



Hebrew Language Academy

CHARTER SCHOOL

Board Meeting via Zoom

Tuesday, August 10, 2021

6:00 pm

AGENDA

1. Call to Order & Reminder for Public Comment(s) Sign Up
2. Adoption of August 2021 Agenda
3. Approval of July 2021 Minutes
4. School Leadership Update
5. Setting a Special Meeting for HLA's Renewal Certification
6. Staff Vaccine Mandate
7. Network Update
8. Public Comments
9. Adjournment



Board of Trustees Meeting Via Zoom

Tuesday, July 13, 2021

6:00 pm

Minutes

Trustees Present

Elly Rosenthal
Ellen Green
Mike Tobman
Alice Li

Also Present:

Daniella Steinberg, Head of School, HLA

Elyse Castellano, Chief of Staff, Hebrew Public

Lauren Murphy, External Relations Manager, Hebrew Public

19 members of the public

1. Call to Order/Public Comments

Ellen Green called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm and reminded everyone in attendance in order to sign up to make a public comment prior to our board meeting, email boardhla@hebrewpublic.org. Members of the public who missed the public notices were given a chance to sign up during the meeting using the chat function. Members of the board and staff do not typically respond to public comments at the time they are made. However, unanswered questions will be responded to within a few business days.

2. Adoption of July 2021 Agenda

Ellen Green asked for a motion to adopt, Elly Rosenthal made a motion to adopt the July 2021 agenda. Mike Tobman seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

3. Approval of June 2021 Minutes



Ellen Green asked for a motion to approve, Mike Tobman made a motion to approve the June 2021 minutes. Alice Li seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

4. School Leadership Update

Daniella Steinberg, Head of School shared a brief update with the board on Hebrew Language Academy's leadership team for fall.

Maria Rosen, Assistant Head of School for Academics

- Entering her 10th year at HLA

Lyvette Robles, Assistant Head of School for Operations

- Entering her 5th year at HLA

Kadiattou Ouedraogo, Director of Culture

- Entering her 2nd year at HLA

Jessica Bucknor, Academic Dean K-2

- New to HLA

Jason Sutton, Academic Dean 6-8

- HLA's teacher of the year 2021!

Chelsea Gorski Halpern, Special Education Coordinator

- Entering her 5th Year at HLA

5. Charter Revisions

HLA is submitting a charter renewal application in September and the following revisions will be included. These proposed changes have been discussed at great length with the board, staff, and members of the school community prior to this meeting.

a. School Calendar

The school calendar has been updated to reflect HLA's increased focus on staff professional development. The new calendar includes early student dismissal (at 1 pm) on Fridays to allow for concentrated weekly staff training. This change is consistent with the practices of many of the most academically successful charter school networks in the city.

b. Proposed Lowering of Maximum Enrollment from 783 to 650

HLA is approved for an enrollment larger than the current number of students, and also larger than the numbers of students expected to enroll in the coming years as the most recent data shows that charter school enrollment has been declining for all charter schools in New York City. Because HLA is required to serve at least 85% of the maximum enrollment each year, the maximum enrollment needs to be lowered from its current number (which is well above 700) to a more realistic figure.



The proposed maximum enrollment is 650. At 650, HLA would be required to maintain an enrollment of at least 553 or an average of about 61 students per grade. Lowering the maximum enrollment in this way will bring HLA into compliance with New York City Department of Education requirements. It will not prevent the siblings of current students from gaining admission to Hebrew Language Academy.

c. Key Design Elements

HLA's charter lists a number of Key Design Elements (KDEs) that make the school distinct from other schools. Based on HLA's experiences over the years, and feedback from families and staff, these are the proposed changes:

1. OLAM values
2. Modern Hebrew
3. Differentiated Instruction
4. Professional Development
5. SEL
6. Diversity
7. Partnership with Hebrew Public

Combined with HLA's rigorous curriculum, these proposed design elements should help move the school community forward and will ensure that each child serves, thrives, and succeeds at a high level.

d. Organizational Chart

The new organizational chart reflects the updated structure of leadership and staff.

Elyse Castellano, Hebrew Public's Chief of staff briefly reviewed all four charter revisions with the board members. Following the review, Ellen Green asked for a motion to approve the revisions to the school calendar, maximum enrollment, key design elements, and organizational chart. Elly Rosenthal made the motion to approve all aforementioned revisions, Mike Tobman seconded, with no abstentions and no objections, the motion carried unanimously.

6. NY State Data Privacy Requirements

The policy has been updated to reflect changes in New York law. Ellen Green asked for a motion to approve:

- a. Data Security and Privacy Policy
- b. Parent's Bill of Rights Data Privacy and Security

Alice Li made the motion to approve the documents described above, Mike Tobman seconded, and the motion was carried unanimously.



7. Adding Members to the Board

The HLA board needs to recruit new trustees. Community members and current trustees are encouraged to recommend individuals with relevant experience, and connections to the neighborhood.

8. Network Update

Elyse Castellano, Hebrew Public's Chief of Staff, shared a brief update on the following:

- Survey to Families
 - Intent to return forms
 - Minimal requests for remote accommodations
 - Learning more about challenges families will face and helping them address their needs
 - Responding to questions or concerns
- Leader and Staff Institute
 - Professional Development
 - 3-day program
 - Developing all staff PD in late August
- HLA Renewal Application
 - Must certify the renewal at the August board meeting
 - Due September 1st

9. Public Comments

No public comments were made during this time.

10. Executive Session

No votes were taken during this time.

11. Adjournment

Ellen Green asked for a motion to adjourn, Elly Rosenthal made the motion, Mike Tobman seconded, and the meeting adjourned at 6:47 pm.