



## **Board Meeting Agenda**

February 15, 2022, 6 pm

Location: Zoom

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



Hebrew Language Academy 2  
CHARTER SCHOOL

**Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes**

January 25, 2021, 6 pm

Location: Zoom

**Trustees Present**

Ella Zalkind
Stella Binkevich
Sue Fox
Mike Tobman
Adam Miller

**Also Present:**

Ashley Furan, Head of School, HLA2

Brandon Parker, Director of Operations, HLA2

Jon Rosenberg CEO, Hebrew Public

Valerie Khaytina, Chief External Officer, Hebrew Public

Lauren Murphy, External Relations Manager, Hebrew Public

**1. Call to Order**

Lauren Murphy called the meeting to order at 6:04 pm.

**2. Adoption of January 2022 Meeting Agenda**

Adam Miller asked for a motion to adopt the January 2022 meeting agenda, Sue Fox made a motion to adopt the meeting agenda. Stella Binkevich seconded, and the motion was carried unanimously.

**3. Approval of December 2021 Minutes**

Adam Miller asked for a motion to approve the December 2021 meeting minutes, Stella Binkevich made a motion to approve, Sue Fox seconded, and the motion was carried unanimously.

**4. Leadership Update**

Ashley Furan, HLA2's Head of School updated the board on the following:

- General Update
  - An HLA2 5th-grade student passed away unexpectedly over winter recess
  - HLA2 is creating space for classmates to process their feelings and has sent a communication to families with the mental health team's information.
  - Giving a lot of support to the entire 5<sup>th</sup>-grade staff



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- While planning for the graduation, Ashley and her team are thinking about how they can honor and celebrate the student's life and impact
- Ashley's Leadership Resignation
  - Effective at the close of the school year
  - Staff and families were informed last Friday
  - Working closely with Hebrew Public, the HLA2 Board of Trustees, and HLA2's leadership team to ensure a smooth transition
  - The school's continued growth and success academically, operationally, and culturally is a top priority
- State Exam Practice
  - Began this week, students took day 1 of Math today
  - The exams are HLA2's internal assessments
    - Lots of gaps and shifts in learning due to COVID-19
    - Using the exams as a tool to see where students need more support
  - Will be increasing the number of small groups to hopefully see performance level growth
- Calendar Updates– Remote Instruction
  - This Friday is a full day of staff PD, previously planned for
  - Added remote days for family conferences
    - Allows teachers enough time slots to meet with all families while also relieving early and late commutes
  - DOE Friendly Days
    - Days when the Department of Education is closed, HLA2 will now be remote
    - Previously, HLA2 set up external bussing, but there were many challenges with setting up independent bussing
    - Days when the DOE was closed, greatly impacted school attendance
    - These dates and changes were communicated to all staff and families
- Mask-wearing Email Communication
  - This morning, we received the following directive from the New York State Education Department, which fully applies to our schools:
    - “The State Education Department understands that Nassau County Supreme Court has ruled that the Department of Health exceeded its authority in enacting the mask regulation, 10 NYCRR 2.60, in *Demetriou et al. v. New York State Dep’t of Health et al.* This regulation is the subject of conflicting decisions, insofar as Albany County Supreme Court recently upheld the regulation in *Massapequa UFSD et al. v. Hochul, et al.* It is SED’s understanding that the Department of Health will appeal the Nassau County Supreme Court decision, which will result in an



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automatic stay that will unambiguously restore the mask rule until such time as an appellate court issues a further ruling. Therefore, **schools must continue to follow the mask rule.**”

- This means that the mask-wearing mandate in our schools is still required to be in place.
- Attendance
  - The year-to-date average is 90%
  - Operations and Deans are working hard on following up with families of students who have been absent
  - Ensuring students are only joining remotely when quarantine is necessary
- Enrollment
  - Currently at 284
  - A few students have left due to private school offerings and special needs programming
  - 5 new students began this week, priority has been HLA2 Leadership introducing themselves to families and ensuring the students acclimate to the school setting
  - Outreach for Pre-K applications will begin next week

Board Member, Sue Fox, commended Ashley, and her team on keeping student attendance a priority. Sue also commented on the increase in infection rates among young children.

### 5. Network Update

Jon Rosenberg, Hebrew Public’s CEO briefed the board on the following:

- COVID-19
  - Number of positive cases have spiked with Omicron
    - 500 cases per 100,000 daily
  - The numbers are now coming back down
    - It’s important to remember that even though it is on a decline, the positive cases are 5x higher than a few months ago
- Facilities Planning
  - Tentatively planning for “normal space constraints for next year meaning no social distancing
  - Staying in the current building for 1st semester (through fall)
    - Ashley and Brandon along with the HLA2 team have been very inventive in creating more space
      - Setting up room for a Pre-k section
  - Cropsey Avenue Site
    - Glass panels have now arrived and are being installed
    - An update will go out to families and staff soon

- Funding
  - Governor Hochul put out a funding proposal
    - Looking to see a decent percent increase for NY state per-pupil funding
  - HLA2 budget process has begun
    - Ashley has put together a staffing plan for next year
    - Hoping to provide an appropriate cost of living adjustment for staff
- 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

Board members engaged in a brief discussion about contingency planning regarding the new facility.

## **6. Public Comments**

No members of the public were present.

## **7. Executive Session**

Adam Miller made a motion to enter into executive session at 6:30 pm, no votes were taken during this time.

## **8. Adjournment**

Adam Miller made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:07 pm, Mike Tobman seconded, and the motion was carried unanimously. The board will meet next on February 15<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm.