

## Hatikvah International Academy Charter School

7 Lexington Avenue  
East Brunswick, NJ  
**MEETING Minutes**  
**March 18, 2021**

7:00 P.M. Meeting

Meeting called to order by Daniel Gresack at 7:02 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.

**Director's Report:** The Director spoke about:

Parent-teacher conferences; reopening on 03/22/2021; reopening on 08/30/2021; the retention survey; State testing which may necessitate some grades moving to remote instruction given the brief window of testing; the Charter Expansion Grant work; the upcoming lottery.

**Public Discussion:** This portion of the meeting is open to members of the public for the purpose of addressing resolutions on this agenda or other matters. Members of the public who have requested to

speakers are asked to state their full name, spell their last name, group affiliation, if appropriate, and provide their address. Issues raised by members of the public may or may not be responded to by the Board. All comments will be considered, and a response will be forthcoming if and when appropriate. The Board asks that members of the public be courteous and respectful of the rights of other individuals when speaking. Specifically, comments regarding students and employees of the Board are discouraged, and the Board and the Administration will not respond to them. Students and employees have specific legal rights afforded to them by the laws of New Jersey. The Board is not responsible and is not liable for any comments made by members of the public. Members of the public should consider their comments in light of the legal rights of those affected or identified in their comments. Members of the public are reminded that they are legally responsible and liable for their comments.

24 members of the public present.

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**BOARD OF TRUSTEES COMMITTEES**

**Financial Committee:** no report.  
 Chairperson: Mr. Eli Schaap  
 Committee: Daniel Gresack

**Fundraising Committee:** no report.  
 Chairperson: Shawntell Manning

**Nominating Committee:** Shawntell Manning and Eli Schaap interviewed 13 parents for an open Board position. 15 applications were received, 1 withdrew and 1 didn't schedule an interview. The process was interesting because parents shared many ideas. The committee is grateful to have had this process.

**Chairperson:** Mr. Eli Schaap  
 Committee: Shawntell Manning

ITEM 1: Motion to approve the minutes from the February 18, 2021 meeting.

**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 2: Motion to approve the bills list dated February 13, 2021 to March 12, 2021 in the amount of \$307,461.80 except for ITEM 8184 in the amount of \$79,583.33; and to approve the Secretary's Report dated March 12, 2021.

**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 3: Motion to approve ITEM 8184 in the amount of \$79,583.33 on the bills list dated February 13, 2021 to March 12, 2021.

**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; 1 abstention.

ITEM 4: Motion to approve the school's 2021-2022 budget as presented.

**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 5-0; 1 abstention.

ITEM 5: Motion to accept ESSER II FY21 grant funds awarded to the school as follows: ESSER II: \$163,387.00; Learning Acceleration: \$25,000.00; Emotional Health: \$45,000.00 and authorization for Dr. Grayson to submit this grant application to the NJ DOE.

**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 accept the nomination of a Board of Trustees parent member, Dr. Dake Zhang, to serve a one-year term from July 1, 2021 through June 20, 2022.

**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: 7: Motion to reapprove the 2021-2022 school calendar to accommodate a change in the date for Back-to-School night; moving the February half-day from February 4<sup>th</sup> to February 1<sup>st</sup> to provide a half-day for Chinese New Year; and shifting the March 2022 parent teacher conferences to the first three days of the week instead of Tuesday-Thursday to accommodate a Jewish holiday.

**Motion:** Marc Herman

**Second:** Harish Hathiramani

<b>Board Member</b>	<b>Voting</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Abstain</b>	<b>Absent</b>
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 approve the following personnel items:

**Certificated Faculty:**

Dr. Victoria Krupnik, teacher, and K-8 math coach for the 2021-2022 school year at an annual salary of \$74,000.00 and a daily rate of \$125.00 for the 2020-2021 school year while working with the current teacher.

Aviva Borger, substitute teacher, at a rate of \$125.00 for a full day and \$62.50 for half days.

**Certificated/non-Certificated Renewals for 21-22:** Please see attached list. Each person will receive a 3% increase in the 2020-2021 salary unless otherwise indicated.

