

**MINUTES OF
HELLENIC CLASSICAL CHARTER SCHOOLS**

**SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
HELD ON JULY 22, 2021, 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
Bianca Rappersaud	Member
Christina Tettonis	Superintendent
Joy Petrakos	Chief of Operations
Natasha Caban	Principal HCCS-PS
Cathy Kakleas	Principal HCCS-SI
Christina Portelos	Director of Finance & Operations
Dena Capetanakis	Director of Community & Engagement
Stacy Kokkoros	Business Administrative Assistant
Melissa Hionas	Dean of Mathematics of Schools

ABSENT

Dr. Liana Theodoratou	Member
Dean Angelakos	Member
Nik Mathews	Member

Mr. Capetanakis 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 June 29, 2021. On a motion made by Mrs. Svokos and seconded by Mr. Newman, the minutes were unanimously approved.

Mr. Capetanakis stated that the Superintendent, Chief of Operations and Principals reports have been adopted into the minutes.

Mrs. Tettonis reported that The New York State Education Department (NYSED) recently released a memo outlining the state accountability waiver granted by the United States Department of Education (USDOE). State accountability status and level determinations for schools will not be based on 2020–2021 school year data. NYSED will freeze the accountability status of all schools and districts, so that all schools will have the same accountability status for the 2021–2022 school year as they did for the 2020–2021 school

year. Guidance has not yet been provided on how data gathered in the 2021–2022 school year will be used for state accountability.

Mrs. Tettonis also reported that part of our charter for both schools requires us to report our student interim assessment results, called NWEA. NWEA is a new interim assessment used at HCCS since we received our charter renewal. This year NYSED requested that we report our data by June 30th in addition to reporting it in our annual report. The individual NWEA scores were included in our children's final report cards. In order to familiarize the board with our new interim assessment she invited Melissa Hionas to present.

At this point Mrs. Tettonis introduced Mrs. Hionas, the Dean of Mathematics of Schools, who presented the NWEA platform to the Board.

Mrs. Hionas explained what NWEA means and how the growth reports will affect both HCCS schools and will help plan for instruction moving forward. Mrs. Hionas also explained that the NWEA results are given to the parents, and further explained how the state department will be using the data as we move forward. Our families have also been educated on the program during PTA meetings. As Mrs. Hionas began her NWEA presentation she explained that the math growth assessment is used three times a year. The assessments are adaptive. It computes using academic knowledge and growth, using skills and abilities within various foundations. Depending on how a student responds, the students level of difficulty increases or decreases in order to find a score appropriate to find the child's progress. All of the assessments are actively monitored by a proctor for a pacing engagement, rapid guessing and if the students are skipping questions. The results can be seen on the website within 24 hours. The data is shared with the student, parent, teacher and administration. The data is closely analyzed by the instructional leadership team and the teacher to help guide class instruction and small group instruction. The data also allows to produce individualized learning goals for the students. There are many reports that NWEA produces for our teachers. One of the most important is the Ritz scores which is divided by skills and standards that the students are ready to learn. The schools use the data for our yearly progress in meeting proficiency. Mrs. Hionas asked if there are any questions.

Mr. Leonardos asked at what grade we start using NWEA. Mrs. Hionas answered that students don't begin testing until the 1st grade and added that the tests are child friendly. The results are given only to the parents and they report on how their children compare to the benchmarks.

Mr. Newman asked if these diagnostic tests focus on specific skills areas and what does the school do to enable parents to reinforce and what the school is doing with this knowledge? Mrs. Tettonis answered that we have constant communication with the parents. When the teachers meet with the parents they do not just give them the reports, they provide them specific strategies that they can do at home with their children in order to reinforce the goals that they need to meet. Mrs. Caban added that they are strategic of the timing of when they release this information, such as Parent Teacher Conferences. They host meetings with the families to help them understand what exactly they are looking at.

Mrs. Tettonis stated that these reports show whether a child is actually making progress and growing. Mrs. Petrakos added that it is in our charter. We must assess the students, monitor progress and meet our goals.

