



## Staten Island Hebrew Public

### Staten Island Hebrew Public Board Meeting

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#### Date and Time

Wednesday January 22, 2025 at 7:00 PM EST

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All board meetings take place at Staten Island Hebrew Public (829 Father Capodanno Blvd, Staten Island, NY 10305). All meetings are open to the public.

If you would like to make a public comment during the next board meeting, please email [boardsihp@hebrewpublic.org](mailto:boardsihp@hebrewpublic.org) and include your full name to sign up.

When it is your time to speak during the meeting, your name will be called. We request you limit your comment(s) or question(s) to three minutes. You will receive a one-minute warning before your allotted time elapses.

Board and staff members do not typically respond to public comments at the time they are made. However, we will do our best to respond to unanswered questions within a few business days.

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#### Agenda

	Purpose	Presenter
<b>I. Opening Items</b>		
<b>A.</b> Record Attendance		David Sorkin
<b>B.</b> Call the Meeting to Order		David Sorkin
Call to Order & Reminder for Public Comment(s) Sign Up		
<b>C.</b> Adoption of January 2025 Agenda	Vote	David Sorkin

	Purpose	Presenter
<b>D.</b> Approve December 2024 Meeting Minutes	Approve Minutes	David Sorkin
<b>II. School Report</b>		
<b>A.</b> Culture Team Update	FYI	
<b>B.</b> Executive Director Report	Discuss	Michael Coppotelli
<b>C.</b> Head of School Report	Discuss	Amanda Ainley
<b>III. Network Report</b>		
<b>A.</b> Hebrew Public Leadership Report	FYI	Jennice Hyde
<b>IV. Public Comments</b>		
<b>A.</b> Public Comments	FYI	David Sorkin
<b>V. Closing Items</b>		
<b>A.</b> Adjourn Meeting	Vote	David Sorkin

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Staten Island Hebrew Public is an exceptional, diverse public charter school that teaches Modern Hebrew to children of all backgrounds and prepares them to be successful global citizens.

# Coversheet

## Approve December 2024 Meeting Minutes

**Section:** I. Opening Items  
**Item:** D. Approve December 2024 Meeting Minutes  
**Purpose:** Approve Minutes  
**Submitted by:**  
**Related Material:**  
Minutes for Staten Island Hebrew Public Board Meeting on December 16, 2024

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## Staten Island Hebrew Public

# Minutes

## Staten Island Hebrew Public Board Meeting

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### Date and Time

Monday December 16, 2024 at 7:45 PM

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All board meetings take place at Staten Island Hebrew Public (829 Father Capodanno Blvd, Staten Island, NY 10305). All meetings are open to the public.

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If you wish to make a public comment via Zoom, please ensure your name on Zoom matches the sign-up name provided.

When it is your time to speak during the meeting, your name will be called. We request you limit your comment(s) or question(s) to three minutes. You will receive a one-minute warning before your allotted time elapses.

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### Trustees Present

Angela Olsen, Anna Maftser, Bonita Sussman, David Sorkin, Ernest Paige, Noemi Zibuts, Rachel Amar, Sigalit Grego (remote)

### Trustees Absent

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None

### **Guests Present**

Amanda Ainley, Elyse Castellano (remote), Lauren Murphy (remote), Michael Coppotelli, Robert Keogh

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## **I. Opening Items**

### **A. Record Attendance**

### **B. Call the Meeting to Order**

David Sorkin called a meeting of the board of trustees of Staten Island Hebrew Public to order on Monday Dec 16, 2024 at 8:05 PM.

### **C. Adoption of December 2024 Agenda**

Noemi Zibuts made a motion to adopt the December 2024 agenda.  
Bonita Sussman seconded the motion.  
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

### **D. Approve November 2024 Meeting Minutes**

Bonita Sussman made a motion to approve the minutes from Staten Island Hebrew Public Board Meeting on 11-14-24.  
Ernest Paige seconded the motion.  
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

## **II. Governance Report**

### **A. Briefing from the Recent Committee Meeting**

Noemi Zibuts provided a summary from the Governance Committee that convened in early December to review board evaluations that were completed over the summer.

