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## Hebrew Language Academy

### HLA Board Meeting

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#### Date and Time

Tuesday March 4, 2025 at 6:00 PM EST

#### Location

2186 Mill Avenue

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All board meetings take place at Hebrew Language Academy Charter School (2186 Mill Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11234). All meetings are open to the public.

If you would like to make a comment during the next board meeting, please email [boardhla@hebrewpublic.org](mailto:boardhla@hebrewpublic.org) and include your full name to sign up and indicate if you will be attending in person or via Zoom.

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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	Time
<b>I.</b>	<b>Opening Items</b>			<b>6:00 PM</b>
	A. Record Attendance		Ellen Green	
	B. Call the Meeting to Order		Ellen Green	
<b>II.</b>	<b>Board Actions</b>			
	A. Adoption of the Meeting Agenda for February & March 2025	Vote	Ellen Green	
	B. Approve Minutes from January 2025	Approve Minutes	Ellen Green	
	C. Approve Minutes from February 2025	Approve Minutes	Ellen Green	
	D. Approval of Academic Calendar for FY26	Vote	Ellen Green	
<b>III.</b>	<b>School Report</b>			
	A. School Leader Report	FYI	Daniella Steinberg	
<b>IV.</b>	<b>Network Report</b>			
	A. Report from Hebrew Public Leadership	FYI	Valerie Khaytina	
<b>V.</b>	<b>Public Comments</b>			
	A. Review of Public Comments			
<b>VI.</b>	<b>Closing Items</b>			
	A. Adjourn Meeting	Vote	Ellen Green	

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

## **February 4, 2025 Meeting Agenda**

		Purpose	Presenter	Time
<b>I.</b>	<b>Opening Items</b>			<b>6:00 PM</b>
	A. Record Attendance		Ellen Green	
	B. Call the Meeting to Order		Ellen Green	
<b>II.</b>	<b>Board Actions</b>			
	A. Adoption of the Meeting Agenda	Vote	Ellen Green	
	B. Approve Minutes	Approve Minutes	Ellen Green	
		Approve minutes for HLA Board Meeting on January 7, 2025		
	C. Approval of the 2025-26 Academic Calendar	Vote	Ellen Green	
<b>III.</b>	<b>School Report</b>			
	A. School Leader Report	FYI	Daniella Steinberg	
<b>IV.</b>	<b>Network Report</b>			
	A. Report from Hebrew Public Leadership	FYI	Valerie Khaytina	
<b>V.</b>	<b>Public Comments</b>			
	A. Review of Public Comments			
<b>VI.</b>	<b>Executive Session</b>			
	A. HLA Renewal	Discuss	Daniella Steinberg	
<b>VII.</b>	<b>Closing Items</b>			
	A. Adjourn Meeting	Vote	Ellen Green	

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# Hebrew Language Academy

## Minutes

### HLA Board Meeting

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**Date and Time**

Tuesday January 7, 2025 at 6:00 PM

**Location**

HLA Charter School

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**Trustees Present**

Alice Li (remote), Ellen Green (remote), Mike Tobman (remote), Stella Binkevich (remote), Valerie Khaytina (remote)

### **Trustees Absent**

Brian Tobin

### **Guests Present**

Daniella Steinberg, Elyse Castellano (remote), Gerard Del Rosario, Lauren Murphy (remote)

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## **I. Opening Items**

### **A. Record Attendance**

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

Ellen Green called a meeting of the board of trustees of Hebrew Language Academy to order on Tuesday Jan 7, 2025 at 6:02 PM.

### **C. Adoption of the Meeting Agenda**

Mike Tobman made a motion to adopt the January 2025 agenda.

Ellen Green seconded the motion.

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

### **D. Approve Minutes**

Mike Tobman made a motion to approve the minutes from HLA Board Meeting on 12-10-24.

Valerie Khaytina seconded the motion.

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

## **II. School Report**

### **A. School Leader Report**

Daniella Steinberg, Head of School, provided an update on the following:

- Events and Activities:** The school hosted an ugly sweater contest before winter break and a kindergarten event celebrating winter holidays with songs and activities planned by Hebrew teachers. Upcoming events include a family chess tournament, Black History Month showcases, and the Winter Olympics, a competitive team-based activity during specials. Additional events include a Hebrew author visit for 5th-grade students and the HLA Shootathon fundraiser for St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital.

- **Student Engagement Initiatives:** early morning basketball sessions once a week is a new initiative aimed to improve attendance and academic performance, while the chess program is expanding engagement with tournaments and after-school activities.
- **Progress on KPIs:** Notable achievements include improved attendance at 93% (up from 90% last year), reduced suspension rates from 6% to 3%, and meeting goals for new student applications. However, challenges remain in teacher certification compliance, staff vacancies, and under-enrollment in kindergarten, though progress is being made. Enrollment overall stands at 602, slightly below the budgeted target of 635.

### III. Network Report

#### A. Report from Hebrew Public Leadership

Valerie Khaytina provided an update on her involvement in potentially a new school in Stamford, Connecticut, and shared briefly about a recent visit. She highlighted the potential for growth within the organization and brought attention to two HLA alumni who joined her during the visit. These alumni, both college sophomores, showcased the impact of HLA's education. One is studying neuroscience, and the other, inspired by her experience at HLA, is studying speech therapy and has developed a passion for languages, including modern Hebrew, sign language, Chinese, and Japanese.

