



Staten Island Hebrew Public

Staten Island Hebrew Public Board Meeting

Date and Time

Thursday May 22, 2025 at 6:45 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](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.

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
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## 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 April 28, 2025

- |    |  |      |              |
|----|--|------|--------------|
| C. | Approval of Updated School Calendar for FY25   | Vote | David Sorkin |
| D. | Resolution and Vote to elect Edward Burke to the Staten Island Hebrew Public Board of Trustees pending approval by NYSED | Vote | David Sorkin |

***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 **Edward Burke** as a member to its Board of Trustees, with a term expiring on **June 30, 2028**, pending approval by NYSED. The resolution approving **Edward Burke** is adopted upon NYSED's approval.***

## 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 Update | FYI | Emily Fernandez |
|----|---------------------------------|-----|-----------------|

## V. Public Comments

- |    |                 |     |              |
|----|-----------------|-----|--------------|
| A. | Public Comments | FYI | David Sorkin |
|----|-----------------|-----|--------------|

## VI. Closing Items

- |    |                 |      |              |
|----|-----------------|------|--------------|
| A. | Adjourn Meeting | Vote | David Sorkin |
|----|-----------------|------|--------------|

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## Staten Island Hebrew Public

### Minutes

#### Staten Island Hebrew Public Board Meeting

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##### **Date and Time**

Monday April 28, 2025 at 7:00 PM

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##### **Trustees Present**

Angela Olsen, Bonita Sussman, David Sorkin, Noemi Zibuts, Pat Tooker, Rachel Amar (remote)

##### **Trustees Absent**

Anna Maftser, Ernest Paige, Sigalit Grego

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##### **Guests Present**

Amanda Ainley, Ed Burke, Prospective Board Member, Joanna Beck, Director of Student Support and Operations, Lauren Murphy (remote), Michael Coppotelli, Roosevelt Board, Prospective Board Member (remote)

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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 Apr 28, 2025 at 7:11 PM.

## II. Board Actions

### A. Adoption of the Meeting Agenda

Pat Tooker made a motion to adopt the meeting agenda.

Noemi Zibuts seconded the motion.

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

### B. Approve Minutes

Pat Tooker made a motion to approve the minutes from Staten Island Hebrew Public Board Meeting on 03-24-25.

Bonita Sussman seconded the motion.

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

## III. School Report

### A. Report from Director of Student Support and Operations

Joanna Beck, Director of Student Support and Operations, provided an update on special education at the school. Currently, 10% of students are classified for special education. Some students are dually classified as both special education and multilingual learners. The types of services provided were outlined, such as related services only (e.g., speech), Integrated Co-Teaching (ICT), and Special Education Teacher Support Services (SETSS). Classifications include speech and language impairment, learning disabilities, autism, and other health impairments like ADHD.

Michael Coppotelli expanded on systemic challenges in identifying students for special education within the charter school framework. Limitations around data collection and parental resistance can complicate timely referrals. The school's progress was highlighted in refining its process and data-driven interventions, thanks in part to strategic staffing and collaboration with experienced professionals. Future plans include offering

parent workshops to demystify the IEP process and ensure families understand the temporary and supportive nature of services.

Additionally, the school is investing in teacher training, including Orton-Gillingham certification and micro-credentialing in the science of reading, as part of a broader goal to enhance differentiated instruction and academic excellence.

Teacher Appreciation Week plans were also mentioned, with a shout-out to Joanna Beck for coordinating donations from companies across the country.

## B. Head of School Report

Amanda Ainley, the Head of School, highlighted several recent events and initiatives, including appreciation for Joanna's coordination of both Teacher Appreciation gifting and Take Your Child to Work Day, which was well received by staff and families. Recent student events included an indoor carnival and a trip for kindergarten and 3rd-grade students to the Nicotra Grown Organic Rooftop Farm. The school is also preparing for the upcoming Israel Day celebration.

