



Hebrew Language Academy

CHARTER SCHOOL

Board Meeting via Zoom

Tuesday, July 21, 6:00 pm

Meeting ID: 874 2250 6835

Password: 431315

AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Reminder for Public Comments
3. Adoption of July 2020 Agenda
4. Approval of June 2020 Minutes
5. CEO Update
6. Adjournment



Hebrew Language Academy

CHARTER SCHOOL

Board of Trustees Meeting via Zoom

Wednesday, July 8th, 6 PM

Minutes

Trustees Present

Elly Rosenthal
Shari Lipner
Mike Tobman
Ellen Green
Stella Binkevich
Alice Li

Also Present:

Hadar Dohn, Head of School

Jon Rosenberg, Hebrew Public, CEO

Lauren Murphy, Hebrew Public, External Relations Manager

5 members of the public

1. Call to Order/Public Comments

Shari Lipner called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm and reminded everyone in attendance to use the “chat” feature to sign up for public comments or to email the board at boardhla@hebrewpublic.org and the comments will be addressed within 48 hours.

2. Adoption of Agenda

Shari Lipner asked for a motion to adopt, Ellen Green made a motion to adopt the June 2020 agenda. Mike Tobman seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

3. Approval of Minutes

Shari Lipner asked for a motion to approve, Elly Rosenthal made a motion to approve the May 2020 minutes. Mike Tobman seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

4. Leadership Report

Ms. Dohn informed the board of the following:

- Moving up ceremony for Kindergarten and 8th-grade graduation on Youtube live
- Report Cards going out this week
- Summer School is being offered to the most at-risk students, 74 students in remote summer school, invitation only.
- 2 new Deans started today, Dean of Culture and Academic Dean of Math & Science
- Summer work was sent home to all students
- Many planned virtual field trips along with Hebrew Public Camp 1x a week
- Almost fully staffed for the next year!

5. CEO Update & Reopening Plan

Jon Rosenberg informed the board of the following:

- The reopening planning process is underway, nothing has been approved yet.
 - We will be driven first and foremost by what the government requires and allows and by what Public Safety and public health experts recommend.
 - Hebrew Public is looking at a variety of different school hybrid models: where children are not in school every day for the primary and important purpose of being able to maintain a safe environment.
 - A survey was sent out to all school families current and newly registered- seeking their preferences for different hybrid models and asked them to identify

restrictions they see themselves facing that might make things challenging for them.

- There will be two town halls, all families are invited to attend via Zoom
- We are particularly mindful of two groups within our students and family population:
 - Children who for reasons of their own health or of the household fall into the high-risk category, so they may not physically attend school in the Fall.
 - How do we identify those families in an effective way?
 - What is our program solution for them?
 - Families where kids are in school some days but not all days; the inability to have child-care present at home with those kids.
 - Hebrew Public is looking at all options: working with community programs for childcare assistance and/or using our facilities with proper social distancing as a space for remote learning to ease the burden for our families on their kid(s) “off” day(s)

6. PTO Report

N/A

7. Approval of 2020-21 Board Calendar

Shari Lipner asked for a motion to approve, Elly Rosenthal made a motion to approve the 20/21 board calendar. Mike Tobman seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

8. Approval of 2021 Budget

- This is a challenging budget season, with a massive economic downturn leading to reductions in state funding and unpredictable costs relating to CV-19, and declining enrollment.
- Even with anticipated grant support from Hebrew Public, the School is projecting a \$700,000 (or 6%) deficit, following a projected \$727,000 (5.6%) deficit in 2019/20. This is not a sustainable picture, and we need to either greatly boost enrollment or rethink the entire cost structure for the School.

Student Enrollment:

- Projected at 527 by mid-year, but subject to change during summer.
- This declining enrollment number reflects an increasingly competitive charter school market, falling citywide enrollment, and the School’s reputational challenges relating to leadership turnover, middling academic performance, and other issues.

Paycheck Protection Program:

- We received \$1.3 million under the PPP, which is currently classified as a loan. We expect most or all of that amount to be forgiven (essentially, converted to a grant).

Per Pupil Revenue:

- Prior to CV-19, we had expected a roughly 5.6% increase in the state per pupil aid line. Instead, we are seeing a modest decrease (so far), with the potential for steeper cuts to be announced.
- If steeper cuts do occur, the entire budget will need to be revisited (as will that of every public school in New York State).

Staffing:

To reflect smaller enrollment and fewer class sections, staffing costs have been cut from \$7.45 million in 2019/20 to \$6.27 million in 2020/21. Anticipated staffing includes:

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| ● Head of School | ● IEP & Testing Coordinator (with partial teaching load) | (including Middle School core subject) |
| ● Assistant Head for Lower School | ● Guidance Counselor | ● 8 Hebrew Teachers |
| ● Assistant Head for Middle School | ● Social Worker | ● 1 Floater Teacher |
| ● Director of Operations | ● Operations Manager | ● 1 Dance Teacher |
| ● Academic Dean for English | ● Senior Operations Associate | ● 1 Music Teacher |
| ● Academic Dean for Math | ● Operations Associate | ● 2 Physical Education Teachers |
| ● 2 Deans of Culture | ● Culture Associate | ● 1 Art Teacher |
| ● Hebrew Department Chair (with partial teaching load) | ● 10 Special Education Teachers | ● 1 Teacher of English Learners |
| | ● 20 General Education Teachers | ● 1 Kindergarten Assistant Teacher |
| | | ● Bus Attendants (part-time) |

Shari Lipner asked for a motion to approve, Mike Tobman made a motion to approve the 20/21 budget. Ellen Green seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

10. Vote and Approval of Board Member Renewals through 2023

Brian Tobin is the board member up for renewal. Shari Lipner asked for a motion to approve, Mike Tobman made a motion to approve Brian's renewal. Ellen Green seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

11. Vote and Approval of Board Officer Positions for 2020-21

Shari Lipner, Chair

Mike Tobman, Vice Chair

Brian Tobin, Secretary

Ellen Green, Treasurer

Shari Lipner asked for a motion to approve the board officers listed above. Mike Tobman made the motion, Elly Rosenthal seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

12. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:20 pm.