

**MINUTES OF
HELLENIC CLASSICAL CHARTER SCHOOLS**

**SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
HELD ON JULY 23, 2024 AT 9:30 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
Bianca Rajpersaud	Member
Nik Mathews	Member
Christina Tettonis	Superintendent
Joy Petrakos	Chief of Operations
Natasha Caban	Principal HCCS-PS
Dena Capetanakis	Director of Community & Engagement

ABSENT

Cathy Kakleas	Principal HCCS-SI
Spiros Moustakas	Member
Dean Angelakos	Member
Stacy Kokkoros	Operations Manager

Mr. Capetanakis chaired the meeting. Joy Petrakos acted as recorder. There were eight 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 28, 2024. On a motion made by Mr. Newman and seconded by Mr. Leonardos, the minutes were unanimously approved.

Mrs. Tettonis stated that we are presently servicing children in our summer school programs. She thanked Mrs. Kakleas, Mrs. Caban, Mrs. Petrakos, Mrs. Capetanakis and all the teachers/staff that have been working hard to coordinate a comprehensive summer school program. There is an enrichment program right after summer school. There are also incoming eighth graders that have the opportunity to prepare for Algebra with Mr. Wong. We are also planning for next school year. The NYSED instructional reports for ELA and Math have been received and are being reviewed. There will be additional details in my next report concerning testing scores. The team has been interviewing for vacant teacher positions. This is an incredible amount of work. Thank you to Mrs. Capetanakis for the work that she is doing with the executive Boards on the P.T.A.'s of both schools putting together the calendars and

working with both principals on their events for the new school year. There are big changes coming and Mrs. Petrakos will be talking about all the upcoming fundraising events. We are really excited. Mrs. Tettonis wishes everyone a wonderful summer.

Mr. Newman asked what is the attrition that we know of up to this point? Do we have a sense of how many students will be returning? Mrs. Tettonis answered that we are fully enrolled in both schools. Of course, there are usually a small number of students who always move out of state or move to schools closer to home during the summer. This is to be expected. As of right now we are fully enrolled and we have a waitlist in both schools. Mrs. Petrakos states that there are enrollment numbers in her report.

Mrs. Petrakos reports that she sent a preliminary budget to Mr. Capetanakis and Mr. Leonardos that CSBM created based on the expansion revision that was approved along with our renewal this year. Mr. Leonardos asked Mrs. Petrakos what additional rent expense can Park Slope afford once we begin the expansion project to create temporary classes under the building until a facility is built. The budget that CSBM prepared for us is based on the projected enrollment per our charter revision to increase in year 2025 – 2026. The numbers are based on an added class in each grade each year. The first year we added kindergarten and first grade (50 students). Basically, we will incur \$100,000.00 in additional rental expenses in year 2025-2026. It comes out to \$8,500.00 a month. Mr. Leonardos asked how many students is this based on? Mrs. Petrakos answered that this is based on 554 students in year 2025-2026. Currently we have 498 students not including the eighteen Pre-K students. Mr. Leonardos reports that the landlord feels comfortable to allow us to build in the parking lot five-six classrooms. Of course the community will be losing their parking but they are looking to accommodate us. This is the reason why Mr. Capetanakis and I need a preliminary budget to see what the numbers are to pick up the discussion. Mr. Leonardos states that based on information obtained from architects they did not say anything about not being able to build temporary classrooms in the parking lot. The build out cost is not accounted for in this report. Mrs. Petrakos expressed her concern for egress points and dismissal procedures. Mrs. Svokos asked if there is a separate code for schools. Mr. Leonardos answers that there needs to be two emergency exits. Mr. Newman states that we are investing time, energy and resources and we need clarity on what direction we are going to take. There has to be a preliminary step to make sure that all of the things that we are talking about will pass code whether or not we can actually do this and require someone who knows how to do this and what the codes are to keep the school going while students are in the building. Mrs. Petrakos and Mr. Leonardos agreed. From what Mr. Leonardos understands it will not be a violation if we provide a path. Mr. Newman wants to make sure the school meets all regulatory legal construction educational requirements. He thinks it makes sense to hire someone to take on the liability to assure us that it is safe to move forward. Mr. Leonardos agreed and stated that the landlord said that it can be done. Specifically that there can be a leading to the street with at least two doors where the students can exit.

Mr. Capetanakis adds that the more he thinks of this he does not see how this can be done without the landlords requiring the corner property. Mrs. Petrakos stated that we have the five year charter term to fulfill it. In the event that we want to extend it into the third year of the charter term which would be 2026-2027 we may ask SED if we can do so. Mr. Leonardos adds

that we will not be able to have the enrollment if we do that and therefore not meet the requirements. Mrs. Petrakos asked about the motorized gate? Should she go ahead with that or wait? Do you have any idea of the measurement of the rooms that will be? Mr. Leonardos answers they need to know what our financial strength will be. They are willing to do that. Mrs. Petrakos asks because she does not believe that five or six rooms can be built in the space that is available. She knows that she is not the expert and wants them to keep this in mind. Are there any plans for the house that the landlord owns behind the church? Mr. Leonardos answered no there aren't. Mrs. Tettonis asked if we have considered any other ideas for classrooms? For example the gym or the church hall? The families and the community will not like the idea of losing the use of the gym for such a large period of time. Mrs. Lekas adds that there is more work that needs to be done.

Mrs. Petrakos informs the Board that an Armenian group has reached out to her and they want to open a charter school in Great Neck, New York and they are very ambitious group of people.

Mrs. Lekas asked Mrs. Petrakos if she needs the Board to step up to help with all of the fundraising efforts that she is planning for the upcoming new school year. Mrs. Petrakos states that in the new fundraising schedule that she prepared and shared with the Board in her report you will see many fundraisers in every month except for the month of November which she kept open for a Board fundraiser and she asked that we form a Board fundraising committee.

Mrs. Lekas mentioned a film playing on Netflix called Find Me Falling that was filmed in Cyprus. Harry Connick Jr. is a main character in this film. It is a fun film and you get a sense of the culture and country. Also, the AHEPA convention is taking place in Cyprus and Archbishop Elpidoforos of America announced that the Archdiocese Cultural Center of Astoria will be renamed Cyprus House.

Mr. Capetanakis would like for the school to carry a Cypriot flag along with the American, Greek and HCCS School flags. Mrs. Lekas added that the Greek Independence Day Parade in New York City will be on March 30, 2025.

There being no unfinished business, Mr. Capetanakis asked for a motion to adjourn. The motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Leonardos. Mr. Newman seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 10:45 a.m.

The next Board meeting will be held via Zoom Conferencing on August 30, 2024 at 9:30 a.m.

Harvey Newman
Harvey Newman, Secretary

**MINUTES OF
HELLENIC CLASSICAL CHARTER SCHOOLS**

**SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
HELD ON August 30, 2024 AT 9:30 a.m.**

Members and Staff – via Zoom Conferencing

PRESENT

Nikolaos Leonardos	Treasurer
Harvey Newman	Secretary
Effie Lekas	Member
Grazia Svokos	Member
Bianca Rajpersaud	Member
Christina Tettonis	Superintendent
Joy Petrakos	Chief of Operations
Natasha Caban	Principal HCCS-PS
Cathy Kakleas	Principal HCCS-SI
Kamilah O'Brien	CSBN Associate Director
Stacy Kokkoros	Operations Manager
Nilufar	SI Parent

ABSENT

Charles Capetanakis	Chairman
Dr. Liana Theodoratou	Member
Dean Angelakos	Member
Spiros Moustakas	Member
Nik Mathews	Member

Mr. Leonardos chaired the meeting. Joy Petrakos acted as recorder. There were five 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 July 23, 2024. The minutes are tabled for the next meeting as such a motion was made by Mr. Newman and seconded by Ms. Rajpersaud for the minutes to be approved at the next meeting. The motion was unanimously approved.