Mrs. Lekas asked if summer school was based on NWEA results. Mrs. Caban answered that summer school was based collectively on teacher recommendations, student attendance and their overall academic performance. Every student received a summer packet that was created in various levels.

Mrs. Kakleas added, in regards to the NWEA, that she feels that it is much more child friendly compared to the company that was used before. This assessment is also helpful to teachers that have never used it before. It pinpoints exactly what to teach in the area the student needs help in the most.

Mrs. Svokos stated that this was a wonderful presentation. Everyone agreed.

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

HCCS-Staten Island-Construction Project DOB Permits were approved. The neighboring properties were surveyed for monitoring purposes during construction. DOB Inspector visited the site on July 19, 2021 and there were no findings. The case is resolved and is entered on the DOB website.

Mrs. Petrakos reported to the Board that Borough President Oddo requested to have a virtual meeting on July 23rd at 10am.

Mr. Leonardos added that he believes that the HCCS-SI project will take 18-20 months to be completed.

Mrs. Petrakos added as a back-up plan, they have looked into mobile classrooms to place in the parking lot. We will need at least three mobile classrooms per month. Mrs. Petrakos indicated that the HCCS-SI landlord is concerned about where these mobile trailers will be placed.

Mr. Leonardos reported to the board that the HCCS-PS landlords will be demolishing the building next to the school this week and begin construction in the near future. They are planning on adding parking and additional classrooms. This new structure will be connected to our present building. Mrs. Petrakos reported that she has requested if they can make outdoor accommodations for a play area for our students.

Mr. Newman asked if will be requiring any COVID-19 testing this coming year? Mrs. Tettonis answered that we will not. Mrs. Petrakos stated that administration put out an email to the attorneys asking if it is mandatory to continue the daily wellness form for the students and staff. They want to know if it is a mandate and if it can be re-created to be less of a nuisance for the families and staff.

Mrs. Tettonis added that they have taken a lot of time to think of about two major questions. One, the State Department has not notified the school whether they will be reimbursed if any child decides to stay home and whether we are going to give the option to stay remote. The DOE has offered no remote at all unless they have medical accommodation. This is a very big question. Twenty percent of our students were remote this past year. Of the 20%, at least fifteen percent of the students will come back. At the same time, the State has not lifted the 3' rule, which might cause an issue with the classroom environment. The children eating 6' apart has not been lifted. These are big questions that we need answers for. The school also has not taken a stand on what to say to parents concerning no remote or all in person. Mr. Leonardos asked how does it affect us if 5% of our students want to stay home? Mrs. Tettonis answered that they would need to get home schooled. Mrs. Petrakos added that if a child is home schooled and they are on our roster, we have to make sure that they are being home schooled and this might affect funding. Administration will consult with the attorneys.

Mrs. Tettonis stated that we have not mandated that all staff be vaccinated. The new regulations state that if you are vaccinated, you do not have to wear a mask. She recommends that whether or not you are vaccinated you must wear a mask in school. There are students and staff that are not vaccinated.

Mr. Newman asked if we have people that are immunocompromised.

Mr. Newman recommends that we continue wearing a mask in school.

Mrs. Lekas agreed. Everyone should wear a mask in school.

Mr. Leonardos asked if there are students that have been vaccinated. Mrs. Petrakos answered yes there are, in Middle School.

Mrs. Tettonis reported that we have parents that believe that parents/students/staff members will ask to not wear a mask because they are vaccinated. There will be staff members that will want to not wear a mask because they are vaccinated.

Mrs. Petrakos agrees with Mrs. Tettonis, and noted that we will have concerns with our families who do not want their children to wear masks.

Mrs. Lekas stated that the Board's first priority is the safety of the school.

Mr. Newman recommends that Mrs. Tettonis use the scientific and government guidelines to urge the parents that this is the best course of action to keep everyone safe.

Mrs. Tettonis congratulated all the students that passed the regents. Especially after such a difficult year.

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

The next Board meeting will be held via Zoom Conferencing on August 26, 2021, at 9:30 a.m.

