



Harlem Hebrew Board Meeting Agenda

February 9, 2022, 6:30 pm

Location: Zoom

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

Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

January 12, 2022, 6:30 pm

Location: Zoom

Trustees Present

Vanessa Goldberg-Drossman
Scott Wickham
Sara Bloom
Reverend Linda Tarry-Chard
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
 Lauren Murphy, External Relations Manager, Hebrew Public
 Yelena Raffoul, PTO President, Harlem Hebrew

1. Call to Order & Reminder for Public Comments

Vanessa Goldberg-Drossman opened the meeting at 6:32 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 January 2022 Agenda

Vanessa Goldberg-Drossman asked for a motion to adopt, Tanya Jones made a motion to adopt the January 2022 agenda. Sara Bloom seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

3. Approval of the December 2021 Minutes

Vanessa Goldberg-Drossman asked for a motion to approve, William Allen made a motion to approve the December 2021 minutes. Sara Bloom seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

4. School Leadership Update

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

- COVID Updates at Harlem Hebrew
 - Committed to making the safest possible decisions to maximize in-person instruction
 - General Timeline
 - Monday 12/20 - move to fully remote instruction (impacting two days of in-person learning)
 - Wednesday 12/22 - the decision to shift to remote learning the week of January 3rd (impacting 4 days of in-person learning)
 - Friday 1/7 confirmed to families, HHLA students would be returning to school in person on Monday
 - Focus on kids in the building, normally when kids are quarantining synchronous instruction takes place, but this week was total focus on in-person instruction and kids in the classroom
 - Resetting of expectations in the building, COVID-19 procedures and protocols that keep the community safe and healthy
 - Weekly COVID-19 testing this week
 - 1 positive case
 - Testing service confirmed 7 more positive cases
 - Total number of recorded positive COVID-19 cases in student and staff community since last board meeting
 - December–17 cases

- Over winter break– many families communicated to HHLA positive cases, and 6 staff members tested positive
- Last week
 - 9 positive cases (8 from our testing)
 - It was very helpful everyone was remote last week
- This week
 - 8 positive cases
- Current quarantine policy
 - In the case of exposure
 - Vaccinated students
 - Vaccinated students will no longer be mandated to quarantine in the event of close contact with a person who tests positive for COVID
 - Students must be fully vaccinated (*two weeks past the second dose*) and families must provide proof of vaccination.
 - You can submit proof of vaccination (*an image of a completed vaccination card showing dates*) by emailing our operations team at opsteam@harlemhebrewcharter.org.
 - Unvaccinated students
 - Unvaccinated students will be mandated to quarantine in the event of close contact, but we are introducing a Test to Return approach to allow for a shortened quarantine period
 - Unvaccinated, asymptomatic students who have been exposed may take a COVID test on the 5th day or later day of quarantine and, if the test returns negative, they can return on the day after the negative test.
 - Test results must be shared with the main office before the student can return to the school building.
 - Students who don't test must complete a full 10-day quarantine period.
 - HHLA will provide at-home rapid tests to students if they elect to take one
- Vax & Snax Saturday, January 29th, 12-4 pm
 - HHLA is hosting a vaccination clinic on the rooftop
 - COVID-19 vaccines and boosters will be available

- To receive a 2nd vaccine dose or booster you must bring your vaccine card
- The event is open to the entire community ages 5 and up
- Will do a big push for communication
- Everyone is encouraged to attend

Board Member Scott Wickham asked if the event is being shared out to the public, to which Emily Carson responded it will be. HHLA will also provide a 1 pager about the school for the event attendees.

