



## **HLA Board Meeting Agenda**

December 7, 2021, 6 pm

Location: Zoom

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



## **Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes**

November 9, 2021, 6 pm

Location: Zoom

### **Trustees Present**

Elly Rosenthal
Ellen Green
Mike Tobman
Alice Li
Stella Binkevich
Brian Tobin

### **Also Present:**

Daniella Steinberg, Head of School, HLA

Jon Rosenberg, CEO, Hebrew Public

Lauren Murphy, External Relations Manager, Hebrew Public

35 members of the public

### **1. Call to Order/Public Comments**

Ellen Green called the meeting to order at 6:01 pm and reminded everyone in attendance in order to sign up to make a public comment prior to our board meeting, email [boardhla@hebrewpublic.org](mailto:boardhla@hebrewpublic.org). Members of the public who missed the public notices were given a chance to sign up during the meeting 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 November 2021 Agenda**

Ellen Green asked for a motion to adopt, Elly Rosenthal made a motion to adopt the November 2021 agenda. Alice Li seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

### **3. Approval of October 2021 Meeting Minutes**



Ellen Green asked for a motion to adopt, Stella Binkevich made a motion to approve the October 2021 meeting minutes. Brian Tobin seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

#### **4. Approval of HLA Safety Plan 2021-22**

The updated 2021-22 HLA Safety Plan was shared with the board last week and will be posted on the school website for community members. Ellen Green asked for a motion to approve HLA's 2021-22 Safety Plan, Mike Tobman made the motion to approve, Elly Rosenthal seconded, and the motion went to a vote where it was passed unanimously with no objections or abstentions.

#### **5. Approval of HLA Bylaw Amendment Resolutions**

The HLA Board of Trustees discussed the following proposed changes to the bylaws:

- a. In an effort to clarify the role and function of Board committees, the Executive and Nominating Committee would be renamed the Governance committee, to reflect its focus on the functioning of the Board, including the recruitment of new Board members. This committee will continue to be chaired by the board President.
  - i. The full list of committee names will be Governance; Finance & Audit; Education & Accountability (*with the names unchanged for the last two of the above*).
- b. In an effort to retain strong Board engagement and align all of Hebrew Public's NYC school boards, the following changes are being proposed: reduce the minimum number of board members from 7 to 5 and reduce the maximum number of trustees from 15 to 11. This would enable the Board to continue to take action if its active membership fell below 7 for a brief period of time.

After a brief discussion amongst the board members, Ellen Green asked for a motion to approve the proposed changes to the HLA bylaws. Mike Tobman made the motion to approve, Brian Tobin seconded, and the motion went to a vote where it was passed unanimously with no objections or abstentions. As such, the board adopted the following resolutions:

The resolutions hereinafter set forth as the action of the Board of Trustees of HEBREW LANGUAGE ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOL (the "School") have been duly adopted at a



meeting of the Board of Trustees of the School (the “Board”) duly called and held for such purpose, and do hereby direct that these Resolutions be filed in the minute book of the School:

WHEREAS, the School was granted a charter (the “Charter”) by the New York State Board of Regents (the "Board of Regents") at a regularly scheduled meeting on January 6, 2009, to operate pursuant to its Charter Application (the "Application") which was incorporated by reference into the Charter Agreement (the "Charter Agreement") by and between the New York City Department of Education (“Authorizer”); and

WHEREAS, the Charter was subsequently renewed and extended by the Board of Regents for additional consecutive terms on January 8, 2014, March 12, 2015, and May 8, 2019, respectively, with the current Charter expiring on June 30, 2022;

WHEREAS, the School’s Bylaws (“Bylaws”) state that the Board shall not have less than seven (7) members and no more than fifteen (15) members; and

WHEREAS, the Board desires to have its board membership minimum and maximum number of trustees align with those of its sister Hebrew Public charter schools.

WHEREAS, the Charter Agreement and Bylaws state the Board shall have three (3) standing committees; (1) Executive; (2) Finance and Audit and (3) Education and Accountability; and WHEREAS, the Board wishes to replace the Executive Committee with the Governance Committee in order to align its committee structure with those of its sister Hebrew Public schools.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board directs that the Bylaws be amended to set the minimum number of Board Members at five (5) and the maximum at eleven (11) in order to align with its sister Hebrew Public schools; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board directs that the Charter Agreement and Bylaws be amended to change the standing board committees to the following: (1) Governance; (2) Finance and Audit, and; (3) Education and Accountability, with the Governance Committee assuming all the requirements, tasks and structure of the Executive Committee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the School is authorized to make these requests (the “Revision Requests”) to the Authorizer to amend the Charter Agreement; and



BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that any Trustee or officer of the School or Board designee from Hebrew Public, (each, a "Proper Representative"), be and hereby is authorized and directed, jointly and severally, to execute and deliver the Revision Requests and any other documents consistent with the transactions described above and such further agreements, assignments, pledges, instruments, consents, and documents ancillary to the Revision Request or necessary in the determination of any Proper Representative, in the name of and on behalf of the School, in order to fully carry out the intent and accomplish the purposes of the foregoing resolutions; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, all actions heretofore taken by any Proper Representative, for and on behalf of the School in connection with the Revision Requests shall be and hereby are ratified and approved, and that the authority given hereunder shall be retroactive and any and all acts hereunder performed prior to the passage of these resolutions are hereby ratified and approved.

