



Board of Trustees Meeting Agenda

August 27, 2025, 11 am

1. Call to Order & Public Comment Reminder
2. Adoption of August 2025 Agenda
3. Approval of July 2025 Minutes
4. Board Actions:
 - Approval of 2025-26 School Handbook
 - Approval of the 2025-26 School Safety Plan
 - Adoption of the Internet Safety Policy
 - Adoption of the Distraction-Free School Policy
5. Leadership Report
6. Public Comments
7. Adjournment

Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

July 16, 2025, 11 am

Trustees Present

Pat Tooker
Ed Burke
Noemi Zibuts
Ernest Paige
Angela Olsen
Bonita Sussman
Sigalit Grego
David Sorkin
Anna Maftser

Others Present:

Michael Coppotelli, Executive Director, Staten Island Hebrew Public

Amanda Ainley, HOS, Staten Island Hebrew Public

Jon Rosenberg, CEO, Hebrew Public

Lauren Murphy, Director of External Relations, Hebrew Public

1. Call to Order

David Sorkin made a motion to open the meeting at 11:02 AM.

2. Adoption of the July 2025 Meeting Agenda

David Sorkin asked for a motion to adopt the July 2025 agenda. Bonita Sussman made a motion to adopt the July 2025 agenda, Angela Olsen seconded, and the motion was carried unanimously.

3. Approval of the June 2025 Meeting Minutes

David Sorkin asked for a motion to approve the meeting minutes. Pat Tooker made a motion to approve the June 2025 meeting minutes, Ed Burke seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

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. Staten Island Hebrew Public Charter School (SIHP) 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 Report

Amanda Ainley, Head of School, provided an update on leadership activities and preparations for the upcoming academic year. One-on-one meetings with leadership team members are underway to set goals aligned with their summer work plans and responsibilities. The leadership team has been actively engaged in scheduling for the next school year, ensuring compliance with required instructional minutes for students with IEPs in core subjects. Collaboration with the network continues around the school's code of conduct, with a focus on revamping student and family expectations and engagement. Continuing to develop the Hebrew curriculum is also in progress. Additionally, the school successfully addressed technology access challenges for summer school by providing Wi-Fi hotspots to students lacking home internet. Approximately 80 students are participating in summer school programming, supported through regular per-pupil funding, as there is no separate summer school aid for charter schools in New York.

Michael Coppotelli, Executive Director, reported on several operational and strategic updates. Significant progress has been made on summer building improvements, including painting of hallways, select classrooms, offices, cafeteria, and gym, as well as deep cleaning and floor refinishing.

The school secured approximately 10,000 free, multicultural books through a citywide DOE partnership with Scholastic. In addition, a student book incentive program with Barnes & Noble and in-school rewards is underway to encourage reading.

Staten Island HEBREW PUBLIC

CHARTER SCHOOL

Enrollment efforts remain strong, with current application numbers surpassing last year's, and outreach initiatives specifically targeting the North Shore's communities are ongoing. Partnerships with SYEP (Summer Youth Employment Program) have enabled peer ambassadors to do direct on-the-ground outreach.

The school has contracted Orton-Gillingham services and is hiring additional interventionists. Music and bucket drumming programs were also added for next year. A new environmental education initiative, the Billion Oyster Project, will involve students in hands-on marine science, culminating in a trip to Governor's Island.

A brief discussion took place among the board members.

6. Network Report

Jon Rosenberg provided an update to the board on the network's financial leadership. Following the departure of Elyse Castellano after a decade of service, Lisa Lurie has been appointed interim CFO. She will oversee financial operations and report directly to Jon for 3–6 months.

The board was updated on the status of affiliate schools, which include campuses in Los Angeles, Minneapolis, DC, East Brunswick, and San Diego. These schools share curricular and cultural initiatives, including the Arbel Fellowship and joint educational trips. A new affiliate school is being explored in Las Vegas, and a newly managed school that was state-approved in Stamford, CT, is aiming for a fall 2027 opening.

An update on school facilities was provided, and board input was requested.

Jon also highlighted a new emphasis on civics education and trauma-informed support for students. A renewed partnership with the Child Mind Institute is being explored to help bring trauma-responsive interventions to students and families.

A discussion with the board followed.

7. Public Comments

There were no public comments made during the meeting.

8. Adjournment

David Sorkin asked for a motion to adjourn. Ernest Paige made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 12:10 pm. Anna Maftser seconded, and it was unanimous. The board will meet next on August 13, 2025, at 11 AM.