

Hatikvah International Academy Charter School

7 Lexington Avenue
East Brunswick, NJ
Meeting Minutes
November 19, 2020

7:00 P.M. Meeting

Meeting called to order by Daniel Gresack at 7:07 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 conference call. The public was informed of the participation number on the school's website and on the front door of the building beginning in August 2020.

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.

Fifty-two members of the public were present and 23 spoke.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES COMMITTEES

Education Committee: no report.
 Administrative Liaison: Dr. Marcia Grayson
 Committee Members: Mrs. Hindie Weissman

Financial Committee: PPE forgiveness application submitted to TD Bank.
 Chairperson: Mr. Eli Schaap
 Administrative Liaison: Dr. Marcia Grayson
 Committee Member: Mr. Daniel Gresack

Fundraising Committee: See Director’s report.
 Chairperson: Shawntell Manning
 Administrative Liaison: Dr. Marcia Grayson

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

Director’s Report: My schoolwide fundraiser is up to \$31,576.00 (as of 11/17/2020). Over the past couple of weeks, we have seen an increased trend of Hatikvah families pulling their children out for remote only instruction over COVID fears. A number of our teachers have been teaching at home due to various symptoms that need to be checked as well as due to the need to quarantine. With only one substitute still willing to work, we have needed to close our middles grades, 6-8 due to staffing for two days as of 11/18. Each day, everyone at the school has gone above and beyond to cover classes and to help each other out, and the Board members as well as the public should understand that teachers are stretched beyond their capacity. I report this only to have everyone join me in acknowledging our incredible faculty and staff, without whom we would be unable to run the school each day. In this, I include teachers who feel ill who are continuing to work remotely.

Acknowledgement of Correspondence: None

Presentation of the Annual Financial Report (CAFR) and Auditor's Management Report (AMR) for FY 2020 by Olubenga Olabintin, CPA

ITEM 1: Motion to approve the minutes from October 22, 2020 meeting.

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; no abstentions; 1 absent.

ITEM 2: Motion to approve the bills list dated October 17, 2020 to November 16, 2020 in the amount of \$122,403.66 except for ITEM 7942 in the amount of \$79,583.33; and to approve the Secretary’s Report dated November 16, 2020.

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; no abstentions; 1 absent.

ITEM 3: Motion to approve ITEM 7942 in the amount of \$79,583.33 on the bills list dated October 17, 2020 to November 16, 2020.

Motion: Shawntell Manning

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 4-0; 1 abstention; 1 absent.

ITEM: 4: Motion to approve a modification of Board Policy 4112.4p Employee Health.

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 5-0; no abstentions; 1 absent.

ITEM 5: Motion to approve the following personnel items regarding faculty/staff for the 2020-2021 school year:

Certificated Faculty:

Even Keuter, replacement teacher, from November 16, 2020 to on or about February 4, 2021, at a prorated, annual salary of \$53,000.00.

Non-certificated temporary independent contractor:

Michal Lev, temporary Modern Hebrew instructional assistant, four days in December 2020 and on or about January 4, 2021 for approximately 6-8 weeks, but not longer than March 26, 2021. Daily rate at \$241.86 and monthly rate \$5,200.00.

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 5-0; no abstentions; 1 absent.

ITEM 6: Motion to accept the Annual Financial Report (CAFR) and Auditor's Management Report (AMR) for FY 2020 as presented by Olubenga Olabintin, CPA.

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 5-0; no abstentions; 1 absent.

ITEM 7: Motion to follow the medical advice of the School's Physician and the Department of Health to pivot to fully remote instruction from November 30, 2020 through at least a tentative back to hybrid start date of January 4, 2021. The Director may modify this plan based on COVID positive tests, State protocols, and medical guidance from the School's Physician and Middlesex County of Health for the wellbeing and safety of the faculty, staff, and students.

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; no abstentions; 1 absent.

ITEM 8: Motion to move into a Closed Session of the Board at 8:54 PM to discuss potential litigation and current litigation.

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 5-0; no abstentions; 1 absent.

ITEM 9: Motion to Move back into Open Public Session of the Board at 9:38 PM.

Motion: Shawntell Manning

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; no abstentions; 1 absent.

ITEM 10: Motion to authorize Marcia Grayson to engage Porzio, Bromberg, and Newman, P.C. for school matters.

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 5-0; no abstentions; 1 absent.

ITEM 11: Motion to authorize Trustee, Marc Herman and Director, Marcia Grayson to work on a proper response to Chapter 44 challenges.

Motion: Harish Hathiramani

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 5-0; no abstentions; 1 absent.

ITEM 12: 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 5-0; no abstentions; 1 absent.