



**Hebrew Language Academy Charter School  
Board of Trustees Meeting**

Thursday, August 28, 2014 – 6:30 PM  
1340 E. 29<sup>th</sup> Street, Brooklyn, NY 11210

**Minutes**

**Trustees Present**

Sara Berman\*

Stacie Feldman\*

Allyson Galishoff†

David Gedzelman

Norman Green

Eli Schaap

Hindie Weissman

Ella Zalkind

\* *by video conference*

† *by phone (non-voting)*

**Also Present**

Laura Silver, Head of School

**1. Call to Order**

David Gedzelman called the meeting to order at 6:35 PM.

**2. Adoption of Agenda**

David Gedzelman made a motion to adopt the agenda. Hindie Weissman seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

**3. Approval of Minutes**

David Gedzelman made a motion to approve the minutes from the July meeting. Allyson Galishoff seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

**4. Public Comments**

None.

**5. Staff Comments**

None.

## **6. Parent Organization Comments**

None.

## **7. Head of School's Report**

Head of School Laura Silver presented her report which had been previously distributed to the Board and posted on the School's website.

Eli Schaap then provided the Board with an analysis of student achievement data from last year. He informed the Board that the mean percentage of HLA's 3<sup>rd</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> grade students scoring 3 or 4 on the 2014 New York State Math exam was 52.5%, exceeding the average for all New York City Charter Schools, Community School District 22, all of New York City, and all of New York State. HLA's percentage for the English Language Arts exam was 31.4%, exceeding the New York City and New York State averages and comparable to the scores for all NYC charter schools and CSD 22.

David Gedzelman informed the Board that, because of these excellent test results, a memo analyzing the testing data in greater depth will be submitted to the DOE to strongly request that the decision for HLA's renewal and expansion to middle school be advanced to an earlier spot on the authorizer's docket so that the school may have adequate time to recruit and prepare for the next school year.

## **8. Committee Reports**

### **a. Finance Committee**

Eli Schaap reported that the Finance Committee has been working regularly to approve expenses of \$5,000 or more by email. On August 26, the committee voted to recommend that the Board accept the financial reports as of June 30, 2014 pending final revision by the auditor.

### **b. Church/State Separation Committee**

David Gedzelman reported that the Separation of Church and State Compliance Committee met by conference call on August 28 and reviewed the school's training and policies regarding compliance with the Establishment and Free Exercise clauses of the First Amendment. The committee determined that the school has consistently complied with the separation of church and state and no issues have arisen in the past year that require action.

## **9. Board Actions**

### **a. Acceptance of Financial Reports**

Sara Berman made a motion to accept the Financial Reports as of June 30, 2014 pending final revision by the auditor. Hindie Weissman seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

### **b. Amendment of Minutes**

Sara Berman made a motion to amend the minutes from the June 26, 2014 meeting to reflect that Board voted unanimously to update the Personnel Manual to comply with the New York City Paid Sick Leave law. David Gedzelman seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

### **c. Contract Authorization**

Sara Berman made a motion to authorize the Head of School to enter into a contract with Conscious Teaching for professional development services not to exceed \$10,000. Norman Green seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

**10. Adjournment**

Sara Berman made a motion to adjourn. David Gedzelman seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:57 PM.