Mr. Leonardos asked Ms. O'Brien to give an overview of the financial report. Ms. O'Brien began by reporting that it is the beginning of the fiscal year and we are not sending out projections, we are sending out the balance sheet and the budget versus actuals. Looking at the balance sheet for PS, the school ended the month of June with \$2.4 million in the bank. The receivables that we have here are from the grants that are still open from the last fiscal year that we are collecting on. Going down to our budget versus some actuals everything is pretty much on target. We are at 97% revenue at PS. We have received our per pupil for the month of July and August. We have not started receiving PreK finding yet. That will begin in September.

We have started to receive some of the Summer Boost funding for Summer School. Then going down to total expenses for PS we are at 120% of the budget. This is due to the beginning of the school year spending. Mr. Leonardos adds that eventually it will level out. Ms. O'Brien agreed and continued that SI is at about \$1.8 in the bank at the end of July and accounts receivable \$2 million. We didn't recognize open receivables in FY24 but we still had it in the books for FY23 and FY22. This is the money we are expecting for the facilities rental assistance. Going down to the budget versus actuals. The school is at 88% of revenue. This has to do with the rental reimbursement. We are still not receiving the full rental assistance and therefore we are under budget in that aspect. We did receive money for the summer boost program. Then going down to the total expenses again we over budget with 130% of the budget that has to do with additional expenses in the summer months to get the school started for the new school year.

Mr. Leonardos thanked Ms. O'Brien and asked Mrs. Tettonis to give her report. Mrs. Tettonis stated that it is absolutely amazing how much work everyone did throughout the summer and this whole entire week preparing for the start of the school year. Our classrooms look great and our teachers are receiving incredible professional development. This includes grade level meetings from our teams as well as security meetings from our COO, Principals and Deans. Everything is outlined in the Superintendent's report. Mrs. Tettonis said that she is proud of the collaboration that is going on. It is beautiful teamwork. We have scheduled Meet and Greets, Curriculum Nights, New Parent Orientations for PreK and Kindergarten, Six Grade Orientations for both schools. Incredible new teachers that are joining our staff. We also have two alumni joining our staff in PS. What a great compliment. In addition, we have a huge donation from Visitation Academy that is closing. They donated over \$20,000.00 worth of musical instruments. It is emotional but at least we will continue to celebrate their kindness. As you know the New York State scores came out. Both schools exceed the district, the city and the state. Everything is listed in my report. In SI we will continue to carefully look at ELA and Math to make sure that growth continues. Any questions please let me know. We hired a new Dean for Early Childhood in SI. As you know there are many fundraising events planned this year. There is much more and as you can see the focus is preparing the teachers and giving them the tools that they need. Mrs. Tettonis thanked everyone for their continued support. We cannot wait to meet our new students, our returning students and of course of beautiful families. Mr. Leonardos thanked Mrs. Tettonis for the impressive work and the impressive work of the team. He continued to ask why is there a difference in the scores in PS and SI. Mrs. Tettonis responded that PS is a PREK – 8 school and the school has been around for nineteen years. The support systems are very different. In both schools we focus on small group instructions, individual instruction giving really robust professional development. She gives credit to the staff members that go from PS to SI in order to continue that momentum. Not all students are the same and cannot compare. In SI only grades 3, 4, 5 have been tested and in PS grades 3 – 8 are tested and we have been testing for 19 years. Mrs. Kakleas is a teacher at heart and knows exactly what it takes for a teacher to do the best she can. It is all about being in the classroom and children learning. Our kids are amazing.

Mr. Newman added that pairing groups is always a challenging situation. Mrs. Kakleas mentioned that to put it in perspective this is the first time we are preparing fifth graders to take the state tests.

Mrs. Petrakos stated that we have high teacher retention rates. In PS, we have 97% of our students returning and we have 90% teacher returning. In SI, we have 98% of the students returning to our schools 92% of our teachers are returning. We reach our goal each year. We are doing very well. Mrs. Tettonis stated that we hired more teachers in SI because we are opening a middle school in SI this year. This whole week we are involved in meetings. The energy is very high and everyone is eager to learn and work towards all the goals. It has been very engaging.

Mr. Newman feels that these are remarkable numbers. He congratulates the team. Terrific news to hear.

Ms. Svokos asked about the Outdoor Learning permit. Mrs. Petrakos explained that PS does not have a playground. Therefore, before the pandemic we applied for a permit with the New York City Parks Department to use 18th street between 5th and 4th Avenues. We were approved and we apply each year to hold our daily recess - weather permitting with barricades. Mr. Leonardos thanked Mrs. Petrakos and stated that this is great news since many schools have been denied permits in other parts of Brooklyn.

There being no unfinished business, Mr. Leonardos asked to go into executive session. Mr. Newman seconds the motion. The meeting went to executive session at 10:10 a.m. All in favor. The Board returned from executive session at 10:40am. No votes were taken during executive session. Mr. Leonardos asked to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Lekas seconds the motion to adjourn.

The next Board meeting will be held via Zoom Conferencing on September 25, 2024 at 9:30 a.m.

Harvey Newman
Harvey Newman, Secretary

**MINUTES OF
HELLENIC CLASSICAL CHARTER SCHOOLS**

**SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
HELD ON SEPTEMBER 25, 2024 AT 9:30 a.m.**

Members and Staff – via Zoom Conferencing

PRESENT

Charles Capetanakis	Chairman
Nikolaos Leonardos	Treasurer
Effie Lekas	Member
Grazia Svokos	Member
Dr. Liana Theodoratou	Member
Bianca Rajpersaud	Member
Spiros Moustakas	Member
Christina Tettonis	Superintendent
Joy Petrakos	Chief of Operations
Natasha Caban	Principal HCCS-PS
Cathy Kakleas	Principal HCCS-SI
Dena Capetanakis	Director of Community & Engagement
Stacy Kokkoros	Operations Manager

ABSENT

Harvey Newman	Secretary
Dean Angelakos	Member
Nik Mathews	Member

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 two meetings held on July 23, 2024 and August 30, 2024. On a motion made by Mr. Moustakas and seconded by Mrs. Svokos, the minutes were unanimously approved.

Mrs. Petrakos states that Ms. O'Brien from CSBM cannot make today's meeting. The financials have been sent to the Board and she will present them to the Board during the Chief of Operations report.