HLA is continuing to create partnerships with community-based organizations that will hopefully continue to grow student enrollment.

### IV. Executive Session

#### A. HLA Renewal

Valerie Khaytina made a motion to enter into executive session at 6:23 pm.

Mike Tobman seconded the motion.

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

The HLA renewal visit was discussed with the board.

Mike Tobman made a motion to exit executive session.

Stella Binkevich seconded the motion.

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

### 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 6:50 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Ellen Green

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## Minutes

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#### Trustees Present

Ellen Green (remote), Valerie Khaytina (remote)

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**Trustees Absent**

Alice Li, Brian Tobin, Mike Tobman, Stella Binkevich

**Guests Present**

Daniella Steinberg, Gerard Del Rosario, Lauren Murphy

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**I. Opening Items**

**A. Record Attendance**

**B. Call the Meeting to Order**

Ellen Green called a meeting of the board of trustees of Hebrew Language Academy to order on Tuesday Feb 4, 2025 at 6:00 PM.

**II. Board Actions**

**A. Adoption of the Meeting Agenda**

No quorum was present.

**B. Approve Minutes**

No quorum was present.

**C. Approval of the 2025-26 Academic Calendar**

No quorum was present.

**III. School Report**

**A. School Leader Report**

Daniella Steinberg shared updates on recent and upcoming events at HLA. The Shootathon fundraiser, held two weeks ago, was a success, with the basketball team raising funds for St. Jude Children's Hospital. Final tallies are still in progress, and sponsor notifications are underway. She highlighted the significance of this event in fostering community engagement and philanthropy among students.

Preparations are ongoing for the Black History Month showcase on February 27, featuring performances from both lower and middle school students. Additionally, academic incentive celebrations are planned, including disco parties for younger students who demonstrate strong effort in school. On February 11, the school will host a performance showcasing the new jazz band, dance team, and step team.

Students recently completed winter MAP testing, providing valuable insights into academic progress and helping guide instructional decisions.

Lastly, the PTO will be hosting a Scholastic Book Fair next week.

#### **IV. Network Report**

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

Valerie Khaytina, provided an update on HLA's recruitment efforts, highlighting the team's dedication to filling all available spots. The Network's External team has been instrumental in designing marketing materials, including direct mailers, which remain the primary method for attracting new applications. Notably, kindergarten applications have increased compared to last year. The team is also strengthening relationships with preschools and daycares to expand outreach.

Additionally, there will be an 8th-grade trip to Washington, D.C., which is scheduled for the end of May.

#### **V. Public Comments**

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

No public comments were received.

#### **VI. 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 6:15 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Ellen Green

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## 2025-2026 HLA Calendar

### General Notes:

- September 2: First Day of School (half day)
- June 26: Last Day of School (half day)
- 3:30pm dismissal Monday - Thursday, 1pm dismissal Friday

### School Closings

September 2: Labor Day  
September 23-24 : Rosh Hashanah  
October 2: Yom Kippur  
October 13: Indigenous Peoples' Day  
October 20: Diwali  
November 11: Veterans Day  
November 27 - 28: Thanksgiving  
December 24 - January 1: Winter break  
January 19: MLK Day  
February 16 - 20: Midwinter Break  
March 20: Eid-al-Fitr  
April 2 - 10: Spring Break  
May 25: Memorial Day  
May 27: Eid-al-Adha  
June 19: Juneteenth

### Half Days

September 2-3: Half Day for Students (in-person)  
November 20: Family Conferences, Half Day for Students (in-person)  
November 26: Day before Thanksgiving, Half Day for Students (in-person)  
December 23: Day before Winter Break, Half Day for Students (in-person)  
February 12: Family Conferences, Half Day for Students (in-person)  
April 1: Day before Spring Break, Half Day for Students (in-person)  
May 7: Family Conferences, Half Day for Students (in-person)  
June 25: Half Day for Students (in-person)  
June 26: Last Day of School, Half Day for students (in-person)

### Remote Days

None

### **Blackout Days**

August: 19-29

September: 2,3, 22, 25

October: 1, 3, 10, 14, 17, 21

November: 7, 10, 12, 20, 21, 26

December: 1, 23

January: 2, 5, 16, 20

February: 12, 13, 23

March: 19, 23

April: 1, 13, 28-29

May: 5-8, 12, 22, 26, 28

June: 18, 22, 25, 26

### **Family Conferences (half day for students)**

November 20-21: Q1 Family Conferences

February 12-13: Q2 Family Conferences

May 7-8: Q3 Family Conferences

### **Marking Periods**

Marking Period 1: Tuesday 9/2 - Friday 11/7

Marking Period 2: Monday 11/10 - Friday 1/23

Marking Period 3: Monday 1/26 - Wednesday 4/1

Marking Period 4: Monday 4/13 - Friday 6/26

### **Reading and Math Diagnostic Window**

September 2-

### **State Testing**

- NYSITELL Window:
- NYSAA ELA Assessment: April 28-29
- NYSAA Math Assessment: May 5-6
- NYSAA Sci Assessment: May 12
- NYSESLAT Speaking Testing Window (NY) :
- NYSESLAT Listening, Reading, Writing Testing Window (NY) :

### **Hebrew Public Assessments:**

- IA #1

- ELA:
- Math:
- **IA #2**
  - ELA:
  - IA #2 Math: