



Staten Island Hebrew Public

Staten Island Hebrew Public Board Meeting

Date and Time

Wednesday February 12, 2025 at 7:00 PM EST

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 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.

Agenda

	Purpose	Presenter
I. Opening Items		
A. Record Attendance		David Sorkin
B. Call the Meeting to Order		David Sorkin
Call to Order & Reminder for Public Comment(s) Sign Up		

Purpose Presenter

II. Board Actions

- | | | | |
|-----------|--|-----------------|--------------|
| A. | Adoption of the Meeting Agenda | Vote | David Sorkin |
| B. | Approve Minutes | Approve Minutes | David Sorkin |
| | Approve minutes for Staten Island Hebrew Public Board Meeting on January 22, 2025 | | |
| C. | Resolution to Change the Total Number of Days for the School Year Pending NYSED Approval | Vote | David Sorkin |
| D. | Approval of the 2025-26 Academic Calendar | Vote | David Sorkin |

III. School Report

- | | | | |
|-----------|---------------------------|---------|----------------------------------|
| A. | School Team Member Update | Discuss | Randi Schaffer,
Academic Dean |
| B. | Head of School Report | Discuss | Amanda Ainley |

IV. Executive Director Report

- | | | | |
|-----------|--|---------|--------------------|
| A. | School Facilities | Discuss | Michael Coppotelli |
| B. | School Staffing Update for SY25-26 | Discuss | Michael Coppotelli |
| C. | Finance Update | Discuss | Michael Coppotelli |
| D. | Scheduling a Finance Committee meeting via Zoom for one hour on the week of Feb 23 | Discuss | Michael Coppotelli |

V. Network Report

- | | | | |
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| A. | Hebrew Public Leadership Report | FYI | Emily Fernandez |
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VI. Public Comments

- | | | | |
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| A. | Public Comments | FYI | David Sorkin |
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VII. Closing Items

- | | | | |
|-----------|-----------------|------|--------------|
| A. | 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.

DRAFT



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Trustees Present

Angela Olsen (remote), Bonita Sussman (remote), David Sorkin, Ernest Paige, Noemi Zibuts

Trustees Absent

Anna Maftser, Rachel Amar, Sigalit Grego

Guests Present

Amanda Ainley, Ed Burke, Jennice Hyde (remote), Lauren Murphy (remote), Michael Coppotelli, Shanoya Belcher

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 Wednesday Jan 22, 2025 at 7:05 PM.

C. Adoption of January 2025 Agenda

Ernest Paige made a motion to adopt the January 2025 agenda.

Noemi Zibuts seconded the motion.

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

D. Approve December 2024 Meeting Minutes

Angela Olsen made a motion to approve the minutes from Staten Island Hebrew Public Board Meeting on 12-16-24.

Noemi Zibuts seconded the motion.

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

II. School Report

A. Culture Team Update

Ms. Belcher, Dean of Culture and founding teacher at Staten Island Hebrew Public presented to the board.

She shared reflections on her first year as Dean of Culture, noting initial challenges but emphasizing her gratitude for an amazing team. She highlighted one of the school's priorities this year is Bringing Our Mission to Life (our focus on OLAM values and Global Citizenship) which can be seen through Responsive Classroom practice. The use of the Responsive Classroom model integrates academics with social-emotional learning through four key components: engaging academics, positive community, effective management, and developmentally responsive teaching. This approach fosters a supportive and engaging environment for student learning.

Ms. Belcher introduced new school initiatives that have been well-received, including "Student of the Week," monthly perfect attendance recognitions, student ambassadors, class parents, and the mystery reader program. These initiatives incentivize engagement, promote school pride, and encourage parental involvement.

She outlined upcoming events and planned school trips, such as the Scholastic Book Fair, Respect for All Week, Black History Month, Lunar New Year celebrations, Women's History Month, Math Bee, Spelling Bee, and Honor Roll recognition. Planned school trips

include visits to Puppet Works, Wagner College, BAM, Rooftop Farm, Snug Harbor, and the Brooklyn Children's Museum.

Ms. Belcher expressed excitement about the positive progress and thanked the board for their support.

B. Head of School Report

Amanda Ainley, Head of School, , provided an update on the implementation and progress of the IXL program. IXL, an online platform linked to NWEA MAP diagnostic data, enables individualized lessons tailored to students' proficiency levels. Teachers initially implemented IXL with minimal guidance but have now received professional development to analyze data and strategically plan its use. This includes incorporating small group instruction, creating incentives like leaderboards and certificates, and engaging parents. Teachers have effectively used IXL to differentiate instruction, allowing students to practice skills independently while teachers focus on targeted small-group lessons.