Mrs. Tettonis began by stating how proud she is of her teams. They had a very smooth opening in both schools. It was a great transition into the new year. She is proud of all the children. Both principals did an awesome job preparing our teachers, especially with all of the new hired teachers. Of course Joy Petrakos, Dena Capetanakis and all of the support staff in both offices and the instructional leadership team do a great job. We are proud of the

communication that we have with our families. We have already had orientations for Pre-K, Kindergarten, Sixth Grades, Meet and Greets, Curriculum Nights and two P.T.A. meetings. We are now preparing for Learn with your Child week in October. We are excited for that. We are preparing our eighth graders in PS for the high school admission process, SHSAT prep will be launched next week, and a big thank to the Board for starting that a decade ago. Sixth grade parents in SI are being prepared for middle school. They are adjusting nicely. The goal is to get the kids ready for eighth grade so they can get into the best high schools. The P.T.A. meetings have a few new things that are being implemented in order to be able to communicate with our families that cannot attend the P.T.A. meetings in person. We have a platform that is working great. We receive questions from parents that are answered at the P.T.A. meeting then an audio recording is posted for the parents to hear the answers. She thanks Mrs. Petrakos and Mrs. Capetanakis for implementing that and Mr. Underwood for the audio recordings.

Regarding National History Day it is being launched for the first time in SI this year. The students have been selected in both campuses and will be going to Greece in January 2025 for their research.

Ancient Greek Theater is also in progress in PS only. Next year when SI has a seventh grade it will be their first year for AGT. She thanked the team for making it happen.

TEDx for eighth grade has begun. She thanked Aaron Sylvan, one of our parents who works on this for us.

The student government campaigns will begin soon in both schools. We are happy about that.

We have a lot of data analysis meetings with our leadership teams.

Mrs. Lekas asked what is the charter school meeting in Athens about. Mrs. Capetanakis answered that Stella Kokolis reached out to her and they are doing a follow up symposium to bring back the charter school attendees to Greece in October to meet with the newly appointed officials in Athens. We will be meeting with the new Minister of Education as well as visiting the Parliament as well as meeting with Mr. Fortomas who came to our school. The goal is to get to meet the new members of the different ministries but to also navigate our upcoming trips. As Mrs. Tettonis mentioned we are going in January and February and for the first time we are bringing two groups. One of the new initiatives was to bring our students to Parliament if we can. The goal is to make that happen. We have a tentative itinerary that we will finalize when we go to Greece. The meetings are October 16, 17 and 18. Collectively we decided as a team that PS will go to Greece first and they will overlap for two days with Staten Island. Mr. Leonardos asked if the two schools will be competing against each other. Mrs. Capetanakis answered that PS will continue competing in the documentary category and SI will be competing in the performance category.

Mrs. Kakleas reported that they had a smooth start in Staten Island. They came up with a safer new dismissal. The buses now come through the parking lot instead of the students going out to the buses. The "buser exit" and the "walker exit" are two different exits now. It is working out great. Parents all seem to be satisfied. We have a lot of new staff and for the most part

they are all doing very well and they are getting a lot of support. We are excited to have our first National History Day Team. The students are very excited as well.

Ms. Caban reports that they also had a smooth start. Our parents are passionate about class assignments. We are navigating those types of conversations with our families. We did have one turn over this year with a Special Education teacher this year. We are actively searching and have a plan in place. We are kicking off all of our programs. SHSAT prep will be taught by Mr. Vitticore, our history teacher and Mr. Wong, our mathematics teacher. Permission slips are coming in. Yesterday we had a public high school meeting for our parents and last week we had the Catholic high school meeting. We have separate meetings because there is so much information. The SHSAT exam will be on 11/16 and 11/17 and the TACHS exam will be on 11/9. There are many changes in the application process. It is very stressful. Students are placed into tiers according to their averages. Now parents are able to give at least twelve choices on their high school applications. The progress reports will be mailed out on October 18th.

Mr. Leonardos asked if we are meeting the criteria for the SEL's and the other requirements that we need to show the state for grants that we are receiving. Mrs. Caban answered that we took a dip in our Special Ed department. We had a few families relocate or put their child(ren) in a different setting, all parent choice of course. We are recruiting, filling spots and the preference is to fill the vacant seats with special education students and we are confident that the numbers are going to go back up. We are going through our wait list to recruit. For our incoming Kindergarten ELL, it is a process. We have to interview the parents and assess the students. We had many students test out of ELL services but we have about seven or eight students that will be receiving ELL services. On the flip side we have many students that test out because they test high. They graduate out. Ms. Caban is comfortable with it right now.

Mrs. Kakleas added that they are in a good place too. In Kindergarten alone they had 25 ELLS come in. They test out in the upper grades.

Mr. Leonardos asked Mrs. Svokos to report on the fundraiser. Mrs. Svokos reports that Mrs. Petrakos and Ms. Elboustani have been working on the benefit's jotforms and QR codes to be added to the letter to be emailed to the sponsors. The email will say to please email/forward to anyone that you think can sponsor us. The team provided an online platform for people to click to either be sponsors or to buy tickets or just give a flat donation. The QR code and jotform can be disseminated to everyone. Someone can make a donation even if they do not come to the dinner. We changed the name of the event from GALA to BENEFIT. In addition Father Andreas from St. Nicholas will also be offering each guest a 20-25 minute private tour of the Shrine and then walk across the street to SKINOS, the event venue. This is open only to the people attending the benefit. Mrs. Svokos thanked Mr. and Mrs. Lekas for their sponsorship. Mrs. Lekas states that it is in honor of her parents. She requests that the program reads "In loving Memory" and her parents' names.

Mrs. Petrakos reported that the Benefit online payable platform is a success. Our Friends Of operating account has been linked to a new paypal account. We have been using this method of payment since we have gone cashless and it works very well with our school events.

Mrs. Petrakos began her report on behalf of Ms. O'Brien who couldn't be at today's meeting. For PS we have sixteen percent of budgeted revenue which has been earned. Nine percent of budgeted expenses have been spent. Total revenues are expected to be over a bit with a net of \$49,000 due to all of the beginning of the year spending. Total expenses projected to be underbudgeted by \$2000. Projected net operating income is \$66,000 as compared to the budget about of \$15,000. Projected net income is negative \$437K as compared to the budget amount of negative \$488K. Net income is subject to change after confirmation of two open positions.

For SI we have fourteen percent of budgeted revenue earned and eleven percent of budgeted expenses have been spent. Total revenue is expected to be \$13,000 under budget due to enrollment of Special Ed being slightly under budget. Total expenses are projected to be underbudget by \$182K. Projected net operating income is \$1.52million as compared to the budgeted amount of \$1.3. Projected net income is \$1.3 versus \$1.8 budgeted. These are the notes from the CSBM team. Mr. Capetanakis states that the financial report sounds healthy. He continues to ask how much of the rental assistance is being held from the city. He asked if he can be given a running total sometime in the near future. We would like to know how they are withholding post possession of the building. The fact that they are withholding rental assistance post possession is both illegal and immoral.

Mrs. Petrakos wants the Board to know that the audit is almost complete. We have another great audit for both schools and we are very happy. It is due to the state by November 1st and we are almost done. She thanked HCCS Business Manager, Carla Elboustani and the CSBM team.

Mrs. Petrakos reports that our marketing initiative is going great. We have been advertising with the local papers, Greek papers and online. We are everywhere. We have full pages as promised, digital marketing and the banner continues to be displayed at the Staten Island Mall. As always, our marketing initiatives look great and we are reaching our targets.