**Motion:** Arie Behar

**Second:** Marc Herman

<b>Board Member</b>	<b>Voting</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Abstain</b>	<b>Absent</b>
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: Since the NJ Qualified Purchasing Agent (QPA) Certificate of Kathleen Mone has expired, and due to Covid, the next QPA test for which she could register is June 23, 2021, the board is requested to pass this emergency resolution to approve the installation of plexiglass for an amount over the bid threshold of \$32,000 but under the QPA threshold of \$44,000. This purchase approval is retroactive to July 1, 2020.

**Motion:** Shawntell Manning

**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; 1 abstention.

ITEM 10: Motion to permit Dr. Grayson, Director, to run the school's lottery on March 22<sup>nd</sup> remotely during a State of Emergency in order for the public to participate. (Note: This will be the second consecutive year of a remote lottery. Last year, there was more public participation than in previous years due to the remote access, posted on the school's website and sent to families who applied).

**Motion:** Daniel Gresack

**Second:** Marc Herman

<b>Board Member</b>	<b>Voting</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Abstain</b>	<b>Absent</b>
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 the use of the services of Mr. Marc Leber, Engineer, at East Point Engineering located at 11 S Main St, Marlboro, NJ 07746. Mr. Leber was the Engineer for all previous construction projects for the school beginning in 2011. Mr. Leber's discounted rate is \$175.00 per hour. The scope of Mr. Leber's work will include: Oversight and management of the entire public bidding process; oversight of the work through completion that includes completion of the soccer field (irrigation and lighting), maintenance/repaving of two parking lots, tying the HVAC system into a single online management system, installing new windows in at least two classrooms, and reviewing any ventilation upgrades deemed needed for increased school safety.

**Motion:** Marc Herman

**Second:** Daniel Gresack

<b>Board Member</b>	<b>Voting</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Abstain</b>	<b>Absent</b>
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.

ITEM 12: Motion to Move into Closed Session of the Board to discuss litigation matters at 8:50 PM.

**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 move back to Open Public session at 9:23 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			
Shawntell Manning	Trustee	X			

Arie Behar	Trustee	X			
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Passed 6-0; no abstentions.

ITEM 14: Motion to adjourn at 9:23 PM.

**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.

Name	Comments
Ian Schock	3% plus \$5,000
Timothy Heckler	3% plus \$5,000
Phyllis Dalton	3% plus \$5,000
Terez Slim	3% plus \$5,000
Muzik Miller	3% plus \$5,000 in November
Stacy Weissman	3% plus \$5,000
Inna Beck	Plus \$11,683 (additional period)
Jared E Badalamenti	Plus \$27,000 Teacher salary
Jared E Badalamenti	Assistant \$6,498
Stacy Greenblatt	Plus \$9,267 (Moving to FT teacher)
Rachel Rozett	Plus \$2,459. (More than 3%)
Eleonora Mushailov	Plus \$29,865 (PT Hebrew teacher)
Erin McNicoll	Title I \$9627.00
Erin McNicoll	Plus \$1,698.00 (More than 3%)
Erin Schneider	3% plus \$5,000 in February
Claudia Fiel	3% plus \$5,000 in February

Merri Salzman	
Nicole Disporto	
Erin Satran	
Amy Simon	
Kelly Kalmanson	
Nicole Frankel	
Pam Cali	
Kelly Pouso	
Stacy Delehanty	
Kristen Gironda	
Jessica Solodkin	
Hadas Nitsat Elami	
Susan Patterson	
Melissa Plitt	
Robyn Miller	
Lilach Hochman	
Christine Kremer	
Shannon Leyland	
Jayalakshmi Muthiah Mani	
Jordan Oran	
Joshua Johannessen	
Alan Schpiro	
Jeffrey Villanueva	
Yael Shudrich-Kabilou	
Rachel Plawner	
Ronit Mizrahi	
Eyal Madjar	
Hanit Avondoglio	
Limor Ben Nun	
David Shemesh	
Eti Adgeh-Molah	
Ivy Blonder	
Teri Cohen	
Matthew Corrado	
Travis Simon	
Meredith Smolen	
Julia Van Ness	
Anne Wickersty	
Rebecca Cruz	3% plus \$4,000 for ELL Cert/Class
Marcia Grayson	
Amanda Rosenberg	

Sara Schwartz	
Judy Babeu	
Jurgita Galavackiene	
Stacey Inguardi	
Heather Winder	
Michael Kennedy	
Oshrat Hoffman	Same rate
Mindy Billowitz	Same rate
Cynthia Csillag	Same rate
Andrea Goldstein	Same rate