



Harlem Hebrew Board Meeting Agenda

March 9, 2022, 6:30 pm

Location: Zoom

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

Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

February 9, 2022, 6:30 pm

Location: Zoom

Trustees Present

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

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
 2 members of the public

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 February 2022 Agenda

Vanessa Goldberg-Drossman made a motion to adopt the February 2022 agenda. Reverend Linda Tarry-Chard seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

3. Approval of the January 2022 Minutes

Vanessa Goldberg-Drossman asked for a motion to approve, Sara Bloom made a motion to approve the January 2022 minutes. Linda Aristondo seconded, and the motion was carried unanimously.

4. School Leadership Update

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

- COVID-19 Updates at Harlem Hebrew
 - Friday, January 28th - New "Test-to-Stay" Policy communicated to families with Monday, January 31st Start
 - Test-to-Stay Policy
 - Weekly COVID-19 testing will continue
 - Any students who have had close contact with an individual who has tested positive will have a chance to "test-to-stay".
 - Quarantine due to exposure will not be necessary for any student. All students will be expected to come to school and participate in our test-to-stay protocols.
 - Remote learning will not be an option for students who have been exposed, and students who are not in school will be marked absent.
 - Policies for students who test positive for COVID-19 remain the same. Students who have tested positive for COVID-19 will be shifted to remote learning and must stay home (quarantine) for a 10 day period after the positive test.
 - Tuesday, February 1st - 3 positive tests in weekly testing + 1 positive test from outside community update
 - Tuesday, February 8th - 0 Positive tests in weekly testing
- General School Updates
 - 100th day of school celebration
 - Staff & Students were invited to dress up for the occasion!
 - Many photos were emailed out to families today
 - Second Round of Interim Assessments
 - 2 days long to mirror state assessments

- Unfortunately, not all kids were able to participate in the testing because of quarantine but the staff is finding creative ways to get student data in the building
 - Sending home tests to families so they know what the kids were taking in grades 3-8
 - All of the questions are mirrored off past exams or are old exam questions used in previous years
- Field Trip
 - Middle School, Ice-skating at Bryant Park
 - One grade at a time went on the trip
 - OLAM values in action, kids were helping one another and having a lot of fun
 - Already in the processing of planning more field trips for both elementary and middle school
- Launch of Black History Month
- Daily announcements launched!
 - Birthday shoutouts
- Announcement of Student Council
 - 36 middle school kids who applied
 - Meeting every other week
 - Leadership
 - Mental health team is planning and supporting council
- Fun for kids
 - Daily Announcements
 - Spirit Week!
 - 2/14 Valentine's Day, wear pink, red, and white
 - 2/15 Arabian Leopard Pride Day, wear leopard print
 - 2/16 Wacky Wednesday, wear your wackiest clothes and accessories
 - 2/17 Black History Spirit, dress like a Black hero or wear the colors of the Pan-African Flag (black, red, green)
 - 2/18 Read-A-Thon, wear your pajamas to school
 - Makeup Picture Day, for any student who missed pictures
- Sign up for conferences has officially closed and family conferences are tomorrow
 - 310 families signed up for 412 conferences
 - Those that didn't sign up will be called to schedule an appointment
- Next Thursday, Middle School Family Webinar