Mrs. Petrakos informed the Board that we will need to inform the DOE to officially add our Staten Island middle school grades to receive rental assistance. We will have to go through the whole process again. Mr. Leonardos asks why do we have to always go through this? Mrs. Petrakos answers that the process is that we have to request for rental assistance from the DOE for the new grades after receiving the renewal. We will mark down that we have our own private space and we are not looking to co-locate. We will get denied (normal to) and then proceed with the next steps in requesting for rental assistance for private leasing.

Mrs. Petrakos submitted the reconciliation reports for both schools. This year the DOE owes PS \$3759.00 and SI \$6107.00. It is good news. Mr. Capetanakis states that this is very impressive work. Mr. Leonardos states really great work on the numbers.

Mrs. Petrakos reports that the school received a letter regarding the SI P.T.A. zoom issue. She explained to the Board that they received two identical letters from two different families that mailed it to the school. One copy was also mailed to Mr. Capetanakis. Mrs. Petrakos and Mrs.

Capetanakis personally called the two families and they understand the reasons why the PTA and the schools do not want zoom meetings. They stated that they are very grateful for all the great work. They support the decision that the P.T.A. made.

Mr. Leonardos states that the Certificate of Occupancy for Staten Island is still pending. Mr. Capetanakis asked if Kelmar has finished their work. Mr. Leonardos states that their work is complete. The worry is the connection to the private sewer connection. This needs to be resolved.

There being no unfinished business, Mr. Capetanakis asked for a motion to adjourn. The motion to adjourn was made by Mrs. Lekas. Mr. Newman seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned 10:45 a.m.

The next Board meeting will be held via Zoom Conferencing on October 23, 2024 at 9:30 a.m.

Harvey Newman
Harvey Newman, Secretary

**MINUTES OF
HELLENIC CLASSICAL CHARTER SCHOOLS**

**SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
HELD ON October 23, 2024 AT 9:30 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
Bianca Rajpersaud	Member
Spiros Moustakas	Member
Christina Tettonis	Superintendent
Joy Petrakos	Chief of Operations
Natasha Caban	Principal HCCS-PS
Cathy Kakleas	Principal HCCS-SI
Dena Capetanakis	Director of Community & Engagement
Kamilah O'Brien	CSBM Associate Director
Craig Savage	CSBM Financial Manager
Stacy Kokkoros	Operations Manager

ABSENT

Dean Angelakos	Member
Nik Mathews	Member

Mr. Capetanakis chaired the meeting. Joy Petrakos acted as recorder. There were eight 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 September 25, 2024. On a motion made by Mr. Leonardos and seconded by Mr. Newman, the minutes were unanimously approved.

They began the meeting by introducing Craig Savage from CSBM. Craig will be joining the CSBM/HCCS team. He introduced himself and told us that he is looking forward to working with HCCS.

Ms. O'Brien began her financial report with Park Slope (PS). PS to date has earned about 24% of their revenue and are currently expecting to be slightly over budget with revenue due to the special education enrollment is slightly higher than projected. We are looking at overall

expenses to date and we are 15% of the budget and are currently expecting that to be below budgeted expenses by almost \$100,000 mainly due to a couple of staff vacancies that have not been filled yet or will not be filled this year. The expected overall net income once we factor in the other non-cash expenditures such as depreciation and non-cash rent adjustment is projected to be negative \$339,000 which is slightly above what was budgeted at negative \$487,000.00. Going down to our PS balance sheet looking at our operating cash account we are about \$1.2 million which is about \$300,000 higher than our last fiscal year at the same time. Does anyone have any questions about PS? Mr. Leonardos asked what is the per pupil tuition. She answered that the new tuition is \$19,044. Last year was approximately \$18,000. Mrs. Petrakos clarified that we budgeted conservatively for special education.

In SI we have earned about 20 percent of our budgeted revenue and are currently projecting that revenue will be slightly lower than what was budgeted. One of the main factors is that we are writing off a DYDC grant. The school is not eligible for this grant. Mrs. Petrakos added that we added the DYDC grant to the initial budget when we replicated because that grant was given to us when we opened PS. After further inquiry we are no longer eligible to receive it.

In terms of expenses to date we are at 18% of the budget and are projecting that we are going to be under budget of about \$175,000.00. Also, primarily due to staff vacancies and some positions that will remain unfilled. Overall, our projected net income is going to be 1.25 million compared to the \$1.17 that was budgeted. One thing that needs to be prefaced is that everything is contingent on receiving the full amount of facility funding and if not received the net income will be decreased. Mr. Leonardos asked if we can approximate by how much. Ms. O'Brien answered approximately \$800,000. We are also waiting to receive the Employee Retention Credit payment. Mrs. Petrakos stated that our fundraising efforts for our school have begun. I have directed our Business Manager, Carla Elboustani and our Operations, IT Specialist, Anthony Underwood seeking grants. As we are fundraising for PS we targeted educational programs where parents can donate to. Ms. O'Brien added that in terms of the Title grants that we do have we will make sure that we are submitting quickly so we don't have large receivables in the end of the year. Looking at the balance sheet for SI the operating account has 1.1 million in the bank. This is \$200,000 higher than this point last fiscal year. She asked if there were any additional questions.

Mrs. Tettonis thanked everyone, especially the School Board members and of course Mrs. Svokos for all of the work to make the benefit a success. We are looking forward to it. She also thanked everyone for two great fundraising events that were headed by Mrs. Petrakos in Park Slope and Staten Island. All the families are looking forward to the next one on Friday, December 6th in Park Slope. Regarding the library in Staten Island, we have photos of the vision. We have distributed information at the P.T.A. meeting regarding how much it will cost to build. That includes the furniture, the software needed and the book collection. She continues to ask everyone if anyone would like to contribute towards the library to please reach out to her.

Mrs. Tettonis had a successful leadership retreat in Staten Island for both schools. It was an incredible amount of learning. There were focus walks and they spent hours analyzing data. She thanked Mrs. Kakleas for hosting and Mrs. Caban for being there. There are so many

events happening and everything is listed in the Superintendent report. This includes National History Day and Ancient Greek Theater. Dena Capetanakis went to Greece in preparation for the trips. Please feel free to ask her any questions.

OXI day performances are coming up for both schools. Both PTA's have many events scheduled. Pumpkin Patch, Character Hat Day and many great things.

Mrs. Svokos asked what the cost is of sending one student to Greece. Mrs. Capetanakis answered with approximately \$3000.00. We ask that each family tries to fundraise from \$2500-\$3000. We have been building our relationships in Greece with the help of our amazing tour guide and with some preliminary work with the Greek Embassy here in New York. Our students are granted free entry to all of the venues that we visit in Greece. This has been a savings of about \$1000.00. All faculty and staff are able to go in for free as well. We have started our fundraising efforts with both schools. Ms. Bonakis has been instrumental in helping Mrs. Capetanakis in leading this newly inaugurated team. What the school pays for is the airfare for each student, hotel accommodations and meal stipends. This adds up to roughly \$2,500 depending on the time of year. Mrs. Petrakos added that our children thankfully proceed to city and state competitions. Ultimately the cost adds up to \$4000.00. There are also props, theater materials and costumes. Mr. Leonardos asked after the students complete the process do they show any interest to go back to revisit Greece. Mrs. Petrakos and Mrs. Tettonis both state that that they know of many students that have gone back to Greece after they have graduated HCCS. Mr. Leonardos sees this trip not only as a project but as an introduction to another culture. Mrs. Capetanakis added that in her experience most of the students that go on this trip have never even been on an airplane so this trip is truly life changing. We are creating Phil-Hellenes in the true sense that we are bringing back people to see Greece. Mrs. Tettonis adds that it is an intellectual trip. They come back as different learners. The fact that they get to understand what a primary and secondary document is, the fact that they are interviewing people, the fact that they are looking at artifacts, the fact that they are visiting museums at such a young age makes them different learners. They are never the same. They are different learners. Not only that they visit Greece, but it is that they are a different type of learner. Mrs. Petrakos wanted to remind the board that we did receive \$100,000 from Investors Bank for six years for AGT a few years ago.

