

Hatikvah International Academy Charter School

7 Lexington Avenue

East Brunswick, NJ

MEETING Minutes

July 23, 2020

1:00 P.M. Meeting

Meeting called to order by Daniel Gresack at 1:04 PM.

Sunshine Law Notice: The New Jersey Open Public Meetings Law was enacted to ensure the rights of the public to have advance notice of and to attend the meetings of the public bodies at which any business affecting their interest is discussed or acted upon. In accordance with the provisions of this act, the Hatikvah International Academy Charter School has caused notice of this meeting to be published by having the date, time, and place thereof posted in the Home News Tribune and the East Brunswick Sentinel.

This meeting is taking place on a Zoom video call. In addition to the newspaper postings, the public was informed of the participation information on the school's website and on the front door of the school's building.

Name	Title	Voting/Non-Voting	Present	Absent
Mr. Daniel Gresack	President	Voting	X	
Mr. Harish Hathiramani	Vice President	Voting	X	
Mr. Eli Schaap	Trustee; Chair of Finance Committee; Nominating Committee	Voting	X	
Mr. Marc Herman	Trustee	Voting	X	
Ms. Shawntell Manning	Trustee	Voting	X-joined at 1:08 PM	
Mr. Arie Behar	Trustee	Voting	X	
Dr. Marcia Grayson	Director; Ex Officio	Non-voting	X	
Mrs. Kathy Mone	SBA; Ex Officio	Non-voting		X
Ms. Claudia Fiel	Teacher Representative; Recording Secretary	Non-voting	X	
Mrs. Nicole Disporto	Alternate Teacher Representative	Non-voting	X	

Pledge of Allegiance: I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United State of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

Public Discussion: A 15-minute period is provided for the public to ask questions on agenda items or to make statements to the Board of Trustees. If there are many speakers, the chair will ask for a 3-minute speaking limit per speaker. The board may extend the public comment portion if necessary.

Public present.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES COMMITTEES

Education Committee: See Director’s Report Please note that the Director wishes to thank Mrs. Amanda Rosenberg, Supervisor of Curriculum and Instruction, and Ms. Sara Schwartz, Supervisor of World Languages, for their tireless and ongoing 6 weeks of work on the school’s Reopening Plan. Their dedication to our faculty, staff, and students goes above and beyond the scope of their roles and has enabled the school to produce a detailed, thoughtful and thorough plan to present to parents with the school’s survey and one that we can all stand behind with great pride. We are one of the few schools in the State of NJ with such a plan for presentation this early in July and we should celebrate this enormous accomplishment. Additional thanks are due to Mr. Eli Schaap, Mr. Marc Herman, Mr. Arie Behar, and President, Mr. Daniel Gresack for attending parent meetings and thanks to Mr. Schaap and Mr. Herman for their work on providing critical feedback on the school’s plan. Dr. Grayson also wishes to thank Mrs. Fani Stein and Mr. Samuel Stein (parents) for their critical feedback on the plan and ongoing comments about the plan. The efforts of each of these people will allow Hatikvah to continue to offer an outstanding education during an unprecedented time in our lives.

Administrative Liaison: Dr. Marcia Grayson
Committee Members: Mrs. Hindie Weissman

Financial Committee: projection on year-end surplus of \$120,000.00. This meets the bondholders’ requirement of 45 days cash on hand.
Chairperson: Mr. Eli Schaap
Administrative Liaison: Dr. Marcia Grayson
Committee Member: Mr. Daniel Gresack

Fundraising Committee: starting to work on new fundraising.
Chairperson: Shawntell Manning
Administrative Liaison: Dr. Marcia Grayson

Nominating Committee: None
Chairperson: Mr. Eli Schaap
Administrative Liaison: Dr. Marcia Grayson

Director’s Report: The school’s annual audit will begin next week. Reference to Demographic data handout. Reporting on three parent meetings (6/29; 6/30; and 7/1, 2020) and two faculty and staff meetings (7/15 and 7/16, 2020) for feedback on the school’s preliminary reopening ideas and for each of the school’s stakeholder to express concerns and share ideas. Presentation of the school’s Reopening Plan for 2020-2021 as well as the school’s survey.