- Family Updates
 - Hosted Middle School meeting
 - Consistent communication with families
 - Weekly school email
 - Weekly classroom newsletter
 - COVID-19 updates
 - Continued office hours with Emily Carson
 - Many families have signed up
 - 2 additional fully funded scholarships for Splash Fit swim club (Shoutout to Reverend Linda)
 - 7 total fully funded scholarships
 - Breakthrough NY Applications for 6th graders (*now closed*)
 - Helps students get ready for high school
 - Working with Strides2Success
 - Test Prep with 4th & 7th Graders
 - 35 students already involved between HLA & HHLA
 - Spirit Fridays
 - Picture Day Best for Picture Day on Friday!
 - In-school picture day
 - Kids are encouraged to dress up
 - Individual photos (*can choose to take the mask off or leave it on*)
 - Class photos (*masks required*)
 - Will host a makeup Picture Day on January 14th
 - More information will be shared with families soon, you will be able to order proofs this year
 - Arabian Pride Sweatshirts on sale until tonight at midnight
- Staff Updates
 - HHLA staff continued holiday traditions in December
 - Secret Snowflake
 - Holiday party

- Holiday toasts
 - New faculty lunch with PTO
 - HHLA Winter Olympics
 - The staff had a blast!
- Staff Focuses
 - HHLA is supporting staff to support kids
 - Being thoughtful with health and safety in the classrooms
 - Shifting to focus to data and launching the testing season
- New Staff!
 - Two new Middle School Teachers
 - Two new STEM ICT Teachers are onboarding
 - Two Support Associates have been hired as well
- Upcoming
 - For Students
 - Interim Assessments for Math and ELA
 - Testing dress rehearsal
 - Last year students who were hybrid had to opt-in, the year before there were no state exams so many kids in the building haven't yet taken a state exam
 - Teachers will help students build testing habits
 - Middle School Field Trips
 - Ice Skating in Bryant Park
 - Black History Month Celebrations
 - Launching daily announcements and daily kid celebrations
- For Families
 - End of the second marking period, family conference sign up will begin tomorrow
 - 8th grade High School Admissions meeting on 2/2 at 7 pm
 - Hebrew Public virtual event: Cooking with Caroline!
 - 2/8 @ 5 pm
 - All grades are welcome to attend
- 8th-grade Graduation– Save the Dates!
 - Second Annual 8th Grade Graduation Portraits: Friday, February 11th
 - Second Annual Virtual High School Decision Day Celebration in Assemblies with Whole School: Date to Be Determined - Early June
 - First Annual 8th Grade End-of-Year Formal Dance: Friday, June 17th from 6-8:30 pm

- In-Person and Outdoor Graduation: Tuesday, June 21st with a Rain Date of Thursday, June 23rd

5. PTO Update

Yelena Raffoul, PTO President, updated the board on the following:

- PTO hosted a Staff Potluck
- Attitude of Gratitude Campaign Continues
 - Encouraging kids and staff to share their gratitude with one another
- HHLA & Repair the World at JCC Harlem on Sunday in community partnership to honor MLK Day of Service
 - Sunday, 11:15 AM shift
 - Roger Katz from Hebrew Public will be there
 - Community building
- MLK Serve & Love Sock Drive
 - Working with the organization to hand out socks to the homeless
 - Creating a fun activity for the kids to participate in with a chance to win a prize for their class
 - PTO will provide boxes and the students will have a chance to decorate them

Vanessa Goldberg-Drossman encouraged all board members to share HHLA's posts and ads in all parent and community groups they participate in.

6. Network Update

Jon Rosenberg, CEO, Hebrew Public shared the following:

- Education and Accountability Committee Overview
 - This committee has been largely dormant, but will now meet about 3x a year to discuss a mix of programmatic and operational topics
 - Program
 - Reviewing student engagement data (e.g., attendance and discipline data), and student academic data (e.g., interim assessments and State assessments).
 - Operations
 - Reviewing operational issues/updates (e.g., Covid protocols, building safety, or facility updates)



- Committee members will receive an email from Hebrew Public's Chief of Staff in the next week regarding the committee's availability in February

Jon also gave a very deserving shout out to Vanessa Goldberg-Drossman for all of her support to HHLA and for participating and representing the school at the December Community Board 10 Meeting.

7. Public Comments

No comments were made during this time.

8. Adjournment

Vanessa Goldberg-Drossman asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. William Allen motioned to adjourn the meeting, Scott Wickham seconded, the motion carried unanimously, and the meeting adjourned at 7:19 pm. The board will meet next on February 9, 2022, at 6:30 pm.