Mrs. Svokos reported that she did some outreach for the Board Benefit. Her attitude is thinking about next year and just laying the groundwork. She would be very happy if ten board members could bring ten guests. That would be very helpful. She is trying to figure out the auctions. She would like to auction out History Day Fair as an auction item. Mrs. Capetanakis agrees that it is a wonderful item to sponsor a child to go to Greece. They will call it "The Game Changer" auction item. Peter Poulos offered his help. Mrs. Petrakos has been sending Mrs. Svokos updates. Mrs. Lekas would like to send in the check for the spa gift card. Mr. Leonardos suggests that we share the invitation with our landlords so they can share in their bulletin.

Mrs. Lekas thanks Mrs. Svokos for everything that she is doing. This would not be happening without her and all the work she is doing.

There being no unfinished business, Mr. Capetanakis asked for a motion to adjourn. The motion to adjourn was made by Mrs. Lekas. Mr. Newman seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 10:15 a.m.

The next Board meeting will be held via Zoom Conferencing on November 22, 2024 at 9:30 a.m.

Harvey Newman
Harvey Newman, Secretary

**MINUTES OF
HELLENIC CLASSICAL CHARTER SCHOOLS**

**SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
HELD ON November 22, 2024 AT 9:30 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
Nik Mathews	Member
Bianca Rajpersaud	Member
Spiros Moustakas	Member
Christina Tettonis	Superintendent
Joy Petrakos	Chief of Operations
Natasha Caban	Principal HCCS-PS
Cathy Kakleas	Principal HCCS-SI
Dena Capetanakis	Director of Community & Engagement
Kamilah O'Brien	CSBM Associate Director
Craig Savage	CSBM Financial Manager
Stacy Kokkoros	Operations Manager

ABSENT

Dean Angelakos	Member
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Mr. Capetanakis chaired the meeting. Joy Petrakos acted as recorder. There were nine 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 October 23, 2024. On a motion made by Mr. Newman and seconded by Dr. Theodoratou, the minutes were unanimously approved.

Mrs. Petrakos stated that the 990 Form is listed on the agenda and she would like the Board to review and acknowledge the draft that was sent out to them. Mr. Newman reviewed and mentioned that some of the information is not legible on his copy. He is not sure if it is just the draft itself. Mrs. Petrakos checked and made sure the information was clear. Mr. Newman thanked her.

Mr. Savage began the financial report by going over the highlights for PS for the month of October. He reported that the year to date actuals PS has a net income of \$1M projecting that

you will have a net income at around \$426,000. In particular, he wanted to highlight a couple of budget items that are in the low range as far as expenditures. Total expenses compared to your budget is only twenty-three percent at this time. That is a good marker to be at. In revenue you recognized thirty-three percent of your budgeted revenue at this time. So, looking at these two percentages thirty-three compared to your twenty-three percent you are at ten percent income.

Mr. Savage continues to report on SI. The year-to-date net income for SI is \$692,000. Again, if you compare the percentages by your budget, your revenue you recognize twenty-seven percent of your revenue so far and of the expenses you recognized twenty-five percent. He asked if the Board had any questions, there were none. He thanked the Board.

Mr. Capetanakis asked if there were any questions for the Superintendent. Dr. Svokos asked if the state test results are public information. Mrs. Tettonis answered that they are extremely public. She thanked Dr. Svokos. It is really a testament to the fabulous work that both principals are doing in both schools. All of that could not be done without all of the incredible teamwork between both schools. She is extremely proud to see that both schools are exceeding the city in every grade and subject. Dr. Svokos asked if all charter schools take these tests. Mrs. Tettonis answered that they do.

Mr. Capetanakis referenced that the reason we were able to get the bonds were because of our scores. He stressed that everything is related. Had we not been a high performing school we would not have been eligible for the bond act. It is amazing. This is because of everyone here and the scores. Dr. Svokos asked if we are publicizing the test scores. Mrs. Tettonis tells the Board that Mrs. Petrakos wears many hats and one of those hats is advertising for both schools. She does not know how she does it, but it is one of her strengths. She is the one that markets both schools and she does it very well. Mrs. Petrakos reminds everyone that Mr. Newman had mentioned to advertise digitally so we are all over the internet for the past year. We also advertise with the local newspapers that are also online, we also have the Greek newspapers, as well as the El Specialito newspapers for the Spanish speaking here in Park Slope and the Staten Island Advance for Staten Island as well as all the parent family papers. We are all over. We have our Facebook, Instagram and website that we constantly advertise on. Something like this, with our scores, I call the papers, and we make it a story. We talk about the school and then we publicize the school. Our first open house event is coming up the first week of December. We have not put up pictures from the benefit because she wanted to ask the Board first. Dr. Svokos agrees to post pictures of the benefit. Mrs. Lekas asked if we should advertise the amount that we made at the benefit? Dr. Svokos stated that she would just like for people to know that it was a successful evening, and everyone had fun. Dr. Theodoratou also agrees that they should not advertise the amount. Just that the evening was a success. Mr. Leonardos states that they should state that they met their goals and they should set their goals higher. If we say that the goal is to reach an amount and we reach it, it shows success. Mr. Leonardos states that going forward this is an opportunity with new success to expand the school and share our wisdom. What good is it to have a building that only fits 1200 students. People want to know when we are opening our next school.

Dr. Svokos suggests that we start a portfolio and invest this money.

Mr. Capetanakis motions to amend the agenda to include the motion for the creation of an endowment fund. Mr. Leonardos seconds the motions. The motion carries over unanimously. Dr. Svokos motions to start an endowment fund. Mr. Leonardos seconds the motion. The motion carries unanimously.

Mrs. Lekas adds that on the other hand with this benefit we raised one third of the funds for the Staten Island library.

Mrs. Petrakos adds that it would help with the finances overall. We can also use the help for the funds to go towards the Staten Island library. Dr. Svokos is optimistic that they can get a donor to help with the Staten Island library.

Mr. Capetanakis asked to go into executive session. Mrs. Lekas seconds the motion. The meeting went to executive session at 10:06 a.m. All in favor. Executive session ended at 10:36am. There were no votes taken while in executive session.

There being no unfinished business, Mr. Capetanakis asked for a motion to adjourn. The motion to adjourn was made by Mrs. Lekas. Mr. Newman seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 10:37a.m.

The next Board meeting will be held via Zoom Conferencing on December 11, 2024 at 9:30 a.m.