SBA: Mrs. Kathy Mone: None
Acknowledgement of Correspondence: None

ITEM 1: Motion to approve the minutes from June 10, 2020 meeting.

Motion: Daniel Gresack

Second: Eli Schaap

Board Member	Voting	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Daniel Gresack	Trustee	X			
Eli Schaap	Trustee	X			

Marc Herman	Trustee	X			
Harish Hathiramani	Trustee	X			
Shawntell Manning	Trustee	X			
Arie Behar	Trustee			X	

Passed 5-0; 1 abstention.

ITEM 2: Motion to approve the bills list dated June 5 to June 30 and July 1 to July 20, 2020 in the amount of \$220,035.96 except for ITEM 7769 in the amount of \$79,583.33; and to approve the Secretary's Report dated July 21, 2020.

Motion: Eli Schaap

Second: Marc Herman

Board Member	Voting	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Daniel Gresack	Trustee	X			
Eli Schaap	Trustee	X			
Marc Herman	Trustee	X			
Harish Hathiramani	Trustee	X			
Shawntell Manning	Trustee	X			
Arie Behar	Trustee	X			

Passed 6-0; no abstentions.

ITEM 3: Motion to approve ITEM 7769 in the amount of \$79,583.33 on the bills list dated July 1 to July 20, 2020.

Motion: Marc Herman

Second: Daniel Gresack

Board Member	Voting	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Daniel Gresack	Trustee	X			
Eli Schaap	Trustee			X	
Marc Herman	Trustee	X			
Harish Hathiramani	Trustee	X			
Shawntell Manning	Trustee	X			
Arie Behar	Trustee	X			

Passed 5-0; 1 abstention.

ITEM 4: Motion to approve the following personnel items regarding faculty/staff for the 2020-2021 school year:

Certificated Faculty:

Jared Badalamenti, part-time teacher, at an annual contract of \$12,000.00.

Dr. Kruti Mathia, part-time Title I teacher, to remotely teach phonemic awareness sessions to at-risk students at a rate of \$40.00 per hour, not to exceed \$23,000.00 annually.

Adjustments in contracts: Jeffrey Villanueva, teacher, increase 2020-2021 salary by \$3,810.00 to reflect additional teaching responsibilities.

Motion: Daniel Gresack

Second: Marc Herman

Board Member	Voting	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Daniel Gresack	Trustee	X			
Eli Schaap	Trustee	X			
Marc Herman	Trustee	X			
Harish Hathiramani	Trustee	X			

Shawntell Manning	Trustee	X			
Arie Behar	Trustee	X			

Passed 6-0; no abstentions.

ITEM 5: Motion to approve renewing the contract of the School's Physician, Jonathan Wierzbicki, MD, with a stipend for his services of \$2,000.00 payable in one lump sum by February 2021.

Motion: Harish Hathiramani

Second: Arie Behar

Board Member	Voting	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Daniel Gresack	Trustee	X			
Eli Schaap	Trustee	X			
Marc Herman	Trustee	X			
Harish Hathiramani	Trustee	X			
Shawntell Manning	Trustee	X			
Arie Behar	Trustee	X			

Passed 6-0; no abstentions.

ITEM 6: Motion to amend the Title III Immigrant grant to waive \$1,377.00 due to lack of a consortium to join for this amount.

Motion: Arie Behar

Second: Eli Schaap

Board Member	Voting	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Daniel Gresack	Trustee	X			
Eli Schaap	Trustee	X			

Marc Herman	Trustee	X			
Harish Hathiramani	Trustee	X			
Shawntell Manning	Trustee	X			
Arie Behar	Trustee	X			

Passed 6-0; no abstentions.

ITEM 7: Motion to approve the job description of the School's Counselor.

Motion: Marc Herman

Second: Harish Hathiramani

Board Member	Voting	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Daniel Gresack	Trustee	X			
Eli Schaap	Trustee	X			
Marc Herman	Trustee	X			
Harish Hathiramani	Trustee	X			
Shawntell Manning	Trustee	X			
Arie Behar	Trustee			X	

Passed 5-0; 1 abstention.

