



## **HLA Board Meeting Agenda**

August 5, 2025, 6 pm

1. Call to Order & Reminder for Public Comment(s) Sign Up
2. Adoption of July & August 2025 Agendas
3. Approval of June & July 2025 Minutes
4. Board Actions:
  - a. Approval of the CMO Renewal Agreement between HLA & Hebrew Public
  - b. Approval of HLA's 2025-26 School Handbook
  - c. Approval of HLA's 2025-26 School Safety Plan
  - d. Adoption of the Internet Safety Policy
  - e. Adoption of the Distraction-Free School Policy
5. School Report
6. Network Report
7. Public Comments
8. Adjournment



## **HLA Board Meeting Agenda**

July 8, 2025, 6 pm

1. Call to Order & Reminder for Public Comment(s) Sign Up
2. Adoption of July 2025 Agenda
3. Approval of June 2025 Minutes
4. Review of the Proposed Internet Safety Policy & Distraction-Free School Policy
5. School Report
6. Public Comments
7. Adjournment



# Hebrew Language Academy

## Minutes

### HLA Annual June Board Meeting

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#### Date and Time

Tuesday June 10, 2025 at 6:00 PM

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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.

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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#### Trustees Present

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

### **Trustees Absent**

*None*

### **Guests Present**

Emily Fernandez (remote), Gerard Del Rosario, Lauren Murphy (remote)

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## **I. Opening Items**

### **A. Record Attendance**

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

Brian Tobin called a meeting of the board of trustees of Hebrew Language Academy to order on Tuesday Jun 10, 2025 at 6:02 PM.

## **II. Board Actions**

### **A. Adoption of the Meeting Agendas**

Mike Tobman made a motion to adopt the May 2025 & June 2025 meeting agendas.  
Alice Li seconded the motion.  
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

### **B. Approval April 2025 Meeting Minutes**

Mike Tobman made a motion to approve the minutes from HLA Board Meeting on 04-08-25.  
Valerie Khaytina seconded the motion.  
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

### **C. Approval May 2025 Meeting Minutes**

Mike Tobman made a motion to approve the minutes from HLA Board Meeting on 05-06-25.  
Valerie Khaytina seconded the motion.  
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

## **III. Annual Board Action Items**

### **A. Approval of Updated School Calendar for FY25**

Mike Tobman made a motion to Approval of Updated School Calendar for FY25.  
Alice Li seconded the motion.

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

**B. Review and Approve 2025/26 Budget**

Mike Tobman made a motion to On June 3, 2025, the committee met to review both the financial projections for the 2025-26 school year and the proposed budget for the 2025-26 school year. The Committee recommends that the Board adopt the 2025-26 budget. Alice Li seconded the motion.

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

**C. Review and Approve 2025/26 Vendor List**

Mike Tobman made a motion to Review and Approve 2025/26 Vendor List.

Brian Tobin seconded the motion.

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

**D. Review and Approve 2025/26 Board and Committee Meeting Dates**

Alice Li made a motion to approve 2025/26 board and committee meeting dates.

Valerie Khaytina seconded the motion.

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

**E. Approve Board officer roles for 2025/26**

Mike Tobman made a motion to approve the board officer roles for 2025/26.

Stella Binkevich seconded the motion.

- a. Ellen Green, Chair
- b. Mike Tobman, Vice Chair
- c. Alice Li, Treasurer
- d. Brian Tobin, Secretary

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

**F. Board Member Term Renewal through June 30, 2028**

Brian Tobin made a motion to approve the term renewals listed below through June 30, 2028.

Ellen Green seconded the motion.

- a. Mike Tobman
- b. Stella Binkevich

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

**G. Preview 2025/26 School Safety Plans**

The plan will be voted on during the August meeting– as per Section 155.17 of the Commissioner of Education’s Regulations, charter schools **do** have to draft, publicly notice, and adopt a safety plan with a 30-day public comment period. That period will begin on July 1, the safety plan will be posted to the school’s website.

## **IV. School Report**

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

Gerard Del Rosario shared a PowerPoint presentation highlighting recent and upcoming school events. A key highlight was Culture Day, which celebrated the school's rich diversity. Students represented over 36 countries through performances and a multicultural lunch, with foods from countries such as Italy, Haiti, the Dominican Republic, and Israel. The event featured student flag parades and performances, including a kindergarten segment, showcasing school pride and cultural representation.

Student Recruitment Updates were provided, noting that the enrollment team has been actively engaging families post-lottery (held on April 3rd). As of the date of the meeting, 97 students have completed registration, with continued efforts underway, including virtual meetings to support and inform incoming families. 50 registrations are in progress.

Upcoming end-of-year events, including:

8th Grade Prom

Senior Barbecue (June 6)

Sports Banquet, honoring all extracurricular participants

8th Grade Awards Breakfast

5th Grade Moving Up Ceremony (June 16)

8th Grade Graduation (June 18 & 24)

Kindergarten Graduation (June 25)

A Family Celebration for grades 1–4 on June 24, to ensure all students feel recognized during this busy time.