Harvey Newman

Harvey Newman, Secretary

**MINUTES OF
HELLENIC CLASSICAL CHARTER SCHOOLS**

**SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
HELD ON August 25, 2021 AT 9:30 a.m.**

Members and Staff – via Zoom Conferencing

PRESENT

Charles Capetanakis	Chairman
Nikolaos Leonardos	Treasurer
Effie Lekas	Member
Bianca Rajpersaud	Member
Dean Angelakos	Member
Christina Tettonis	Superintendent
Joy Petrakos	Chief of Operations
Natasha Caban	Principal HCCS-PS
Cathy Kakleas	Principal HCCS-SI
Christina Portelos	Director of Finance & Operations
Stacy Kokkoros	Operations Manager

ABSENT

Harvey Newman	Secretary
Grazia Svokos	Member
Dr. Liana Theodoratou	Member
Nik Mathews	Member

Mr. Capetanakis 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 22, 2021. On a motion made by Mr. Leonardos and seconded by Ms. Rajpersaud, the minutes were unanimously approved.

Mr. Leonardos reported that we broke ground in HCCS-SI and construction is underway. Unfortunately, due to the inclement weather there have been some delays. It has been difficult to dig with all the rain that has fallen, he stated. Mr. Leonardos added that the noise level is low for a major construction site.

Mrs. Tettonis reported to the Board that in the upcoming days they will be making decisions concerning arrival, dismissal and safety protocols. Students and parents will be coming in for orientations on September 9th, 2021. The first day of school is September 10th, 2021.

Mr. Capetanakis reported that we will not have bus services on the first day of school.

Mrs. Tettonis brought up the vaccine and testing policy for the faculty that the Board approved. As the policy states, it is recommended that everyone gets vaccinated, however if you are not vaccinated you must have weekly COVID 19 testing. The DOE is mandating vaccines. Mrs. Tettonis asked the Board if we should be changing our policy. She asked the Board their thoughts on the policy. She further stated that if everyone is vaccinated and someone is exposed no one has to quarantine unless they have symptoms. If they are not vaccinated they must quarantine for ten days. If a student tests positive for COVID 19, the teacher must quarantine if they are not vaccinated.

Mrs. Lekas added that in a perfect world everyone should be vaccinated. The new COVID testing policy just went out so administration will find out how many more staff members were vaccinated. She added that two new systems were created for both schools making it easy for the staff to report their vaccination and COVID 19 testing results. The principals of both schools have another task, along with the main office. Each school has to monitor the teachers and staff to make sure that they are tested weekly or have proof of vaccination. Mrs. Tettonis added that we have to give the staff time during the day to get tested. Mrs. Petrakos stated that if there is a medical or religious reason the attorneys have advised administration to assess and sign off if the information is complete and have a clear understanding of why they are submitting a request for exemption. Mr. Leonardos asked if we have twenty staff members who refuse to be vaccinated what do we do? Do we hire substitutes? What will the plan be? Mrs. Petrakos answered that if the State mandates the employees to be vaccinated, the school would be advised first by the attorney about next steps but she believes that staff members would be given a grace period to have time to consult with their physician or get the vaccine and to make their decision or they would have to be terminated. At this time, our policy states, with the weekly COVID 19 testing if there is an unvaccinated employee that does not adhere to the weekly COVID 19 testing they would be subjected to disciplinary action and possibly termination.

Mrs. Tettonis stressed that it was difficult for our students not being in school five days a week last year. She thanked everyone for all of their hard work and for working so hard for the children. The health and safety of the staff and students is most important. Mrs. Tettonis asked the Board if they should wait to see what the directive is from the Governor or should they make the decision to give the staff the choice to be vaccinated or be tested weekly.

Mr. Leonardos recommended that they follow the directives of the Governor. Mrs. Lekas agreed to wait for the Governor's directives. Mr. Capetanakis also agreed.

Mrs. Tettonis summarized that if the Governor's directive is to get vaccinated or weekly COVID testing then the Board is recommending that we do not mandate that every staff member be vaccinated. She added that they would recommend if they have many cases and/or have closures.