ITEM 8: Motion to approve a 60-month contract with Comcast in order to bring 500 MB Fiber Internet to the school in order to facilitate hybrid learning in the classrooms at a rate of \$1,035.00 per month.

Motion: Daniel Gresack

Second: Shawntell Manning

Board Member	Voting	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Daniel Gresack	Trustee	X			

Eli Schaap	Trustee	X			
Marc Herman	Trustee	X			
Harish Hathiramani	Trustee	X			
Shawntell Manning	Trustee	X			
Arie Behar	Trustee	X			

Passed 6-0; no abstentions.

ITEM 9: Motion to authorize Dr. Grayson to make purchases of PPE in addition to the school’s typical cleaning supplies, in consultation with Mr. Eli Schaap and Mr. Arie Behar in order to open the school (including but not limited to Plexiglas desk guards). At least three companies will be contacted for each purchase. No more than \$68,000.00 will be spent on the Plexiglas guards.

Motion: Arie Behar

Second: Eli Schaap

Board Member	Voting	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Daniel Gresack	Trustee	X			
Eli Schaap	Trustee	X			
Marc Herman	Trustee	X			
Harish Hathiramani	Trustee	X			
Shawntell Manning	Trustee	X			
Arie Behar	Trustee	X			

Passed 6-0; no abstentions.

ITEM 10: Motion to authorize Dr. Grayson to apply for FEMA reimbursement for any authorized PPE equipment (there is no guarantee that they will approve the request, but preliminarily, it seems that they may approve up to 40% of PPE purchases).

Motion: Daniel Gresack

Second: Marc Herman

Board Member	Voting	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Daniel Gresack	Trustee	X			
Eli Schaap	Trustee	x			
Marc Herman	Trustee	x			
Harish Hathiramani	Trustee	x			
Shawntell Manning	Trustee	x			
Arie Behar	Trustee	x			

Passed 6-0; no abstentions.

ITEM 11: Motion to grant preliminary approval of the school’s **Reopening Plan 2020-2021** as presented for parent distribution along with a parent survey, pending additions for any additional NJ government directives prior to the school opening, attorney review, and school physician review.

Motion: Daniel Gresack

Second: Marc Herman

Board Member	Voting	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Daniel Gresack	Trustee	x			
Eli Schaap	Trustee	x			
Marc Herman	Trustee	x			
Harish Hathiramani	Trustee	x			
Shawntell Manning	Trustee	x			
Arie Behar	Trustee	x			

Passed 6-0; no abstentions.

ITEM 12: Motion to authorize Marcia Grayson, in consultation with the Board’s finance committee, to select a health insurance plan for faculty and staff.

Motion: Daniel Gresack

Second: Marc Herman

Board Member	Voting	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Daniel Gresack	Trustee	X			
Eli Schaap	Trustee	X			
Marc Herman	Trustee	X			
Harish Hathiramani	Trustee	X			
Shawntell Manning	Trustee	X			
Arie Behar	Trustee	X			

Passed 6-0; no abstentions.

ITEM 13: Motion to authorize Eli Schaap to submit PPP forgiveness application and accompanying required documentation.

Motion: Marc Herman

Second: Arie Behar

Board Member	Voting	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Daniel Gresack	Trustee	x			
Eli Schaap	Trustee	x			
Marc Herman	Trustee	x			
Harish Hathiramani	Trustee	x			
Shawntell Manning	Trustee	x			
Arie Behar	Trustee	x			

Passed 6-0; no abstentions.

ITEM 14: Motion to adjourn at 2:44 PM.

Motion: Marc Herman

Second: Daniel Gresack

Board Member	Voting	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Daniel Gresack	Trustee	x			
Eli Schaap	Trustee	x			
Marc Herman	Trustee	x			
Harish Hathiramani	Trustee	x			
Shawntell Manning	Trustee	x			
Arie Behar	Trustee	x			

Passed 6-0; no abstentions.