### **B. PTO Update**

Lennie shared a brief update on the events the PTO collaborated on over the last few weeks of school:

Teacher Appreciation (May):

- A successful event showing gratitude to teachers and staff for their support of students' academic and social development.

Culture Day:

- School-wide celebration where all students participated by showcasing their cultural backgrounds through displays. The event included food and music, fostering a strong sense of community.

#### Debate Team:

- Recognized for their outstanding performance throughout the year, hosted a successful final competition with 100 students from HLA and other schools.

#### PTO Communication Challenges (2024–2025):

- Faced difficulties maintaining activity levels; expressed appreciation for the support from school staff, especially Ms. Steinberg and Gerard.

#### Upcoming Events:

- School play on June 11
- PTO elections for 2025–2026 to be held immediately afterward

#### Bylaws Update:

- Collaborated with the school to revise PTO bylaws to improve accessibility and engagement for parent volunteers.

### V. Network Report

#### A. Report from Hebrew Public Leadership

Valerie Khaytina provided an update on key initiatives aimed at enhancing school offerings and boosting enrollment. Working closely with school leaders, the focus has been on strengthening HLA's appeal to families, which is reflected in strong word-of-mouth and students transferring in from other schools.

#### Highlights include:

- Launch of an innovative computer lab featuring robotics (K–2), coding, drones, and esports.
- Expansion of in-school and after-school programming to include dance offerings such as ballet and Latin dance, along with other enrichment activities.
- Introduction of a new promotional video, developed with an external media team, to support enrollment efforts. Early reactions have been positive, with parents organically sharing the content.

### VI. Governance

#### A.

## **Board Member Recruitment**

Valerie Khaytina introduced a prospective board member, Michael Moore, for the board's support to complete his application. Mr. Moore was previously an MLL teacher at HLA and is looking forward to joining the community again as a trustee.

The board unanimously gave their support.

## **VII. Public Comments**

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

No public comments were recieved at this time.

## **VIII. Executive Session**

### **A. HOS Evaluation**

Ellen Green made a motion to enter into executive session.

Mike Tobman seconded the motion.

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

Emily Fernandez reviewed the Head of School Evaluation with the board and they had a discussion.

Ellen Green made a motion to exit executive session at 6:39 pm.

Mike Tobman seconded the motion.

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

## **IX. Action Item**

### **A. Board Vote on HOS Evaluation Recommendation**

Mike Tobman made a motion to approve the Head of School evaluation, which included a compensation adjustment.

Stella Binkevich seconded the motion.

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

## **X. 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 6:41 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,  
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.**



## **Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes**

July 8, 2025, 6 pm

### **Trustees Present**

Ellen Green
Valerie Khaytina
Alice Li

### **Also Present:**

Daniella Steinberg, Head of School, HLA

Lauren Murphy, Director of External Relations, Hebrew Public

### **1. Call to Order**

Ellen Green called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

### **2. Adoption of July 2025 Agenda**

No quorum was present.

### **3. Approval of June 2025 Meeting Minutes**

No quorum was present.

### **4. Review of the Proposed Internet Safety Policy & Distraction-Free School Policy**

In alignment with a new New York State law signed by the Governor, all public Schools, including charter schools, are required to implement and enforce policies that limit student access to internet-enabled devices during the school day. Hebrew Language Academy Charter School (HLA) fully supports this effort to maintain a focused and distraction-free learning environment as well as implement an internet safety policy. These two policies are available for a 30-day public comment period and are publicly posted on the website.



## **5. School Leadership Report**

HLA's Head of School, Daniella Steinberg, shared a PowerPoint presentation with pictures and covered updates from the past month, which included end-of-year events, enrollment update, staffing update, and a facility update.

End-of-Year celebrations included a large family party with a new DJ and MC, a memorable Kindergarten Stepping Up Ceremony, and Prom.

Enrollment efforts are ongoing, particularly for 7th and 8th grades, with most waitlisted students likely to be admitted. Leadership changes included adding two Assistant Heads of School for lower and middle grades, supported by Deans of Students and department directors.

Facility improvements are underway, including repainting, a new gym floor, updated concrete in the yard, a new teacher lounge, and a tech lab for middle school featuring e-sports and 3D printing. A fundraising campaign will support the tech lab costs.

Lastly, the school is refreshing its visual branding and signage to enhance the student and visitor experience.

## **6. Network Report**

Valerie Khaytina, Chief External Officer, reported that due to the cancellation of a planned alumni trip to Israel, she has been focused on strengthening HLA's alumni engagement. Her team is updating contact information to better track alumni success and maintain connections.

Additionally, recruitment remains a top priority. With a nearby school closing, the team is actively pursuing outreach and developing new materials to attract potential students. She emphasized the importance of promoting HLA's growing strengths and increasing visibility.

## **7. Public Comments**

No public comments were received.

## **8. Adjournment**

Alice Li adjourned the meeting at 6:20 pm. The board will meet next on August 5, 2025.