Mr. Capetanakis added that if the Governor mandates the vaccination we should as well.

Mrs. Lekas and Ms. Rajpersaud both suggested that the non-vaccinated staff be tested twice a week. Once at a testing site and once by us using the testing kits that we have purchased. Mrs.

Petrakos answered that she would reach out to legal about this. She added if an employee came to administration and willingly asked them to be tested she has the tests and has actually had to administer a COVID 19 test to staff members in the past. The staff member swabs themselves and when the result appears Mrs. Petrakos takes a picture, prints it and attaches it to an authorization form that the staff member signs.

Mrs. Lekas volunteered to come to the school to conduct COVID testing or help in any capacity. Mrs. Petrakos added that the safety protocols will still be in place. We will continue to take everyone's temperature every time someone enters the building.

Mrs. Tettonis stressed that our teachers cannot go through what they went through last year with teachers in-person and remote at the same time. The schools cannot continue the hybrid model like last year. It is imperative that the students get back on track. They lost some learning last year. Administration has advised the parents of both schools that they will have five days live instruction at 3 feet social distancing, whenever possible. They also asked parents to let them know by September 1, 2021 if they want to have a discussion about remaining remote full time. Our challenge is how to offer fully remote instruction for one or two students if decided to do that. The only instances that they will be providing remote instruction is a snow day or if a class is quarantined. Mr. Leonardos asked if we decided to grant the remote learning to a student will we be receiving funding for these students. Mrs. Tettonis answered that we will. Mr. Leonardos continued to ask if this student stays remote all year can we fill their physical seat in the school. Mrs. Tettonis answered that no we cannot. She further stated that the challenge would be who would be the staff member to provide the remote learning to the child on a daily basis.

Mr. Capetanakis stated that he is in awe of everything that this team does every day.

There being no unfinished business, Mr. Capetanakis asked for a motion to adjourn. The motion to adjourn was made by Mrs. Lekas. Mr. Leonardos seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 10:20 a.m.

The next Board meeting will be held via Zoom Conferencing on September 28, 2021 at 9:30 a.m.

Harvey Newman

Harvey Newman, Secretary

**MINUTES OF
HELLENIC CLASSICAL CHARTER SCHOOLS**

**SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
HELD ON September 28, 2021 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 Rapiersaud	Member
Christina Tettonis	Superintendent
Joy Petrakos	Chief of Operations
Natasha Caban	Principal HCCS-PS
Cathy Kakleas	Principal HCCS-SI
Christina Portelos	Director of Finance & Operations
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 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 August 26, 2021. On a motion made by Dr. Theodoratou and seconded by Mrs. Lekas, the minutes were unanimously approved.

Mr. Leonardos asked about PPP forgiveness. Mrs. Portelos stated that it is reflected on our financials as revenue.

Mr. Capetanakis asked about the \$150,000 EID loan. Mr. Leonardos suggests that we hold on to it because the interest that we are paying on it is very minimal.

Mr. Leonardos asked what is going on with the construction at HCCS-SI and the neighbor. At the construction meeting there was an issue with the neighbor's roof. Their roof had supposed damage due to our construction. Mrs. Petrakos communicated with the neighbor and asked for

an estimate. The neighbor sent an estimate and Mrs. Petrakos sent the estimate to Kelmar. They are looking into it.

Mr. Capetanakis asked Mrs. Portelos if she connected with Cliff Schneider, Esq about the sublease schedule issue. Mrs. Portelos answered that she is waiting to hear back from him. He is the best person to address this issue and the rental reimbursement since the DOE is not allowing sub lease changes. Mr. Leonardos asked what effect this will have on us. Mrs. Petrakos answered if we are not paid the full rental reimbursement assistance that has been planned, we will be under budget. They are under the impression that we are using the rental assistance money for the construction. She put in a call to speak with the DOE and she is waiting for a response. Mrs. Petrakos suggests having a meeting with Cliff Schneider to meet with the DOE. They need to have clear direction stated Mrs. Petrakos. The school is not being funded the full rental reimbursement amount that they applied for all due to miscommunication.

