



Board Meeting Agenda

July 15, 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. Network Report
7. Public Comments
8. Adjournment



Hebrew Language Academy Charter School 2 (HLA2)

Minutes

HLA2 Board Meeting

Date and Time

Tuesday June 17, 2025 at 6:00 PM

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 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.

Trustees Present

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

Trustees Absent

Mike Tobman, Stella Binkevich

Guests Present

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

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 Jun 17, 2025 at 6:02 PM.

II. Routine Board Actions

A. Adoption of the Meeting Agenda

Will Mack made a motion to adopt the June 2025 agenda.
Susan Fox 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 Board Meeting on 05-13-25.
Susan Fox seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

III. Annual Meeting Action Items

A. Review and Approve 2025/26 Budget

Joanne Cavanaugh made a motion to approve the 2025/26 budget.
Will Mack seconded the motion.
Elyse Castellano, CFO, provided a high-level overview of the budget for the board members. The finance committee met on June 4th to review the budget thoroughly and recommended that the board to approve it.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

B. Review and Approve 2025/26 Vendor List

Susan Fox made a motion to approve the 2025/26 vendor list.

Will Mack seconded the motion.

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

C. Review and Approve 2025/26 Board and Committee Meeting Dates

Susan Fox made a motion to Approve 2025/26 Board and Committee Meeting Dates.

Joanne Cavanaugh seconded the motion.

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

D. Approve Board Officer Roles for 2025/26

Will Mack made a motion to Approve Board Officer Roles for 2025/26.

Susan Fox seconded the motion.

a. ***Adam Miller, Chair***

b. ***Mike Tobman, Vice Chair***

c. ***Sue Fox, Treasurer***

d. ***Alice Li, Secretary***

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

E. Board Member Term Renewals through June 30, 2028

Joanne Cavanaugh made a motion to Board Member Term Renewals through June 30, 2028.

Will Mack seconded the motion.

a. Mike Tobman

b. Ella Zalkind

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

F. Preview 2025/26 School Safety Plan

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. Head of School Update

Katie Passley, the Head of School, provided a brief but engaging update, highlighting several key moments and updates:

End-of-Year Celebrations:

- Israel Day: A school-wide favorite, featuring a creative mock airplane experience in the cafeteria and cultural activities like a Shuk and café.

- Field Day: Held at Kaiser Park with strong participation from students, families, and staff, promoting community building.
- Tzofim Friendship Caravan: For the first time, the school hosted the performance in its own gym, thanks to the new building.

Key Performance Indicators (KPIs):

- Chronic Absenteeism: Slight increase post-break (1% dip), but expected to normalize.
- Student Attendance: Holding steady at 91%, just below the 95% goal.
- Staffing: No current vacancies; hiring efforts ongoing for new middle school positions.

Enrollment & Recruitment:

- Application numbers are up, 257 collected vs. 203 at this point last year.
- Certification: One teacher above the goal of 15 is set to complete certification this summer.
- Enrollment: 133 new students enrolled for 2025–2026; strong demand has led to the addition of a third kindergarten section.
- Overall projected enrollment is over 400 students, with ongoing support to guide families through the registration process.

V. Network Report

A. Hebrew Public Update

Elyse Castellano, CFO/COO provided an update to the board, covering several key areas of network operations and support for HLA2:

- HLA 2 Support: Roger from the external department has been actively supporting HLA2 by assisting with tours and family registration, following the recent approval of the budget by the network finance team.
- Operations Planning: The network operations team is currently focused on planning a targeted and effective summer professional development (PD) program for school operations staff, ensuring the limited two-day window is used meaningfully.
- Talent Management: Katie, in coordination with Emily Hurst, has ensured all staff renewal letters have been distributed and is finalizing negotiations for incoming hires for the next academic year.

VI. Public Comments

A. Review of Public Comments

No public comments.

VII. Executive Session

A. HOS Evaluation

Adam Miller made a motion to enter into executive session at 6:31 pm.

Susan Fox 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.

Adam Miller made a motion to exit executive session at 6:46 pm.

Will Mack seconded the motion.

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

VIII. Action Item

A. Board Vote on HOS Evaluation Recommendation

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

Adam Miller seconded the motion.

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

IX. 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 6:47 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Adam Miller

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.