Students began the ELA State Exam this week, preceded by a pep rally to build morale. The Head of School noted that 56% of students were proficient in a recent quiz, and while this is below the school's target of 75%, it is in line with network averages. A key challenge identified was students' limited typing skills, impacting their performance on the computer-based test. The school plans to increase exposure to typing practice. Math state testing is scheduled for May 13–14. The promotion and retention policy was addressed, emphasizing that while report card data is a starting point, other factors such as attendance and teacher input are considered. Family-teacher conferences at the end of May will include conversations about promotion decisions.

A board member also raised a point about the school day length.

## C. Executive Director Report

Michael Coppotelli, the Executive Director, shared a detailed update across multiple operational areas:

**Charter Collaboration:** The school hosted leaders from all Staten Island charter schools to strengthen collaboration. One key initiative discussed was Playworks, a social-emotional, play-based program for recess and lunch. The school has committed to implementing this with support from coach Armando, now also a full-time school aide, who is integrating the program into gym and recess activities.

**Staffing:** Recruitment is going well. The school has a strong pool of teaching candidates and has hired high-quality staff. The team continues to conduct interviews to ensure the best hires for next year.

**Enrollment:** There were 191 total applications for the upcoming year, across multiple grades. After 36 declines, 155 students remain in the applicant pool. The school started the current year with 205 students and is now at 184, mostly due to family moves. Comparatively, the school is performing slightly ahead of other Staten Island charters in recruitment.

**Rebranding:** A contract has been signed with NYU marketing professor Eric Dunn to lead a rebranding effort. While the school will maintain its core mission, teaching Hebrew and Israeli culture. The goal is to update branding to better reflect and engage with the broader community. The board will be involved in the process, with a new brand expected by July.

**ELA Curriculum Concerns:** Michael contacted the President of EL Education (the school's ELA curriculum provider) to address gaps, particularly around support for multilingual learners. He requested additional resources at the provider's expense and emphasized a proactive, accountable approach to curriculum support and improvement.

**NYSED Visit:** The school's NYSED interim visit is now expected to occur in June, with possible board participation via Zoom or in person.

**Leadership Evaluation:** Board members were asked to submit feedback for the early evaluation of both the Executive Director and the Head of School. The goal is to ensure accountability, reflect on progress, and gather constructive input for improvement.

#### IV. Public Comments

##### A. Public Comments

No public comments were made during this time.

#### V. Executive Session

##### A. Legal & Personnel

Bonita Sussman made a motion to enter into executive session to discuss litigation and personnel.

Pat Tooker seconded the motion.

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

Michael shared a brief report with the board regarding legal and personnel updates.

David Sorkin made a motion to exit the executive session.

Angela Olsen seconded the motion.

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

## 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 8:26 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,  
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.

# Staten Island HEBREW PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL

Updated 3/21/2025

## ACADEMIC CALENDAR 2025-2026 לוח שנת הלימודים

AUGUST						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

SEPTEMBER						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

OCTOBER						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
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12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

### Important Dates

#### General Notes:

**September 2:** First Day of School (half day)

**June 26:** Last Day of School (half day)

**3:30pm** dismissal Monday - Thursday

**1:00pm** dismissal Friday

#### School Closings

**September 1:** Labor Day

**September 22-24:** Rosh Hashanah

**October 2:** Yom Kipur

**October 13:** Columbus Day/Indigenous People's 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

**February 17:** Lunar New Year

**March 20:** Eid-al-Fitr

**April 2-10:** Spring Break

**May 25:** Memorial Day

**May 26:** School Holiday/Snow Day

**May 27:** Eid-al-Adha

**June 19:** Juneteenth

NOVEMBER						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
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2	3	4	5	6	7	8
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16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

DECEMBER						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
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JANUARY						
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FEBRUARY						
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MARCH						
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29	30	31				

APRIL						
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26	27	28	29	30		

MAY						
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17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

JUNE						
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14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

### Key

First Day/Last Day (students)

Half Day

Family Conferences (Early Dismissal)

Staff PD (No School)

No School

#### Marking Periods

Marking Period 1: 9/2/25-11/7/25

Marking Period 2: 11/10/25-1/23/26

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

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