Mrs. Tettonis informed the Board that they now have a requirement that all Hellenic employees must be vaccinated unless they have a religious or medical exemption. Our legal team met with us and advised us to offer religious or medical exemptions forms to any unvaccinated employees should they need it. She thanked our two principals Mrs. Caban and Mrs. Kakleas and especially our Chief of Operations Mrs. Petrakos. It has been a very trying time for all of them.

Mr. Leonardos asked what the basis of a religious exemption is. Mrs. Tettonis will forward the forms that our attorney sent to our employees with the specific questions asked for religious exemptions. Mrs. Tettonis continued to report that they have been working very closely with the attorneys. The policy has changed for when a student tests positive for COVID-19 or a staff member who would need to quarantine. With the attorney's advice and guidance, we made changes to our Health & Safety Guide regarding class closures and siblings. It has been extremely difficult for the students, families and staff, Mrs. Tettonis stated. They are trying to keep everyone safe. The next question is should they reduce who quarantines even further. The CDC does recommend that if a child tests positive for COVID-19 and is less than three feet from anyone else and wearing a mask, only they would need to quarantine. All of these quarantines are a major disruption to instruction. Even more than last year. They are working very closely with the attorneys to make more policy changes for the Board's approval. Mrs. Tettonis stated that everyone received the Health & Safety Guide and are pleased with the updates.

If there is a COVID positive individual in the classroom, that student and the children directly around them will be required to quarantine and then out of an abundance of caution we would give the option to the rest of the families of that class if they want to stay home, if they choose to at their discretion.

Mrs. Petrakos stated that every time there is a classroom closure, they receive countless emails from parents/families for many days. Keeping our families safe and informed while providing the best education is our priority. Clear and quick communication is a best practice at Hellenic.

Mr. Leonardos asked if administration has any additional help with COVID. In addition, he asked if administration needs help. He stressed that another position be created just to handle COVID or to give some responsibilities to another individual to lighten Mrs. Petrakos' load.

Mrs. Tettonis added that the person responding to COVID emails and calls must be accurate and must have experience and knowledge in order to communicate with the parent. They cannot make a mistake. They must have knowledge of the regulations. Mrs. Petrakos is our COVID expert. Not anyone can do this. Unfortunately, COVID is not going away right away and children will be getting COVID. The fact that the faculty is vaccinated will help tremendously.

Dr. Theodoratou also understands that a very competent person must be handling the communication with the parents.

Mrs. Lekas understands how sensitive communication is. She recommended that other duties might be delegated to other employees to lighten the load of administration. She stated that the Board has complete confidence in the administration. She suggests to administration that they take this opportunity to find someone to help them.

Mrs. Petrakos thanked the Board for their confidence in her and the whole team. She agrees that running two schools and just the normal every day on its own is quite a busy schedule. She understands that they cannot burn out. However, if there is no communication with the families right away it becomes a problem. They get back to each email right away even if it is on the weekend. This keeps our HCCS community safe and working efficiently keeps our school ahead of the game come Monday morning. If they ask someone else to respond to parent emails they will not answer the way they would, the Hellenic way. Because they listen to the families, they have a way of responding to the families. Our families appreciate our immediate attention and take great comfort in knowing we are always there for them, she stated. She is listening to the Board's recommendations and will work on designing a new position and share it with the Board once it's finalized.

As soon as legal gets back to administration about the updates to our Health and Safety Guide, they will send it out to the Board for review.

Mrs. Tettonis stated that she appreciates the Board's support.

Mrs. Tettonis wanted to recognize and thank Mrs. Kakleas and Mrs. Caban. She stated how difficult and challenging it is to start a new year and especially now. They did a great job.

Mrs. Tettonis thanked Mrs. Capetanakis for her countless hours working from home before the start of school. She worked tirelessly setting up all the Pre-K, Kindergarten and sixth grade orientations as well as the PTA meetings for two schools and getting all the emails out to the families.

