

Hebrew Language Academy Charter School Board of Trustees Meeting

Thursday, November 20, 2014 – 6:30 PM 1340 E. 29th Street, Brooklyn, NY 11210

Minutes

Trustees Present

Sara Berman Stacie Feldman* Allyson Galishoff David Gedzelman Norman Green Eli Schaap Hindie Weissman

Also Present

Laura Silver, Head of School Jonathan Rosenberg, President & CEO, Hebrew Charter School Center

1. Call to Order

Sara Berman called the meeting to order a 6:47 PM.

2. Adoption of Agenda

Sara Berman made a motion to adopt the agenda. Hindie Weissman seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

3. Approval of Minutes

Sara Berman made a motion to approve the minutes from the October meeting. David Gedzelman 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 distributed previously to the Board and posted on the School's website. In addition to her written comments, she informed the Board that she had been working with Board member Allyson Galishoff to engage the membership and build the capacity of the Parent Organization.

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 November 18, the committee reviewed the financial reports as of September 30, 2014 and voted by email to recommend that the Board accept the reports.

9. Report on Charter Renewal

Sara Berman informed the Board that the draft renewal application contains several important changes to the School's charter, particularly the expanded role of the Hebrew Charter School Center as a charter management organization.

David Gedzelman informed the Board that the New York City Department of Education initially requested the renewal application to be submitted in January for a vote by the New York State Board of Regents in May. HLA's intention is to submit the application in December with the hope of receiving a decision by the Regents earlier for the sake of the student recruitment and lottery process for next year as well as a successful ramp up to middle school. He then highlighted several new elements of the proposed revised charter from what had been submitted for the last renewal:

- Hebrew teachers would fall into categories of certified teachers and instructors so that compliance with teacher certification requirements will be more clearly evident in HLA's robust co-teaching model.
- The new assessment regimen will be provided by the Northwest Evaluation Association (NWEA), replacing the ITBS and E-clas basements. Laura Silver explained that NWEA assessments can be performed three times a year and can be differentiated to each individual student's strengths and needs.
- Expansion to middle school will add grades 6 through 8.
- The renewal application proposes entering into a management agreement with Hebrew Charter School Center expanding the services and support that HCSC provides to HLA under the guidance and governance of the Board of Trustees.
- All aspects of the proposed Middle School Model remain materially the same.

David Gedzelman then introduced Jonathan Rosenberg, President and CEO of HCSC, who spoke to the Board about the expanded charter management role HCSC would take on should the renewal application be approved. He assured the Board that HLA's mission is closely bound up with HCSC's and HCSC is fully committed to HLA's success. The transition to management by HCSC would be formally implemented by July 1, 2015.

9. Board Actions

a. Acceptance of Financial Reports

Sara Berman made a motion to accept the financial reports as of September 30, 2014. Norman Green seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

b. Charter Renewal Authorization

Allyson Galishoff made the following motion:

"WHEREAS, the School is in the process of putting together a renewal application (the "Renewal Application") for submission to the New York City Department of Education to both renew its term and expand its grades served to include middle school (grades 6-8); and

WHEREAS, the School and the Hebrew Charter School Center ("HCSC") have undertaken conversations with respect to engaging HCSC as a management organization; and

WHEREAS, the School must include in the Renewal Application information regarding HCSC's proposed relationship with the School as a management organization;

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Head of School and the Executive Committee are hereby authorized to work with the School's legal counsel and advisors to finalize and submit the Renewal Application in general and determine through discussions and negotiations with HCSC what information must be included in the Renewal Application with respect to HCSC's proposed role, which shall be consistent with industry standards, are in the best interest of the School and work within the School's budgetary constraints."

Norman Green seconded and the motion carried with Sara Berman, David Gedzelman, and Hindie Weissman recusing themselves.

10. Adjournment

Sara Berman made a motion to adjourn. David Gedzelman seconded and the motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 7:23 PM.