hebrew speaking*)
 - Will allow for a natural progression in our Hebrew program as well as a Kindergarten pipeline
 - The program would begin in Fall 2022 if approved
- Cancellation of Public Hearing by NYC
 - The hearing was scheduled to take place today, but was canceled and will be rescheduled for next month
- Harlem Hebrew Charter Renewal
 - Along with the application, it will include
 - Virtual visits to classrooms
 - Board capacity interview
 - In-person visit
 - The length of the renewal will be decided in early 2022, and will ultimately be decided by the NYS Board of Regents
 - Gathering Community Support for Harlem Hebrew's Renewal

- Letters are needed from community organizations, local officials, elected officials at state level
- All help with outreach is appreciated
- Two government affairs associates are being engaged for this work

7. Pathways Proposal

After many conversations over the last few years and months with public, charter, and private schools, Hebrew Public is now in preliminary discussion with Pathways.

Pathways is a private school for students who have various neurophysiological disorders, which affect their physical, cognitive, social, and emotional development. Currently, they have a roster of ten students and would occupy three classrooms, office spaces, and bathrooms. Shared space in the building would be negotiated. The funds this partnership would provide to Harlem Hebrew are market rate.

Jon Rosenberg recommended the board consider the proposal to help offset the substantial facilities cost. The Harlem Hebrew Board of Trustees provided consent for Hebrew Public to proceed with formal negotiations. Once there is a finalized proposal to bring to the board, an approval from the landlord and approval from *Bank of America* are needed.

One of the trustees asked two questions about renting Harlem Hebrew's building for summer programming. Important factors to consider include the impact on Harlem Hebrew's summer school program and staff training. Board members were encouraged to share any partnerships they had in mind.

8. Public Comments

N/A

9. Adjournment

Vanessa Goldberg-Drossman asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. William Allen motioned to adjourn the meeting, Sara Bloom seconded, the motion carried unanimously, and the meeting adjourned at 7:32 pm. The board will meet next on November 10 at 6:30 pm.