Mr. Leonardos asked about specialized high school test prep. Is there an interest this year? Ms. Caban reported that Mrs. Etimos is having a virtual meeting on Wednesday, September

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29th with the parents. Test prep will begin on October 4th and will be on Mondays and Tuesdays after school. Mrs. Bonakis and Mr. Wong will be tutoring. As of now there is no set date for the test. She stated that they anticipate 15-20 kids to take the exam. Mrs. Caban believes that they will be applying to private schools since most are siblings that already attend private schools. She believes that families prefer the smaller school setting.

Mr. Capetanakis asked about ELA and Math. Mrs. Tettonis will send the Board the embargoed scores.

Mr. Leonardos asked if the air conditioning is complete in HCCS-PS. Mrs. Petrakos stated that everything is complete. Run Rite, our maintenance company is the company that installed the new AC's. Our experience has been very positive.

Mrs. Petrakos added that the elevator modification will begin this week.

There being no unfinished business, Mr. Capetanakis asked for a motion to adjourn. The motion to adjourn was made by Mrs. Lekas. Mrs. Svokos seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 10:25 a.m.

The next Board meeting will be held via Zoom Conferencing on October 21, 2021 at 9:30 a.m.

Harvey Newman
Harvey Newman, Secretary

**MINUTES OF
HELLENIC CLASSICAL CHARTER SCHOOLS**

**SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
HELD ON OCTOBER 26, 2021 AT 9:30 a.m.**

Members and Staff – via Zoom Conferencing

PRESENT

Charles Capetanakis	Chairman
Effie Lekas	Member
Dr. Liana Theodoratou	Member
Grazia Svokos	Member
Christina Tettonis	Superintendent
Joy Petrakos	Chief of Operations
Natasha Caban	Principal HCCS-PS
Cathy Kakleas	Principal HCCS-SI
Christina Portelos	Director of Finance & Operations
Dena Capetanakis	Director of Community & Engagement
Stacy Kokkoros	Business Administrative Assistant
Lisa Talletti	HCCS-SI Grandparent

ABSENT

Harvey Newman	Secretary
Nikolaos Leonardos	Treasurer
Bianca Rajpersaud	Member
Dean Angelakos	Member
Nik Mathews	Member

Mr. Capetanakis chaired the meeting. Joy Petrakos acted as recorder. There were four 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 28, 2021. Mr. Capetanakis tabled the motion to approve the September minutes at the next school board meeting pending approval.

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Mr. Capetanakis asked Mrs. Tettonis to give a brief overview of her Superintendent's report. Mrs. Tettonis reported that she and Mrs. Caban were invited to present statewide to the New York Charter Association webinar October 12, 2021. Mrs. Tettonis and Mrs. Petrakos were also asked to present at the conference for The Federation of Hellenic American Educators and Cultural Associations of America and the University of Macedonia on October 6, 2021. Lastly, HCCS was asked to present for the Staten Island Community Board 2 on October 13, 2021. The presentation was about HCCS and the new HCCS-SI Construction project. Joy Petrakos

presented. In attendance was the School Board, Mrs. Kakleas and members of the construction team.

Mrs. Tettonis continued to report that she had the honor of being invited to attend the 2021 Charter School Growth Fund CEO Conference. The topics were varied but she stated that it was interesting to hear about the future of the work force and how education impacts the work force.

Mrs. Tettonis went on to inform the Board that they have started COVID-19 student testing at both schools. They have also implemented a change to the quarantine policy. This can be viewed in the school's Health and Safety Guide on the school's website.

HCCS-SI have begun their Virtual Open Houses. They were very excited with the turnout and the number of applications received.

Later this month, NYSED will release the scores of the New York State 2020-21 grades 3-8 assessments. They are presently embargoed. There are limitations to the 2020-21 assessment data this year due to the pandemic. Only students who attended school in-person in Spring 2021 were required to take the state assessments. Therefore, a smaller percentage of students took last year's exams, and the results are not representative of the State's or our School's student population. The results of the 2020-21 assessments will not be compared statewide, by statewide subgroup, or with previous years' exams. The student reports for the Spring 2021 state assessments will look different than they have in previous years. For example, there will be no comparisons in the child's individual student report; the report will contain only the child's score. In an ordinary year, state assessments provide value to teachers and families as one of multiple measures to assess student learning. On the student and classroom levels, the assessments are one tool to help determine needed support for students and teachers. NYSED will return to regular testing in 2022.

