

## **Harlem Hebrew Board Meeting Agenda**

January 12, 2022, 6:30 pm

Location: Zoom

1. Call to Order & Reminder for Public Comment(s) Sign Up
2. Adoption of January 2022 Agenda
3. Approval of December 2021 Minutes
4. School Leadership Update
5. PTO Update
6. Network Update
7. Public Comments
8. Adjournment

**Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes**

December 15, 2021, 6:30 pm

Location: Zoom

**Trustees Present**

Vanessa Goldberg-Drossman
Scott Wickham
Sara Bloom
Linda Aristondo
William Allen
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  
 Valerie Khaytina, Chief External Officer, Hebrew Public  
 Elly Rosenthal, Chief Financial Officer, Hebrew Public  
 Lauren Murphy, External Relations Manager, Hebrew Public  
 2 Members of the Public

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

Vanessa Goldberg-Drossman opened the meeting at 6:31 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](mailto: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 December 2021 Agenda**

Vanessa Goldberg-Drossman asked for a motion to adopt, Tanya Jones made a motion to adopt the December 2021 agenda. William Allen seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

## **3. Approval of the November 2021 Minutes**

Vanessa Goldberg-Drossman asked for a motion to approve, William Allen made a motion to approve the November 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
  - Currently - 5 Classes Quarantined
    - Tel Aviv (Kindergarten) - Return 12.20
    - Be'er Sheva (First Grade) - Returning after Winter Break
    - Tveriyah (Second Grade) - Return 12.20
    - Metullah (Fifth Grade) - Return 12.20
  - Practice of Lockdown and Shelter-In Drills
- Continuing to Build Joy
  - Spirit Friday Launch - Winning Classes with Extra Recess
    - November 12th: Flannel Friday
    - November 19th: Favorite Color Day
    - December 3rd: Twin Day
    - December 10th: 90s Day
    - This Friday: Holiday Sweater Day!
  - Weekly OLAM Competition in Middle School
    - A chance to earn points each week in the categories added up for classes win prizes
      - First prize is extra recess time
      - Asking kids for input on prizes
      - Reflecting at the end of class, teachers share what they did well and what can be better
        - Deeper reflection and communication
  - Grades 6-8 Hebrew Shifts

- More Hands-On (Cooking and Jiu-Jitsu)
  - Small groups
- Family Updates
  - Family Conferences
    - 262 Families booked 372 Conferences
  - Continuing Family Office Hours with Ms. Emily
    - Families can sign up via Calendly directly to Emily's calendar
  - 2 Vaccine Clinics at Harlem Hebrew
    - 36 Harlem Hebrew students were vaccinated during the clinics
  - Middle School Meeting on Monday!
- Upcoming
  - Flexible Winter Break
    - Announced yesterday, students remote on December 23rd and Monday, January 3, 2022
  - Picture Day!
  - January Interim Assessments (more explicitly aligned to State Exam Structure)
    - ELA & Math
    - Helping kids
  - January Reset with Uniforms, Culture, and Fun
- Staff Focuses
  - Thoughtful Adjustments to School Systems
  - Thoughtful Professional Development and Additional Coaching and Support
  - Professional Development Aligned to Analyzing Data re: Interim Assessments
  - More targeted feedback
    - Officially onboarded Dean of Culture
      - Diving into culture teamwork
  - Focused Middle School PD and Reset Before Thanksgiving
  - Culture Building
    - Happy Hour
    - Thanksgiving Potluck
    - Intentional Culture Building
    - Holiday Party and Some Extra Holiday Joy and Traditions
  - Newly hired Math & Science teachers
- Preview of Far off to the Future
  - 8th-grade graduation planning
    - In-person outdoor but socially distanced
    - In-person end of year school dance
    - 8th-grade graduation portraits
    - 8th-grade cap decorating together

- End of Year celebrations
  - In-person
  - One class at a time instead of one grade at a time
- Field trips
  - Planning now more than ever takes a lot of thought and time during COVID due

Board Member, Vanessa Goldberg-Drossman asked Emily about field trip protocols. School trips may require vaccination depending on where the class is scheduled to go. For example, if the field trip is taking place in a museum, HHLA would have to follow the rules set forth by the museum.

## 5. PTO Update

Vanessa Goldberg-Drossman updated the board on the following:

- Attitude of gratitude kicked off
  - Encouraging families to appreciate our faculty in small yet meaningful ways
  - Sent mini pies on thanksgiving
  - Two bulletin boards in the school
  - PTO donated 1500 postcards, Harlem Hebrew Together
    - Kids teachers and parents are encouraged to share messages of gratitude to one another throughout the year
    - Hoping it will increase awareness and keep morale up
- This Friday, PTO holding a lunch-in
  - 22 donations
  - Invited all teachers from 1-2 pm for faculty potluck
- Playdate during winter break if possible
- Continuing to create a sense of community during COVID

## 6. Network Update

Jon Rosenberg, CEO, Hebrew Public shared the following:

- December Dashboard was shared with the board prior to the meeting which included information on
  - Attendance
  - Enrollment
    - Special needs
    - ELL
  - Staff Demographics
  - Budget
    - Slender positive margin

Education and Accountability Committee will convene in January, the *Hebrew Public Program Team* will review important data with the committee members. NY State is requiring HHLA to add 3 extra days. In order to get to 185 days, 2 extra days of remote (asynchronous) learning during the February winter break. During this time, children will have morning meeting or assembly (live instructional part of the day). The bulk of the instruction will be independent work that can be done during the course of the break at a time that works best for families. Next year the school will have 190 instructional days. More written communication will be shared with families soon.

- COVID-19 Update
  - Testing
    - A lot more testing is being done at HHLA than district schools but because of that we have many positive cases, some cases have been reported to us from families who have completed off-site testing
  - Revision of quarantine guidelines as children get vaccinated
    - Anticipating a likely change in policy in the new year
    - Encouraging families to share their vaccination status with school to help guide the decision-making process
    - Guidelines cannot be changed unless all students have access to physical tech (supply chain issues globally)
      - Kids at home cannot have the same instructional experience as the kids who are in class, so we need to provide synchronous instruction
      - Once we have the tech, staff will need to be trained on how to use it
    - Hebrew Public & HHLA acknowledge the burden on families for COVID quarantines
  - Vaccination
    - Currently, all students in a class must quarantine if they are directly exposed, but moving forward we hope to allow students who are vaccinated to come back to school after a negative test once synchronous instruction is in place
    - We are doing everything we can and encouraging everyone to share ideas of increasing community vaccination
      - [Jon@hebrewpublic.org](mailto:Jon@hebrewpublic.org)
  - OMICRON Variant
    - Looking at mandates from city and state health before making any shifts
      - Tests to return

- Currently, OMICRON is showing to be more contagious than Delta but less severe
  - Vaccine is showing to be effective in preventing most hospitalizations
- Rates in the NYC Metro area have substantially more than doubled in the last month 49 per 100,000
- Until we have more information on OMICRON's impact, we cannot commit to any changes yet in quarantine protocols
- Pathways Partnership
  - After a substantial interaction with a potential subtenant, they have decided to walk away from the deal
  - We will continue our search

## **7. Public Comments**

No comments were made during this time.

## **8. Adjournment**

Vanessa Goldberg-Drossman asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Tanya Jones motioned to adjourn the meeting, Sara Bloom seconded, the motion carried unanimously, and the meeting adjourned at 7:08 pm. The board will meet next on January 12, 2022, at 6:30 pm.