## 6. School Leadership Update

Daniella Steinberg, Head of School shared thorough updates and many school photographs with the board and members of the public

- General School Updates
  - School-wide initiative, DEI project “about me” all adults and kids in the building are participating in this project. All students will present their projects to the school community
    - Staff “about me” posters are hanging in front of leadership offices
    - 3- week project, being completed at home
  - Book Character Day
    - Students spoke about the character they dressed as
    - Student participation was very high
  - Clubs
    - Successfully began last week
    - Offering many options to students (Stem, Chess, Keyboard...etc.)
  - School Events
    - Picture Day, November 15th
    - Dress Down Day, November 19
      - Partnership between PTO & Student Council
      - \$1 donation per student, fundraiser
- Driving Instruction with Data
  - Completed MAP, monthly quizzes for ELA & Math, Math Interim Assessments

- The results from the assessments were used to build intervention groups
- Students who fell below the 20th percentile are receiving intervention in ELA/Math two to four times per week depending on the need
- Students who fell between 21st and 50th percentile will be part of groups with Tutors by Teachers beginning in December
- Leaders and Interventionists are working together
- **Special Education Recovery Services**
  - 12-week cycle with a break for assessments
  - Students with academic support on their IEP
  - Starting with 1-3 grades, working on IEP goals once a week for two hours
  - In partnership with Special Education teachers and Interventionists
  - Parental consent was needed for all students to participate
- **SEL Screener**
  - Prioritized greatly especially this year coming out of a pandemic
  - Areas that kids may need extra help and/or excel
  - Partnering with company Satchel Pulse
    - Software program where students will answer questions about the following:
      - Abilities and skills relating to their self-awareness
      - Self-management
      - Social awareness
      - Relationship skills
      - Responsible decision making
    - The answers will help HLA understand how to best support the ongoing development of student skills
  - Launching for grades 3-8 in December
  - Teacher PD in 2 weeks will give a lesson on how to use the screener
  - Will help provide content for Morning Meeting and Advisory for all students
  - Helps to build SEL Groups
    - Social Workers can pull students to help them in areas of need
    - Satchel Pulse provides a curriculum for teachers
- **Student Council**
  - 5th and 8th Grade
  - Leaders of lower school and middle school who represent their grade
  - Elections are taking place next week
    - Campaign speeches
  - 5th Grade
    - 1 rep for each class
  - 8th Grade
    - Officer positions will be voted on
  - Ms. Rosen will lead along with a teacher liaison

- Events
  - PTO sponsored Dress Down Day
  - Can Drive
  - Toys for Tots
- Community Meetings
  - 5th and 8th grade on Fridays
  - Led by Ms. Kim and Mr. Sutton
  - Guest speakers from the community
  - Teaching kids to build skills
  - Really important for kids to have this space

## **7. Network Update**

Jon Rosenberg, Hebrew Public's CEO, shared a brief update on the following:

- COVID-19
  - Hebrew Public continues to monitor COVID-19 spread and is currently assessing if and when social distancing, mask-wearing, and quarantine procedures can be modestly relaxed
  - The community must get to a point where the spread is consistently decreasing
  - COVID-19 Vaccine for children 5 and above is now available
    - The city provided a vaccination day in many elementary schools
    - Families are encouraged to consult with a family physician on whether it is a good choice for you and your family
- New Mayor-elect, Eric Adams
  - Eric Adams has spoken about potentially lifting mask mandates if the data supports it sometime around January
  - Will continue to brief board members and members of the public and school community around updates

## **8. November 2021 Dashboard Review**

Jon Rosenberg spoke briefly about the November 2021 Dashboard to the board and members of the public:

- HLA student enrollment is holding steady
- The number of staff vacancies is decreasing daily, new hires are occurring more often with help from the Talent Team at Hebrew Public

## **9. Public Comments**

No public comments were made during this time.



## **10. Adjournment**

Ellen Green made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Elly Rosenthal seconded the motion and the meeting adjourned at 6:29 pm. The board will meet next on December 7 at 6:00 pm.