- Providing special updates to middle school community at 6:30 pm
 - Postponed Vaccine Drive because of the snowstorm– New Date TBD
 - MLK Jr. Weekend: HHLA and Repair the World at JCC Harlem on Sunday in community partnership in honor of MLK Day of Service!
 - 8th Grade High School Admissions Family Meeting on February 2nd at 7pm
 - Hebrew Public Event: Cooking with Caroline on Tuesday, February 8th
- Key School Dates
 - Thursday, February 9th - Remote School for Family Conferences
 - Monday, February 21st - Wednesday, February 23rd: Midwinter Recess and No School
 - Thursday, February 24th - Friday, February 25th - Added Days to the Calendar, Remote School
- Staff
 - Working with Leadership Team to Begin Launching Mid-Year Review Process
 - Full Day Professional Development to Focus on Data: Friday, January 28th
 - Welcoming New Staff
 - Ms. Abby, Seventh Grade STEM ICT
 - Ms. Renee, Fifth Grade STEM ICT
 - Ms. Florence, Seventh and Eighth Grade Math Teacher
 - Mr. Jason, Sixth Grade ELA Teacher
 - Staff Fun
 - Winter Olympics
 - Different challenge every week
 - Team Naming Challenge
 - Photo Scavenger Hunt
 - Appreciation Challenge
 - Trivia Challenge
 - Teacher Relays
 - Culminating in Next Week's Championship Announcement with a Happy Hour for Staff
 - Staff Focus
 - Analyzing data to impact changes in classroom, not only state assessment data but classroom assignments as well
 - Doing a lot in the school community to meet kids where they are
 - Daily meetings with Academic Deans of Literacy
 - Leadership weekly meetings, classroom walkthroughs
- Office Hours with Ms. Emily
 - Every Tuesday afternoon and Thursday morning
 - Anyone is able to make an appointment for a time to speak with Ms. Emily

- Families can sign up for an appointment in the weekly email
- Any concerns or feedback is always welcome

Ms. Emily said a huge thank you to all of the Harlem Hebrew staff who have been working extremely hard and very grateful to all of our families!

5. PTO Update

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

- MLK Spirit and Sock Drive, ends February 17th
 - Donation to Knock Knock Give a Sock
- Launching a book fair in early March in partnership with HHLA leaders

6. Network Update

Jon Rosenberg, CEO, Hebrew Public shared the following:

- COVID-19 Update
 - Test-to-Stay Model is a significant loosening of the COVID-19 procedures we previously have had in place
 - Hebrew Public waited several weeks after the Department of Education's roll out to see the outcome
 - Hebrew Public's response to the pandemic has been thoughtful, careful and grounded in evidence and input, focused on effective implementation of protocols and balancing health and safety for families and staff with effective education
- Mask Mandate Prediction (not policy change)
 - New Jersey and Delaware announced an intention to move away from mask-wearing in public schools, which is a state-level mandate. This has not happened in NY yet but the Governor stated yesterday that she is likely not to renew the public mask mandate. The public-school mandate is still being discussed
 - Hebrew Public is preparing a network response if the state policies do change
 - Evidence suggests
 - Three substantial studies have been done on the impact of mask-wearing in public schools compared to those that don't have mandates in place as far as covid rates and community spread, 1 study was thrown out due to methodology and the 2 other studies did not find causal connection
 - This doesn't mean masks can't reduce the cause of covid spread, they can, especially when they are medical grade or KN95 masks worn properly by an adult
 - The reality of schools is despite best efforts kids are wearing all kinds of masks and are wearing them inconsistently

- One possibility of where we may land is a mask optional policy in which staff and students could continue to wear them
- COVID-19 Rates
 - Decreased number of cases in Harlem Hebrew’s school community
- School Policy– any adult entering the school building need to be fully vaccinated
 - This applies to staff, vendors, contractors, and all visitors
 - All adults are asked to present their vaccine card and ID
 - Hebrew Public is mirroring policies of NY Department of Education and all NY Charter Schools
- Enrollment Season
 - The lottery for next year will be conducted in April
 - Relaunching HHLA’s Pre-K for next year
 - Likely to have one 18 seat section
 - Partnering with Apple Tree organization for program
 - Support and training for teachers
 - Programmatic partnership
- During the February recess break, the leadership team including Heads of School will travel to Israel
- Harlem Hebrew Renewal
 - Either Regents March or April Meeting
 - Likely prediction is a 3-year renewal

7. Public Comments

1 parent commented on Israeli studies in school.

1 parent commented on the addition of remote learning days to the school calendar.

8. Adjournment

Vanessa Goldberg-Drossman asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Sara Bloom motioned to adjourn the meeting, Linda Aristondo seconded, the motion carried unanimously, and the meeting adjourned at 7:19 pm. The board will meet next on March 9, 2022, at 6:30 pm.