

Hatikvah International Academy Charter School

7 Lexington Avenue
East Brunswick, NJ
MEETING Minutes
February 18, 2021

7:00 P.M. Meeting

Meeting called to order by Daniel Gresack at 7:00 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 Zoom. The public was informed of the participation number on the school's website and on the front door of the building in addition to the newspaper postings.

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	
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.

23 members of the public present.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES COMMITTEES

Education Committee: see Dr. Grayson’s report

Administrative Liaison: Dr. Marcia Grayson

Financial Committee: Revised budget on this agenda.

Chairperson: Mr. Eli Schaap

Administrative Liaison: Dr. Marcia Grayson

Committee Member: Mr. Daniel Gresack

Fundraising Committee: see below

Chairperson: Shawntell Manning

Administrative Liaison: Dr. Marcia Grayson

Nominating Committee: no report

Chairperson: Mr. Eli Schaap

Administrative Liaison: Dr. Marcia Grayson

Director’s Report: Our fundraising total is up to \$50,151.00 surpassing the goal that I set for us this year as well as the budgeted goal. As you can see on the Demographic Dashboard, our EB lottery applications since the last meeting are up by 10 additional students to 41 including siblings. Although our lottery applications numbered 508 last week, we are 91 applicants fewer this year than last, which I attribute to the pandemic. By the lottery date in March, it is conceivable that we will have a number of additional applicants since we receive new applications daily. NJSLA testing which was to begin on March 15th has been delayed until April 5th leaving us waiting to know whether the State has requested and will receive a waiver. We reopened for in-person instruction last Monday, February 8th, only to be home for three fully remote days last week and this due to inclement weather. The NJ Charter Schools Association has been delayed in releasing more information about their Charter Expansion Grant. They released some preliminary information that included eligibility requirements for the grant. According to the grant manager, we appear to be eligible to apply for an 18-month planning period and a total of a 42-month grant, inclusive of the planning period, for a total of \$750,000.00, significantly more than I initially reported. We have been told preliminarily that the grant will not cover salaries of essential employees, our most costly need, during the actual grant period, but it does potentially open the opportunity for us to hire some employees in advance of their actual employment, giving us time to carefully walk them through much of the necessary professional development and curriculum development. We look forward to learning more about this grant by the month’s end.

Acknowledgement of Correspondence: none

ITEM 1: Motion to approve the minutes from January 21, 2021 meeting.

Motion: Eli Schaap

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 2: Motion to approve the bills list dated January 16, 2021 to February 12, 2021 in the amount of \$194,477.34 except for ITEM 8116 in the amount of \$79,583.33; and to approve the Secretary's Report dated February 11, 2021.

Motion: Eli Schaap

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 3: Motion to approve ITEM 8116 in the amount of \$79,583.33 on the bills list dated January 16, 2021 to February 12, 2021.

Motion: Daniel Gresack

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 4: Motion to approve a request for a waiver of Special Education Medicaid Initiative (SEMI) FY 2022 funding:

Revenue Projection:

Medicaid-Eligible/Special Education Student Count: 3

District Projected Revenue: \$1,350.12

District Budgeted Revenue Requirement: \$1,215.11

Motion: Marc Herman

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: 5: Motion to approve the revised budget for school year 2020-2021 based on the updated income reported from the NJ Department of Education.

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 6: Motion to approve budget line-item transfers from July 1, 2020 through December 30, 2020 as presented.

Motion: Marc Herman

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 accept the Small Business Administration Paycheck Protection Program Loan forgiveness in the amount of \$949,913.00; forgiveness approval received on January 5, 2021.

Motion: Shawntell Manning

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 8: Motion to accept additional Cares Act funding in the amount of \$2,182.00.

Motion: Eli Schaap

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			
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Passed 6-0; no abstentions.

ITEM 9: Motion to accept the school’s 2021-2022 school calendar as presented.

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 6-0; no abstentions.

ITEM 10: Motion to approve the following personnel items regarding faculty/staff for the 2020-2021 school year:

Certificated Faculty: Rebecca Green, general education teacher, 2021-2022 school, year pending receipt of all positive references at an annual salary of \$58,000.00.

Resignation: Michal Lev, temporary modern Hebrew substitute assistant effective February 12, 2021, end of day.

Change in Status: Evan Kreuter, currently a leave replacement substitute teacher transitioning to per diem regular substitute, to report daily for work on Mondays-Thursdays, from March 22, 2021 to June 18 (or the last day of school) at a rate of \$175.00 for full days and \$87.00 for half days.

Adjustments in contracts:

The following employees were to have received their retention increases on the agenda dated 4/23/2020 for the 2020-2021 school year:

1. Robyn Miller, an additional \$2,000.00 on September 1, 2020 (\$5,000.00 split over 2 years and this increase is the second of the two).

2. Stacy Delehanty, an additional \$5,000.00 on September 1, 2020.
3. Travis Simon, an additional \$5,000.00 on 5/15/21.

Stipends for two-months of coverage for a teacher on medical leave without a substitute teacher available:

1. Lilach Hochman, \$4,000.00
2. Eleanora Mushailov, \$3,000.00
3. Limor Ben-Nun, \$700.00
4. Hadas Elami, \$700.00

Leave of Absence: Kathryn Mattson, teacher, 2021-2022, one-year unpaid leave for personal reasons.

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 11: Motion to approve additions to the School’s Reopening Plan with updated rules for quarantines as recommended by the NJ Department of Education.

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 12: Motion to move into a Closed Session of the Board at 8:18 PM to discuss issues of pending litigation.

Motion: Marc Herman

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 13: Motion to Move back into Open Public Session of the Board at 9:40 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.

ITEM 14: Motion to adjourn at 9:41 PM.

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			
Ms. Shawntell Manning	Trustee	X			
Mr. Arie Behar	Trustee	X			

Passed 6-0; no abstentions.