

**MINUTES OF
HELLENIC CLASSICAL CHARTER SCHOOLS**

**SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
HELD ON JULY 9, 2025 AT 9:00 a.m.**

Members and Staff – via Zoom Conferencing

PRESENT

Charles Capetanakis	Chairman
Harvey Newman	Secretary
Nikolaos Leonardos	Treasurer
Effie Lekas	Member
Grazia Svokos	Member
Dr. Liana Theodoratou	Member
Spiros Moustakas	Member
Bianca Rajpersaud	Member
Christina Tettonis	Superintendent
Joy Petrakos	Chief of Operations
Natasha Caban	Principal HCCS-PS
Cathy Kakleas	Principal HCCS-SI
Anastasia Etimos	Guidance Counselor
Dena Capetanakis	Director of Community & Engagement
Craig Savage	CSBM Senior Financial Manager
Stacy Kokkoros	Operations Manager

ABSENT

Dean Angelakos	Excused
Nik Mathews	Excused

Mr. Capetanakis chaired the meeting. Joy Petrakos acted as recorder. There were seven Board members present at the Board meeting as such having quorum.

The first item on the agenda is the approval of the minutes of the meeting on June 24, 2025. On a motion made by Mr. Newman and seconded by Mrs. Lekas, the minutes were unanimously approved.

Mr. Capetanakis began by applauding our students for their scores on the Greek proficiency exam. He stated that they are off the charts and that is across the student population. Mr. Capetanakis continues that these numbers are impressive for non-native Greek speaking students. Mr. Capetanakis would like to promote how well these students did. Mrs. Lekas agrees Mrs. Tettonis adds that the report doesn't show that there are components. There's reading, listening, writing and speaking. So those are all also broken down. Mrs. Tettonis reported that our team works really hard to make sure that the Greek departments have all the materials that they need. We do a lot of events to promote the enthusiasm for the Greek

culture, including the trips the teams take to go overseas. We also do virtual trips to Greece. Also, the celebrations that we have, for example OXI Day, Greek Independence Day Celebration, Greek Independence Day Parade and so many more events. We are doing pretty good.

Mr. Capetanakis says that is great. Like I said, I think we should promote how well we did.

Mrs. Petrakos tells the Board that she can set something up to promote this. But she thinks it would be best to wait for September.

Dr. Svokos lets the Board know that just this week, the patriarch presented a speech at a school in Turkey about the mother, the Greek language and its importance in poetry and culture and all these things. She will share it with the Board.

Dr. Theodoratou adds learning another language (Greek) is very important. The fact that they are versed in something different of their own is amazing. It is one of the most important languages in the world.

Mrs. Tettonis thanked Mr. Capetanakis for calling up all our alumni at the PS eighth grade graduation as he does every year. We were especially proud this year because our keynote speaker was an alumnus, Christopher Wiggan who spoke a few Greek words in his speech.

Mrs. Lekas asked if the new Greek Consulate General, came to either of our schools yet? Mrs. Petrakos answered that she came to visit the Staten Island campus. Mrs. Lekas states maybe we can invite her to Park Slope.

Mrs. Petrakos informs the Board that the new Director of Education of the Greek Archdiocese, Father Gregory Xanthopoulos, came to visit us at the Park Slope school. He expressed he was very impressed with our schools.

Mr. Newman said that it was twenty years ago, Mr. Leonardos, Mr. Capetanakis and himself sat in his office and discussed starting a charter school. Twenty years later, if somebody had said that these would be the opening stories of our charter school board of directors meeting, could you have imagined that? And how do you react to being here today to hear these great stories?

Mr. Leonardos answers that he has goosebumps. Mr. Leonardos says we should all stick around for another twenty years!

Mr. Newman adds that Father Ganas was also there for this initial meeting. It was a moving meeting. You must know where you come from. History is important.

Mr. Newman asked for an update on the rental assistance funds from the last meeting. Mrs. Petrakos stated that she and Mr. Savage, have been reaching out to the DOE to find out why we received an increased amount. We have not heard back from the DOE yet. The person that I work with is no longer there. Mrs. Petrakos stated that Ms. Cochran was on all of the emails.

Mr. Savage stated that we have reached out by email and phone call. We recognize that everyone is busy. They will get to us when they get to us. The reimbursement appears to be coming in, and it will appear to be coming in on a regular basis based upon the invoice payments, and that would be six payments. At this point in time, we are hopeful that we will receive total reimbursement for facilities.

Mr. Savage then shared an update from our auditor about our interim audit. They had no findings as of May 2025. So, moving forward, into the audit we are working on the remaining months to actually be audited. And once that's done, the auditor will meet with Mr. Leonardos and Mrs. Petrakos and myself to give an update.

Mrs. Petrakos thanks Mr. Savage. Mr. Leonardos, Mr. Savage and the rest of the CSBM team, along with our business manager Carla Elboustani, met with the auditors. The auditor said we are having a smooth audit, and I was very happy to hear that. We have a great team.

Mr. Leonardos added that everything is fine with us. If there is transparency even if it is sometimes delayed or not, as long as there is good news there is no problem. He is very pleased.

Mrs. Lekas and Mr. Capetanakis thanked Mrs. Petrakos for the great job and the good news.

Mr. Capetanakis asked if there were any further questions for Mr. Savage. There were none.

Mr. Capetanakis asked to go into executive session. Mr. Leonardos seconds the motion. The meeting went to executive session at 9:23 a.m. All in favor. The Board returned from executive session at 10:00 a.m. There being no unfinished business, Mr. Capetanakis asked for a motion to adjourn, Mr. Leonardos made the motion, and Mrs. Lekas seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 10:01 a.m.

The next Board meeting will be held via Zoom Conferencing on August 29, 2025 at 9:30 a.m.

Harvey Newman

Harvey Newman, Secretary