Harvey Newman
Harvey Newman, Secretary

**MINUTES OF
HELLENIC CLASSICAL CHARTER SCHOOLS**

**SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
HELD ON DECEMBER 11, 2024 AT 9:30 a.m.**

Members and Staff – via Zoom Conferencing

PRESENT

Nikolaos Leonardos	Treasurer
Effie Lekas	Member
Spiros Moustakas	Member
Bianca Rajpersaud	Member
Dr. Grazia Svokos	Member
Dr. Liana Theodoratou	Member
Christina Tettonis	Superintendent
Joy Petrakos	Chief of Operations
Natasha Caban	Principal HCCS-PS
Cathy Kakleas	Principal HCCS-SI
Dena Capetanakis	Director of Community & Engagement
Stacy Kokkoros	Operations Manager

ABSENT

Charles Capetanakis	Chairman
Harvey Newman	Secretary
Dean Angelakos	Member
Nik Mathews	Member

Mr. Leonardos chaired the meeting. Joy Petrakos acted as recorder. There were six 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 November 22, 2024. On a motion made by Mr. Moustakas and seconded by Mrs. Svokos, the minutes were unanimously approved.

Mr. Leonardos asked for a report on the financials.

Mrs. Petrakos reports that the CSBM team could not be in attendance due to the fact that this month's meeting was scheduled early in the month. She proceeded to say that we have been on track with the budget and expenses with revenue coming in and she asked the school operations teams to be frugal with spending this time of the year. We are trying to raise money for the school with new fundraising events. Our CSBM team will give us their report at the next meeting. Mrs. Petrakos wanted to remind the Board that the annual Investor's meeting will be coming up in January. Once we return from the holidays, DAC Bond, which is the company that monitors our compliance will be in contact with me to set up the meeting. That meeting is

based on our audited financials. She would also like the Board to know a second investor emailed her about the rental assistance reimbursement for Staten Island. She has been in contact with them.

Mr. Leonardos asked if we are on target with the 45 day cash flow. Mrs. Petrakos answered that with all the fundraising we will have a better picture on the financials at the next meeting. The BOT benefit was a success and brought in lots of great donations for our schools. She continued to state that we are currently not meeting the cash on hand due to the existing reason of not receiving the rental assistance reimbursement as of yet. There are no further questions for Mrs. Petrakos on the financials.

It is the end of the school year and Mrs. Tettonis thanked everyone for a fantastic 2024 and is looking forward to 2025. We have an incredible team she said. She has so much gratitude for everyone's hard work. It is an incredible team. Last week we had an event every single night and the fact that the team was able to do this with a smile and bring the community together is a testament to how much we love the school. She specifically thanked Mrs. Petrakos, Mrs. Kokkoros and Mrs. Capetanakis for putting together the Ugly Sweater Disco Night. There is so much work that goes into these events.

In addition, we have midterms going on in the middle school.

Educators from Dubai visited HCCS on December 10, 2024. The visit was facilitated by Michael Kohlhagen President & CEO at CEI & Verrone Kennedy Executive Director Office of Knowledge Management NYCDOE. The focus of the visit was on our literacy programs. The visitors toured our school; observed a Socratic seminar; Foundations; a lab site in action and learned about our instructional leadership roles and responsibilities. It was also an honor that Dr. Meisha Porter, former NYCDOE Chancellor was a part of the school visit. It was wonderful listening to our deans and the teachers talk about everything that is going on in our school instructionally. It was amazing. We were so proud.

Mr. Leonardos stated that these are amazing things that are happening in our school. We should use it and have on hand when we are evaluated. We have so many people who come to observe and learn how we do what we do. Dr. Svokos asked if the guests from Dubai are opening their own Charter school? What was the purpose of this visit? Verone Kennedy is representing the Department of Education and he is the coordinator for Dubai. They have opened Charter Schools in Dubai. They came here to learn about our best practices to meet their goals. Dr. Svokos asked if we could sell our services. This is a thought. There is a reason that they spend time observing us. Mr. Leonardos would like to recommend that the Board have a discussion about this. This is a board decision but he really likes this idea. Mrs. Tettonis states that we are in the spirit of collaboration and education. Mrs. Tettonis continues to thank Ms. Caban and all the deans for all of their hard work

Mrs. Tettonis continues to report that both schools are designated as being Local Schools of Improvement (we are a school in good standing). We are gearing up for testing season. We will have test prep starting in January and preparing our students for computerized testing. We provide all the support that we can.

Family Math Day for grades K-2 will take place on Friday, January 10th in Park Slope and Friday, January 17th in Staten Island. We are very excited to welcome our families into the building to engage in fun math activities and watch a number talk session.

We have Nutcracker residency programs happening. Holiday Shows are coming up.

Mr. Leonardos asked about high school acceptance. Mrs. Tettonis answered that as soon as they get any information it will be passed on to the Board.

Dr. Theodoratos congratulated Mrs. Tettonis and the whole team for our amazing schools. We are very proud and happy.

Mrs. Tettonis also thanked the P.T.A. and the Kimisis Philoptochos for helping one of our Park Slope families whose house was destroyed in a fire and are now in a hotel and are recently getting a rental. They have been extremely generous.

Ms. Rajpersaud asked about the applications that opened for the next school year. She wanted to know how that went. Mrs. Petrakos answered that once we begin our open house events in December our application goes live. The previous application is still on our website in the event that someone wants to apply to this current school year. People are able to apply online and they are not required to attend the open house. They can still apply through the website that takes you to the School Mint platform. This is the portal we use for our applications and lotteries. The family will create an account and fill out the application form. Ms. Rajpersaud asked if we are getting good feedback. Mrs. Petrakos answered that we are receiving good feedback. We are receiving phone calls and emails from prospective parents. Our policy is that we try to get back to our families within twenty-four hours. If anyone asks for a private tour we delicately answer them that they can come to any of our open house events to tour the schools. Our number one seller is word of mouth. We also have lots of marketing going on. As a matter of fact, last night Mrs. Tettonis was at an event where she was happy to notice one of our ads in NEO magazine. We are marketing everyone. Digitally, in magazines and local newspapers. The Staten Island Advance is an example of one local paper. Mrs. Kakleas added that we have a digital ad in the weekly Staten Island Advance as well. In Park Slope the local paper we advertise in is El Especialito as well as Greek papers.

Mr. Moustakas asked if we anticipate having the same demand in applications in both schools? Mrs. Petrakos answered yes. She adds that we are pretty even. The applications are going up every day.

Ms. Caban reports that we are doing very well in Park Slope with lots of holiday festivities approaching and we are preparing for test prep when we return from the holiday break.

Mr. Leonardos asked what happened with the opening of the dispensary cannabis near the PS school? Mrs. Petrakos reported that we are not really affected by this. Unfortunately, it has become a part of our daily lives. No parents have complained. They are everywhere now.

Mrs. Kakleas reported that we had our first third grade nutcracker performance. It was very successful. The whole auditorium was packed, and they bought many family members. It was very nice and everyone was very happy. We are performing twice for the holiday shows because we do not fit in the auditorium for one show. We usually have a limit for audience members. She also mentioned that SI is preparing for test prep.

Mr. Leonardos asked if there are any other comments or questions. There are none.

Mr. Leonardos motioned to go into executive session. Ms. Lekas seconds the motion. The meeting went to executive session at 10:06 a.m. All in favor. The Board returned from executive session at 10:34 am and no actions items were taken.

