



# Hebrew Language Academy Charter School 2 (HLA2)

## HLA2 Board Meeting

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### Date and Time

Tuesday May 13, 2025 at 6:00 PM EDT

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All board meetings take place at Hebrew Language Academy Charter School 2 (2286 Cropsey Ave, Brooklyn, NY 11214). All meetings are open to the public.

If you would like to make a comment during the next board meeting, please email [boardhla2@hebrewpublic.org](mailto:boardhla2@hebrewpublic.org) include your full name to sign up, and indicate if you will be attending in person or via Zoom.

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, and you will be unmuted.

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		Adam Miller
<b>B.</b> Call the Meeting to Order		Adam Miller
Call to Order & Reminder for Public Comment(s) Sign Up		
<b>II. Board Actions</b>		
<b>A.</b> Adoption of the Meeting Agenda	Vote	Adam Miller
<b>B.</b> Approve Minutes	Approve Minutes	Adam Miller
Approve minutes for HLA2 Board Meeting on April 22, 2025		
<b>III. School Report</b>		
<b>A.</b> Head of School Update	FYI	Katie Passley
<b>IV. Network Report</b>		
<b>A.</b> Hebrew Public Update	FYI	Elyse Castellano
<b>V. Public Comments</b>		
<b>A.</b> Review of Public Comments	FYI	Adam Miller
<b>VI. Closing Items</b>		
<b>A.</b> Adjourn Meeting	Vote	Adam Miller

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Hebrew Language Academy Charter School 2 (HLA2) provides students with the academic and personal foundation necessary to successfully pursue advanced studies and achieve continued personal growth as ethical and informed global citizens. In order to accomplish this, HLA2 offers an academically rigorous PreK-5 curriculum that includes immersive instruction in Modern Hebrew. A diverse student body will also develop a strong sense of social and civic responsibility through the integration of service learning across the curriculum.

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## Hebrew Language Academy Charter School 2 (HLA2)

### Minutes

#### HLA2 Board Meeting

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##### Date and Time

Tuesday April 22, 2025 at 6:00 PM

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##### Trustees Present

Adam Miller (remote), Alice Li (remote), Ella Zalkind (remote), Joanne Cavanaugh (remote), Mike Tobman (remote), Susan Fox (remote), Will Mack (remote)

### Trustees Absent

Stella Binkevich

### Guests Present

Elyse Castellano (remote), Katie Passley, Lauren Murphy (remote)

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## I. Opening Items

### A. Record Attendance

### B. Call the Meeting to Order

Adam Miller called a meeting of the board of trustees of Hebrew Language Academy Charter School 2 (HLA2) to order on Tuesday Apr 22, 2025 at 6:03 PM.

## II. Board Actions

### A. Adoption of the Meeting Agenda

Will Mack made a motion to adopt the agenda.

Mike Tobman seconded the motion.

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

### B. Approve Minutes

Will Mack made a motion to approve the minutes from HLA2 March Board Meeting on 03-11-25.

Susan Fox seconded the motion.

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

## III. School Report

### A. Head of School Update

Katie Passley, Head of School, provided an update on middle school planning, noting that the school is officially moving forward with preparations related to space, staffing, curriculum, and furniture. This marks a continuation of the previously developed model, generating strong excitement from families, especially those with students in grades 3–5.

Upcoming New York State exams were discussed, with ELA scheduled for next week, Math the following week, and Science for 5th grade on May 15th. An info session was held for families, with a recording available online.

A highlight shared was the success of B'Yachad, which is the Hebrew After School Program, that saw increased participation this year and positive feedback from families requesting an extension for next year.

Key performance indicators (KPIs) were reviewed: current attendance is at 91% (target is 95%), there are no full-time staff vacancies, and kindergarten enrollment has reached 55 out of a target of 58. Total school enrollment stands at 333 out of a goal of 340. Since the recent lottery, 42 new students have been enrolled for next year, and overall enrollment is projected to increase by approximately 8%. The operations and leadership teams continue to support families through the registration process to maintain momentum in the enrollment pipeline.

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

##### **A. Hebrew Public Update**

Elyse Castellano opened her update by commending Katie and the leadership team for their exceptional work in securing a successful charter renewal for HLA2, which was approved for a five-year term along with a middle school expansion.

On a more challenging note, Elyse addressed the unexpected termination of Hebrew Public's \$4.3 million TSL grant due to a federal executive order targeting grants with DEI components. While this has led to budgetary challenges and staffing reductions at the network level, the impact on individual school budgets has been minimal. Hebrew Public joined legal action to reverse the decision, and, as of late March, the grant was reinstated; however, no further guidance has been received. As such, the network is proceeding with a conservative budget that excludes this funding. Nevertheless, TSL initiatives, such as increased teacher salaries for certification, hard-to-staff roles, and performance-based incentives, will remain in place.

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

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

No public comments were made during 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 6:15 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Susan Fox

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