Amanda highlighted the importance of January as a key assessment month. As this is the school's first year with third grade, data collection is essential to anticipate state exam performance. Preliminary data shows 44% proficiency among third-grade students on a recent exam, slightly below the network average of 48%. She described strategies to enhance student engagement, such as using rubrics and peer critique to improve test-taking and extended response skills. The Academic Dean will present a detailed data analysis at the next board meeting, offering insights into student performance and projections for spring exams.

C. Executive Director Report

Michael Coppotelli, Executive Director, provided updates on critical developments. He highlighted the urgent need for additional space, including a gym, and shared progress on securing the building next door, owned by their supportive landlords. Discussions with the network CEO and landlords are underway to finalize plans, including financial modeling to manage upfront rent reductions with increased payments as enrollment grows. The new building would reinforce the organization's presence in the community, signaling growth and inviting new families. Recent updates to the lobby, including a play area, toys, and student artwork, have already created a more welcoming environment. Additionally, Michael has been actively collaborating with the Staten Island Economic Development Corporation and former Assemblyman Michael Cusick to support these efforts.

Several updates were shared:

- **Community Engagement:** Reverend Demetrius Carolina and the Executive Director of the Central Family Life Center visited, showing interest in partnerships,

including potential educational opportunities for their community. Dawn, the preschool director of the JCC, toured the facilities and praised the classrooms, reinforcing the organization's positive work. Continued emphasis is placed on fostering community partnerships and reaching families through events and communication.

- **Philanthropy:** The school raised \$500 for Staten Island University Hospital's breast cancer awareness program in partnership with the Joseph Maffeo Foundation.
- **Cultural Initiatives:** The Hebrew studies and Israeli culture program is expanding. Michael shared he will participate in TALMA this summer- a program that allows staff to teach English in Israel. Efforts are underway to engage notable Israeli artists, including Eurovision finalist Judah Garfa, to enrich music programming.
- **Upcoming Events:** A school-wide open house showcasing student artwork and performances is scheduled for June 16.
- **Staff and Enrollment:** A focus remains on increasing staff diversity and reviewing talent goals. The new physical education teacher was introduced. Current enrollment stands at 195, reflecting a slight decline due to families relocating.

Michael initiated a discussion regarding the school's name and branding. He highlighted that while parents embrace the school's global citizenship values and its secular, non-ideological modern Hebrew curriculum, the name "Hebrew Public" often leads to misconceptions, with some associating the school with a yeshiva or a Jewish organization.

He proposed exploring the possibility of rebranding to better reflect the school's diversity and identity while remaining committed to its mission of teaching secular modern Hebrew.

Michael requested the Board's approval to engage in an exploratory process involving surveys, focus groups, and community engagement to gather input from stakeholders, including parents, staff, and civic associations. He assured the Board that any recommendations would be brought back for review and approval before further action. He noted support from the Network CEO, the National Board, and Network leadership for this initiative.

Lastly, Michael invited prospective board member, Ed Burke to come to the school as a mystery reader during the week of Groundhog's Day to read his children's book to the students. In partnership with the Lois & Richard Nicotra Foundation, SIHP will purchase Ed's book for all of the children to take home.

David Sorkin made a motion to grant permission for school administration to explore and review options for the possibility of rebranding the school name and logo by use of a multi-prong approach with focus groups.

Ernest Paige seconded the motion.

Bonita Sussman recommended that at least three-name recommendations be presented to the board to streamline the decision-making process and avoid delays.

Michael, agreed, emphasizing that a consensus recommendation, whether it be one, two, or three options, will be presented to the board for clarity and efficiency.

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

III. Network Report

A. Hebrew Public Leadership Report

Jennice Hyde, Chief Talent Officer at Hebrew Public, provided network updates. Michael has been collaborating with the finance team to finalize the budget for the upcoming school year. Organizational chart planning has begun, focusing on the staffing structure at Staten Island Hebrew Public (SIHP), which will add a 4th grade next year. Applications for the new school year are now live on the website.

A new hire, a Cantonese- and Mandarin-speaking special education teacher with 20 years of experience in charter schools, will support open houses and student recruitment, addressing the growing Cantonese- and Mandarin-speaking population on Staten Island.

The Talent team has completed its annual retention and new hire report, an 18-page document analyzing staff demographics, experience, certification status, and diversity. This data informs hiring goals for the next season, with SIHP prioritizing staff diversity and successfully hiring a Cantonese and Mandarin-speaking physical education teacher.

IV. Public Comments

A. Public Comments

No public comments were recieved.

V. 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 8:10 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
David Sorkin

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