



Staten Island Hebrew Public

Staten Island Hebrew Public Board Meeting

Date and Time

Monday April 28, 2025 at 7:00 PM EDT

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
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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 March 24, 2025

III. School Report

A. Head of School Report Discuss Amanda Ainley

B. Executive Director Report Discuss Michael Coppotelli

IV. Network Report

A. Hebrew Public Leadership Report FYI Emily Fernandez

V. Public Comments

A. Public Comments FYI David Sorkin

VI. Executive Session

A. Legal & Personnel Discuss Michael Coppotelli

VII. Closing Items

A. Adjourn Meeting Vote David Sorkin

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.

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Staten Island Hebrew Public

Minutes

Staten Island Hebrew Public Board Meeting

Date and Time

Monday March 24, 2025 at 7:45 PM

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Trustees Present

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

Trustees Absent

Ernest Paige

Trustees who left before the meeting adjourned

Rachel Amar

Guests Present

Amanda Ainley, Ed Burke, Prospective Board Member, Emily Fernandez (remote), Lauren Murphy (remote), Michael Coppotelli, Robert Keogh, 4th Sector Solutions Inc., Ron Castorina, Prospective Board Member

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 Mar 24, 2025 at 7:22 PM.

II. Board Actions

A. Adoption of the Meeting Agenda

Rachel Amar made a motion to adopt agenda.
Noemi Zibuts seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

B. Approve Minutes

Anna Maftser made a motion to approve the minutes from Staten Island Hebrew Public Board Meeting on 02-12-25.
Noemi Zibuts seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

C. Resolution and Vote to elect Patricia Tooker to the Staten Island Hebrew Public Board of Trustees pending approval by NYSED

Rachel Amar made a motion to approve the following resolution: The Staten Island Hebrew Public Charter School Board of Trustees, having conducted a thorough criminal history record check via fingerprinting which is deemed acceptable by NYSED, and having discovered no State or federal criminal history, or having provided information regarding such history to NYSED, if found, and having verified that any academic and/or professional credential or qualification presented by the proposed member is genuine, and having reviewed the application in its entirety, has voted to select Patricia Tooker as a member to its Board of Trustees, with a term expiring on June 30, 2025, pending approval by NYSED. The resolution approving Patricia Tooker is adopted upon NYSED's approval.
Anna Maftser seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.
Rachel Amar left.

III. School Report

A. Head of School Report

Amanda Ainley provided an update on recent cultural and academic initiatives at the school.

Pi Day (March 14) featured a play by the second-grade Hebrew team, which was a great success. The annual Scholastic Book Fair raised approximately \$5,000, and a Coin Drive was held beforehand to ensure every student received a book. A recruitment fair for prospective families was well attended, and leadership decided to open the book fair to those families as well, reinforcing the school's commitment to literacy.

The school is participating in the state exam for the first time, with various efforts in place to support students. Families were asked to write motivational letters, staff are recording encouragement videos, and bulletin boards feature test-taking strategies and anxiety management tips. Third-grade teachers are actively engaged in daily test prep with data-driven instruction, and a free skills readiness tutoring program was launched for students needing additional support. A family information session is scheduled to guide parents on supporting their children through the state exam process. The school is also fostering a positive testing environment with "Rock the Test" T-shirts for students, staff, and board members, along with motivational wristbands recognizing supportive and hardworking students. Efforts continue to balance academic rigor with emotional support to help students manage test anxiety and perform at their best.

B. Executive Director Report

Michael Coppotelli reported on several key initiatives and updates. The school participated in the **SI Alliance for North Shore Children and Families** recruitment event which saw an impressive turnout of 400 families.

A rebranding effort for the school is underway, with a proposal expected from an NYU marketing professor, including plans for community focus groups. The goal is to present to the board by June.

A written facilities update was provided to board members prior to the meeting.

Budget discussions highlighted a projected deficit for next year. While cost-cutting measures are being evaluated across all departments, the focus remains on increasing revenue through student recruitment and enrollment. Efforts include direct outreach to applicants, special incentives such as free after-school programs for early enrollees, and a partnership with the JCC for discounted memberships. Retaining staff is a priority, and successful enrollment efforts could prevent cuts.

The school will host a professional development event on April 11, inviting Staten Island charter schools to foster collaboration. Key upcoming events include Israel Day on May 6,

an open house event on June 16 at Staten Island University Hospital's McGinn Auditorium, and Kindergarten Graduation on June 24 at the JCC. Invitations will follow for board members.

Board Recruitment is a continuous initiative.

Ron Castorina, a prospective board member, introduced himself to the board. He is a Supreme Court judge in Staten Island and a former Assemblyman for the South Shore. He expressed a strong interest in community service, particularly in supporting children and education. He highlighted his experience working on education-related issues during his time in the Assembly and City Council, including familiarity with policies such as IEPs and school funding.

IV. Network Report

A. Hebrew Public Leadership Report

Emily Fernandez, Chief Schools Officer at Hebrew Public, provided an update on network activities. She addressed the cancellation of the Federal Teacher and School Leadership Grant, which was focused on teacher retention and development. The network is part of a lawsuit to reinstate the grant and is working to streamline services while minimizing budget impacts on schools. Despite funding challenges, key resources for students remain in place. Enrollment and staff recruitment remain top priorities, with the network supporting efforts through coordinated student outreach and teacher recruitment.

Academically, the focus is on preparing students and teachers for state exams through differentiated instruction and test prep resources. Efforts are in place to support all students, from those excelling to those needing additional reinforcement, while also addressing the stress associated with testing.

Lastly, planning for the next academic year is underway, with central and school-based planning efforts ensuring a strong academic strategy. Collaboration with school leaders continues to be a priority in shaping a solid plan for the future.

V. Public Comments

A. Public Comments

No public comments at this time.

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 8:08 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
David Sorkin

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