At the end of each school year, all board members are asked to complete two self-evaluations: one individual evaluation and one board evaluation.

The full board self-evaluation assesses various aspects of their performance in relation to the school's mission and governance. Most board members responded affirmatively to all questions, with no notable issues raised in most areas.

The individual evaluation provides feedback from each board member on their own performance, challenges, and priorities for the coming year. Some of the key goals identified include: community outreach, increasing student enrollment, and expanding

board membership and diversity. Since these evaluations were completed over the summer, some of the key goals have already been addressed by leadership.

The committee also discussed two new prospective board members who are currently working on their applications. Both live on Staten Island and would be assets to the board.

### III. Finance Report

#### A. Board Action: Ratification of the 23-24 Audited Financials

Angela Olsen made a motion to ratify the 23-24 audited financials as recommended by the finance committee.

Rachel Amar seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

### IV. School Report

#### A. Executive Director Report

Michael Coppotelli highlighted several key updates from the prior month.

The school received high praise during a visit from Anat Einstein, who is part of the Steinhardt Foundation in Israel. She toured the school in early December and was impressed by Morah Larisa's Hebrew lesson.

The school also participated in a Pre-K Director's community event, showcasing a holiday show for families. Efforts to increase outreach and enrollment are ongoing, with aggressive marketing targeting 75 new students for September. Progress is ahead of last year, with 20% of new applications stemming from Facebook posts, and the school encourages increased engagement through likes and shares.

The annual Holiday Show on December 20th will welcome all families, with videos available for those unable to attend.

The school remains active in local events and recently hosted both virtual and in-person open houses, with a combined attendance of 22 families.

Financially, the school is collaborating with City Council and the NY Charter School Center while also applying for a \$250K FEMA Security Grant, which, with bipartisan support, could fund additional security measures and infrastructure.

Lastly, preparations for the state's mid-year authorizer visit are underway. The board will continue to review benchmarks monthly, and future meetings will be streamlined, with committee meetings preceding in-person board sessions for efficiency.

## **B. Head of School Report**

Amanda Ainley reported that the Hebrew Public Network conducted family surveys, with a 64% participation rate. Feedback highlighted the need for streamlined communication, varied event times (after school and evenings), and outreach to families expressing concerns to provide additional support. MAP testing data from September will be collected in late January, with growth results shared in February's meeting. Parent-teacher conferences in various formats (call, Zoom, or in-person) saw 80% family participation last month.

Hebrew Public received a Supporting, Rewarding & Growing Educators (SuRGE) Grant. With the support of a significant federal Teacher and School Leader grant, the SuRGE program aims to strengthen instructional support, recognize and reward educator excellence, and codify and clarify career pathways.

Amanda distributed indicators for rigor and intellectual preparation to the board which are provided to educators. These guide instructional goals. Teachers appreciate the training and clear expectations provided by the Network. Lastly, with exams administered on computers, there is a focus on developing typing skills and supporting younger students.

## **V. Network Report**

### **A. Hebrew Public Leadership Report**

Elyse Castellano, Hebrew Public's COO/CFO provided the following updates:

The Operations Team is actively collaborating to provide comprehensive guidance, including planning for computer-based testing, preparing for the authorizer site visit, evaluating school performance benchmarks, and assisting the board in readiness for the visit.

The Talent Team is managing the school roster and has initiated planning for the 2025-2026 hiring season, encouraging recommendations through Jennice.

The External Team is focusing on recruitment efforts, with holiday letters being sent to all applicants, a second mailer underway, and plans to host a Tu BiShvat event in January. This event, celebrating the "New Year of the Trees," emphasizes ecological awareness and tree planting, as traditionally observed in Israel.

Lastly, the Program Team is conducting computer-based testing simulations to prepare students under realistic testing conditions for their assessments in April.

## **VI. Public Comments**

### **A. Review of Public Comments**

No members of the public were present.

## **VII. Closing Items**

### **A. Adjourn Meeting**

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 8:54 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,  
David Sorkin

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