



Hebrew Language Academy  
CHARTER SCHOOL

**HLA Special Board Meeting Agenda**

Tuesday, August 25, 2021, 6 pm

Location: Zoom

1. Call to Order & Reminder for Public Comment(s) Sign Up
2. Adoption of August 25, 2021, Special Meeting Agenda
3. Approval of August 10, 2021 Minutes
4. Action Items
  - a. Approval of Charter Renewal Application
5. Public Comments
6. Adjournment



## **Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes**

August 10, 2021, 6 pm

Location: Zoom

### **Trustees Present**

Elly Rosenthal
Ellen Green
Mike Tobman
Stella Binkevich
Alice Li

### **Also Present:**

Daniella Steinberg, Head of School, HLA

Jon Rosenberg, CEO Hebrew Public

Valerie Khaytina, Chief External Officer, Hebrew Public

Lauren Murphy, External Relations Manager, Hebrew Public

16 members of the public

### **1. Call to Order/Public Comments**

Ellen Green called the meeting to order at 6:04 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](mailto: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 August 2021 Agenda**

Ellen Green asked for a motion to adopt, Mike Tobman made a motion to adopt the August 2021 agenda. Alice Li seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

### **3. Approval of July 2021 Minutes**



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

#### **4. School Leadership Update**

Daniella Steinberg, Head of School shared a brief update with the board:

- Update on Registrations Verified
  - 97 students
- Afterschool and Clubs
  - Clubs will no longer begin in September due to COVID-19
    - Limiting cross-grade grouping
    - Will reassess in October
  - Afterschool remains scheduled to begin in September and will run until 6 pm
    - 78 students are signed up
    - Guided reading and homework help
    - Run by HLA staff
- Specials Programing
  - Grades K-5
    - Hebrew Dance
    - Physical Education
    - General Music
  - Grades 6-8
    - Art
    - Music, Keyboard Instruction
    - Physical Education (2x a week)
- Professional Development for HLA Staff
  - Welcoming new staff next week 8/16
  - Welcoming all staff back on August 18th for returning staff
  - Centrally led sessions with Hebrew Public and school-based sessions with HLA leadership
  - Each day will begin with Morning Meeting for all staff led by teachers
  - Team building activities combined with instructional sessions
- Zones of Regulation Check-Ins

What Zone Are You In?			
Blue	Green	Yellow	Red
			
Sick Sad Tired Bored Moving Slowly	Happy Calm Feeling Okay Focused Ready to Learn	Frustrated Worried Silly/Wiggly Excited Loss of Some Control	Mad/Angry Mean Yelling/Hitting Disgusted Out of Control

- Addition to the instructional curriculum
- Leadership team trained as well as team leads
- Full school rollout from day 1, student check-in multiple times a day
  - Morning announcements (whole school check-in)
  - After lunch
  - After Specials
- Social workers and the Culture team are collaborating
- HLA Town Hall
  - 8/24 @ 7 pm
  - Led by HLA Leadership Team
  - Full informational session about safety and all plans for the school year
  - Focus will be on Q&A from families

## 5. Setting a Special Meeting for HLA's Renewal Certification

Date determined, August 25 at 6 pm.

## 6. Staff Vaccine Mandate

Jon Rosenberg led a discussion on the COVID-19 vaccine for staff members.

- Health and Safety Remains the #1 Priority
  - Hebrew Public continues to push an internal public health campaign to emphasize the importance of the vaccine, asking staff to share their status, address concerns 1:1, and offer outreach
  - Collective effort has led Hebrew Public to exceed 3/4 of staff reported that they are partially or fully vaccinated.
  - Delta variant on the rise, a substantial number of new cases. Those who are vaccinated are not exempt from testing positive to COVID-19 but they are significantly less likely to become sick and/or hospitalized



- Over the last 2 weeks: Denver public schools, US military, medical centers, and more charter schools are mandating the vaccine for staff
- Hebrew Public along with HLA leadership believe

#### **RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

*“Based on:*

- *the significant rise in Covid cases in recent weeks and the transmissibility of the Delta variant,*
- *the evidence supporting the Covid vaccines’ effectiveness and safety, and*
- *the importance of vaccination both to our efforts to serve children in person and to the health of our local, national, and global communities,*

*the Board hereby requires that all HLA staff become vaccinated against COVID-19 unless they qualify for an exception under federal or state law. The Board authorizes Hebrew Public to determine a date by which all staff must receive their first dose of the vaccine (but in no case later than September 7th), as well as the date by which all staff must be fully vaccinated (but in no case later than October 15th). Staff members who do not comply with this requirement will be subject to suspension without pay and/or termination.”*

Ellen Green asked for a motion to approve the aforementioned resolution. Mike Tobman made the motion, and Stella Binkevich seconded. The board then voted on the motion and it was unanimously passed, with no objections and no abstentions.

#### **7. Network Update**

Jon Rosenberg, Hebrew Public’s CEO, shared a brief update on the following:

- School Reopening
  - The goal is to get everyone back in the school full time in-person
  - Providing a very limited number of families a remote learning accommodation based on child or household medical circumstance



- Everyone in the school building must be masked and will follow social distancing guidelines
- Contingency plans are in place if there is a need to shift to remote learning
- Hebrew Public is making decisions that are best for the school community while balancing the need to have children in-person and keeping safety and health in mind
- Hebrew Public is looking at the following data every day
  - NYC and NYS data
  - Research papers
  - CDC and other medical expert guidance
- The vaccine mandate will help decrease classroom disruption
  - Under current health guidelines, staff members who are fully vaccinated do not have to quarantine if they are exposed to someone with Covid; unvaccinated staff members will still need to quarantine
- Hebrew Public is hosting a Virtual Town Hall on 8/19 @ 6:30 pm
  - President & CEO, Jon Rosenberg, Chief Schools Officer, Emily Fernandez, and Chief Operating Officer, Jonathan Werle, will share plans about safe school reopening

## **8. Public Comments**

1 school community member made a comment regarding the staff vaccine mandate and asked if it will soon apply to the students. To which, Jon Rosenberg responded: Hebrew Public strongly encourages members of the school community and children ages 12+ to get vaccinated, but it will not be mandated at this time.

Jon Rosenberg encouraged members of the school community to email him with any questions or concerns.

## **9. Adjournment**

Ellen Green asked for a motion to adjourn, Mike Tobman made the motion, Elly Rosenthal seconded, and the meeting adjourned at 6:33 pm.