Mr. Leonardos asked Mrs. Petrakos to reach out to the SI church office for Kelmar as they have been trying to reach out to the landlord's office in regards to a document the landlord is required to sign for the certificate of occupancy. Mr. Leonardos brought up an email that was sent in regard to the sewer pump station in SI. We are in the process of communicating with the sewer company and negotiating a plan. Mr. Leonardos asked if any amount of funds were allocated for this type of issue. Mrs. Petrakos states that we do not have money allocated for this. Mr. Leonardos needs to better understand how they came up with the amount owed. Mrs. Petrakos answered that she believes that they looked on the Department of Buildings website and saw the increased number of faucets, sinks and bathrooms due to our new building. They must have calculated all of this. Dr. Svokos asked if this will be an ongoing expense. Mr. Leonardos answered yes, this will be an ongoing expense because we are not connected to a NYC sewer system. We are connected to a pumping station that is eventually connected to the NYC sewer system. We have to pay for the middle man for this connection. Dr. Svokos asked if the church ever paid. Mr. Leonardos answered that they did pay a small amount for the church building and the first school building. Since the new building was built, they realized that now the usage has increased as Joy mentioned. Therefore, they are asking for \$10,000 a year for this use and \$80,000 in back pay. They are estimating that somewhere in the beginning there was a lot of water. Dr. Svokos would like to know if Kelmar can write a letter stating that they pumped water and then put it on trucks and it did not go through the pumping station.

There being no unfinished business, Mr. Leonardos asked for a motion to adjourn. The motion to adjourn was made by Mrs. Lekas. Mr. Moustakas seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 10:40am.

The next Board meeting will be held via Zoom Conferencing on January 15, 2025 at 9:30 a.m.

Harvey Newman

Harvey Newman, Secretary

**MINUTES OF
HELLENIC CLASSICAL CHARTER SCHOOLS**

**SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
HELD ON JANUARY 15, 2025 AT 9:30 a.m.**

Members and Staff – via Zoom Conferencing

PRESENT

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

ABSENT

Harvey Newman	Excused
Dean Angelakos	Excused

Mr. Capetanakis chaired the meeting. Joy Petrakos acted as recorder. There were eight 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 December 11, 2024. On a motion made by Dr. Svokos and seconded by Mrs. Lekas. Mr. Leonardos motions for a correction to be made to the minutes. He asked that the word “excused” be used instead of “absent” when a Board member is not in attendance. Mr. Capetanakis asked if there were any further deletions or corrections in the minutes as transcribed. There are none. The motion passed with seven yes votes and one abstention.

Mrs. Petrakos mentioned that Mrs. Tettonis and Mrs. Capetanakis are with our National History Day team in Athens, Greece for their annual research trip.

Craig Savage presented the January financials beginning with PS and continued with SI. He presented the financial statements and compared them to the budgets, discussed revenue, expenses to actuals and net profit.

Mr. Leonardos asked Mrs. Petrakos about their current line of credit. Mrs. Petrakos responded that we have one account available with a \$200,000 line of credit. Mrs. Petrakos continued to state that it is the time of the year where we will begin to project for next year. We are being frugal with our spending. Of course, the fundraising continues. Mr. Leonardos asked where do we stand with the rental reimbursement. Are there any grants that are pending? Mrs. Petrakos listed a few grants in her COO report that we have applied for. Regarding the rental reimbursement, we have been in touch with our attorneys, and they let us know that there was an oral argument last Friday.

Mrs. Lekas asked if the SI Library account is substantial. Mrs. Petrakos answered we are half way there and any pledges that are made are revenue and will run through the operating account. There are certain grants that are restricted. We have not run into any of those yet. We are trying very hard to bring in money to help the operating account, so we are not using our funding. Mr. Moustakas asked how much line or credit are we looking to have? Mrs. Petrakos answered that we have a line of credit for \$200,000 that we can use but we would like to have \$800,000.

Dr. Svokos gave her report on the 2024 Board benefit. She asked the Board to look at the end of her report where the financials are. She is advocating that we start a standing committee whose sole purpose is to fundraise. She knows that Mrs. Petrakos, Mrs. Tettonis, Mrs. Capetanakis and the entire team are doing their best to fundraise. The profit that was made from the benefit will go towards the library fund. Mr. Capetanakis reminded the Board that there is a Board directive to invest these funds. She thanked the Board members for their help with their time and effort. The majority of the money came from sponsors. The second part is the donations that were made during and after the benefit. They were ten percent of what we earned from sponsors. She suggests that we continue to be friendly with our supporters. She is not sure if we should approach the same people who were so generous this year. She proposes to have a committee whose sole purpose would be our fundraising. She would like to start this now for our twenty year gala dinner. On the expense side for the benefit, the biggest expense was the venue. Dr. Svokos recommended a charity design company that will set up a website. The fee is approximately \$800. Dr. Svokos graciously mentioned that she will cover this fee. She encouraged the Board that having a standing committee of Board members to fundraise is essential to the goal. The staff did an amazing job but they really do have a job that we pay them to do. It is not in their job description to run a benefit. We are taking up their time. Mrs. Petrakos adds that we loved helping with the Benefit. The 2025 Board Gala needs a date. Preferably on a Saturday. We also need a bigger venue for the 20 year anniversary. The expectations for 2025 should be double and to engage a marketing professional to up our game a little bit. She asked if there were any questions. Mr. Capetanakis asked about the professional website individual, is that also the professional fundraisers? Dr. Svokos answered that professional fundraising is expensive.

Mr. Leonardos added that auditors have always told us that we should have more fundraisers. Dr. Svokos added that during renewal time it is a question that is always asked.

Mr. Leonardos motions to have a standing committee for fundraising and adds that Dr. Svokos chairs the fundraisers. Mr. Capetanakis seconds the motion. The motion carries unanimously. Dr. Svokos agreed but she needs the Board to be behind her. Mr. Leonardos asks her to choose who she would like to work with to be on the committee with her.

Dr. Svokos states that fundraising also means giving your time and sweat and expertise. The Board has experts in every field. We have an excellent Board. Mr. Capetanakis adds that it is a great idea to engage the website entity.

Mrs. Lekas believes Mrs. Petrakos has already approached some of our alumni who are enthusiastic about joining us. She would like Mrs. Petrakos and Mrs. Bonakis to launch the alumni association. Mrs. Lekas knows that there are many alumni that are excited to join an alumni association.

Mrs. Petrakos thanked Dr. Svokos again for everything. Mrs. Petrakos adds that some of the alumni came to our HCCS Ugly Sweater Disco Night fundraiser. It was a successful event in December. It was a fun event. The alumni that attended asked if they can take this event over next year. Mrs. Petrakos loved this idea. It was so refreshing to hear.

Mrs. Petrakos asked if we are looking at October or November for a 2025 fundraiser date. Dr. Svokos thinks the earlier the better. But depending on the Board and school's calendar.

Dr. Svokos adds that we had wonderful participation from staff and is proud of them and she hopes they continue to attend our events. She would like to make sure that it is a date that staff and teachers can attend.

Mrs. Lekas suggests that we avoid conflict with our communities. Dr. Svokos agrees.

There being no unfinished business, Mr. Capetanakis asked to go into executive session. Mr. Leonardos seconds the motion. The meeting went to executive session at 10:12 a.m. All in favor.

The Board returned from executive session at 10:25 am. 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 10:26 am.

The next Board meeting will be held via Zoom Conferencing on February 12, 2025 at 9:00 a.m.

Harvey Newman

Harvey Newman, Secretary

**MINUTES OF
HELLENIC CLASSICAL CHARTER SCHOOLS**

**SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
HELD ON FEBRUARY 12, 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
Nik Mathews	Excused
Grazia Svokos	Member
Dr. Liana Theodoratou	Member
Spiros Moustakas	Member
Christina Tettonis	Superintendent
Natasha Caban	Principal HCCS-PS
Cathy Kakleas	Principal HCCS-SI
Anastasia Etimos	Guidance Counselor
Stacy Kokkoros	Operations Manager

ABSENT

Dean Angelakos	Excused
Bianca Rappersaud	Excused
Joy Petrakos	Excused

Mr. Capetanakis chaired the meeting. Natasha Caban acted as recorder. There were eight 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 January 15, 2025. On a motion made by Mr. Newman and seconded by Mr. Moustakas, the minutes were unanimously approved.

Mr. Capetanakis informs the Board that we have a State Supreme Court judge visiting HCCS-PS today. A friend of both his and Mr. Moustakas from the State Court of Appeals recommended a fellow judge to come to us because he wants to leave the bench and become a teacher at a charter school. He was invited to come and visit us. He wants to help kids.

Mrs. Tettonis wished the Board a Happy I love my School Day, 100th Day of School Day, International Greek Language Day, Mo Willems Day, Second Grade Storytelling Contest, Science Fairs, Lunar New Year and so much more. It was a packed month of celebrations. Mrs. Tettonis stated we had an unbelievable P.T.A. Soiree event up in our gym. It was the best we ever had. The energy and the parents spirit was electric. It is not finalized but she believes that they made \$40,000 in profit. Mrs. Tettonis congratulates Mr. Leonardos for becoming a grandfather. She also congratulates Mr. Capetanakis on being honored by the Hellenic Hermes International Expo. She continued to thank Dr. Svokos for starting the efforts for the gala to celebrate the 20th anniversary of HCCS. Mrs. Tettonis continues to report that we have received acceptances for the Catholic High Schools in over \$335,000 in

scholarships. She congratulates Mrs. Etimos and Mrs. Bonakis for all of their hard work and for making this happen. Information on specialized high schools is forthcoming. Mrs. Etimos adds that we will have those results on March 6, 2025. Most of our students were accepted and received scholarships into Xaverian, Fontbonne Hall, St. Xavier, St. Joseph by the Sea and Monseignor Farrell High School. Most of our students were accepted into Xaverian. Mr. Capetanakis did not realize that we have students interested in Farrell High School. Mrs. Etimos was very impressed with the school. She attended their open house and found it to be outstanding. Their curriculum and sports programs are amazing. Mr. Newman congratulates the students and he states that as a Board this is the outcome that we look forward to. This is the highest praise for everyone to have achieved this for our children. He asked if it is possible to find out where our high school graduates go to after high school and to gather any data of where our kids have gone to college. This speaks as to what we are doing as they enter ninth grade and how we have prepared them to take this next step in their lives. Mrs. Tettonis answered that she and Mrs. Petrakos were interviewed for a grant. During the interview they wanted to know the data of our graduates. Mr. Newman states that this represents another piece of data on outcomes. We know our inputs are good and they want to know what the outcomes are. Dr. Svokos added that Mrs. Tettonis, Mrs. Petrakos and Mrs. Bonakis are going to start an alumni committee and part of the reason we hired Charity Design Company is so that they will be able to gather the names to start an alumni committee. Let us figure out where our kids went and what they are doing. Dr. Theodoratou states that this is asked for everywhere. They are asking for assessments and evaluations on exactly where our students are doing later. What are students doing later. It is a lot of work. Mr. Newman agrees and says that some charter schools have specific people devoted to this.

Mrs. Tettonis continues to report that we had a successful VIP reader week. This was started nineteen years ago. She includes in her report a lovely letter written to Mrs. Kakleas by one of the parents. NYS Assessments are coming. We are in full testing mode. We are working on family workshops, we are working with teachers, we are looking at data and we are looking at instructional reports. We have simulation testing calendars. Parents have been notified regarding Promotion in Doubt. Parent Teacher Conferences are coming up. We are really focused on testing and looking and monitoring student progress. She commends our two principals on all the hard work they are doing. She continues to update the board that students are leaving today for Greece. Her report states everyone the students went and all of the research. This is an unbelievable experience. AGT leaves tonight. Next year both schools will be going to Greece for AGT. Mr. Matthews asked how many years we have been doing to Greece. Mrs. Tettonis answered eight (8) years. The children and the parents come back different learners, they think differently and they appreciate everything that they hear and see.

Mr. Capetanakis reports that they had the bond investor call. He does not believe that there were any follow-up questions. It was a very successful meeting.

Mrs. Caban reports that we are preparing for computer-based testing for State testing.

Mrs. Kakleas reports that February was a very busy month. Applications are coming in we are up to 330 applications have come in so far for about 75 slots.

Dr. Svokos reports that we have signed a contract with Charity Design Company. Danielle is the head of it. She has been retained to make a comprehensive website for donors. Her cost is \$500 a month for one year. This will be donated by Dr. Svokos to the school. We realized that we are not tapping into our alumni and graduates not only for support but to also volunteer for things that they can bring into the school. We are going to try to have a donor database and to work on the 20th anniversary gala. The date of the gala will be Saturday, October 18, 2025. There were 81 attendees for the first Board fundraiser. We would like to see 150 attendees. This is the 20th anniversary year, and we are counting on our alumni coming back. We are trying to set up operation procedures for a fundraising committee

to be there for the school. She invites everyone to partake and help out and if you think there is someone outside the board that can help in any capacity, please let her know. She asked if there were any questions. Mr. Moustakas thanked her and will try to get double the people for this event. He asked if we are trying to get a catering facility or restaurant? Mr. Capetanakis wanted to bring to the Board's attention that the gym was transformed into a magical place for the P.T.A. fundraiser. Dr. Svokos is not opposed to having the event in the gym and she thinks it shows a lot of authenticity and it is a great idea. Mr. Moustakas believes that this will attract more alumni. There is the connection to coming back to school. Mr. Leonardos believes that it won't be an attraction to having it in the gym. He believes that most people will prefer to go to a venue rather than the gym. Dr. Theodoratou believes that it is a wonderful idea having it at school especially because it is our anniversary year. Mrs. Lekas would like to see the difference between how much will be charged if we go with an outside venue compared to having the event in house. The committee needs to discuss this. Mrs. Lekas also personally thanked Dr. Svokos for taking the reigns on this and for her generosity. Another great thing that came out of this that we decided to honor all the original staff and teachers that were working here from day one. The thought was that maybe they will bring a table because they are being honored. She is not adverse to having it in house or at a venue. Both have their advantages. Dr. Svokos reminded everyone that ten percent of our gross income was from ticket sales. Some people like to just give a sponsorship.

There being no unfinished business, Mr. Capetanakis asked to go into executive session. Mr. Moustakas seconds the motion. The meeting went to executive session at 9:30 a.m. All in favor.

The Board returned from executive session at 10:00 am. 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 10:05 am.

The next Board meeting will be held via Zoom Conferencing on March 19, 2025 at 9:30 a.m.

Harvey Newman

Harvey Newman, Secretary