Mrs. Tettonis was excited to announce that HCCS is now part of the NYC Kids RISE Save for College Program. She thanked Mrs. Capetanakis, Mrs. Petrakos and Mrs. Portelos for working on this project and introducing it to our parents. All public school kindergarteners, citywide, will now have access to a NYC Scholarship Account with \$100 automatically invested toward their future education and up to \$200 in early rewards. This is a scholarship and savings program designed to make college and career training more accessible for all NYC public school students. The funds will be invested in a NY 529 account, which is a type of tax-advantaged account that has been specifically designed to help people save for higher education.

Mrs. Tettonis expressed how hard the two principals, Mrs. Caban and Mrs. Kakleas, are working and she congratulated them both. She informed the Board that they are having professional development on Election Day, formal observations have started, and professional development is ongoing with their partnership with Columbia University. She continued to report that the NWEA fall assessments have begun and are being coordinated by the Dean of Mathematics, Mrs. Melissa Hionas.

The SHSAT test prep program was launched in HCCS-PS on Monday, October 4th and instruction is led by Mrs. Bonakis in ELA and Mr. Wong in mathematics. Approximately 25 students are enrolled in the program. The SHSAT exam has been scheduled for two dates, Sunday, December 5 or Sunday, December 11. Details have been shared with the families and the deadline to register for the SHSAT is Monday, November 15th. Mrs. Tettonis thanked the School Board for always giving the students the opportunity to have SHSAT test prep.

Mrs. Tettonis reported that the first Parent Teacher Conferences will remain virtual and are scheduled for Wednesday, November 10. Teachers in grades K through 8 will schedule Zoom conferences with families throughout the school day. Report cards will be distributed via backpack and also emailed to each family. The teachers along with their principals are working very hard to make sure that they have the best Parent Teacher Conferences.

Mrs. Tettonis is excited that HCCS continues their partnerships with many of the organizations they have established relationships with over the last few years such as Studio in a School Art residency program for grades PreK and Kindergarten and PopsEd music program which will be offered in HCCS-SI. NYC Ballet virtual Nutcracker Program is scheduled to begin Wednesday, October 28 for students in third grade.

HCCS-PS had their Student Government elections in middle school. Student Government are led by Maria Bonakis and Stavroula Benetatos. Middle School students campaigned the last two weeks of September and official elections were held on Friday, October 8. The Student Government Induction ceremony will be held on Tuesday, November 2. We are so proud of our middle school students who campaigned, and we look forward to working with our elected student government and hearing their voice and initiatives.

Mrs. Tettonis informed the Board that the National History Day Fair will be continuing for 6th Grade students. The 7th grade will have Ancient Greek Theater. The 8th grade will have TEDx. Additionally, the Greek department in both schools and the new HCCS-PS Director of Theatre are working on the OXI Day presentations.

High School admissions meetings are being scheduled by Mrs. Etimos, Guidance Counselor. The TACHS exam is coming up. Families have received ongoing communication from Mrs. Etimos. The workshop had 48-50 people in attendance. They will be sending out all the power point presentations made by the guidance counselor to all the parents that could not make the meeting.

HCCS had a successful Fun Run in September giving back to the community. \$5000 was raised and donated to the Hellenic Wildlife Relief Fund. Mrs. Tettonis thanked all the families and the School Board for coming to support this event.

Mrs. Tettonis expressed to the Board how hard the teachers are working.

Upcoming events are the Pumpkin Patch, Character Hat Day and Magic Show. The students and staff are all excited. Everything is going to be fabulous.

Mrs. Tettonis expressed that the students have transitioned back to school really well. It has been really special to see the students back in school five days a week. She especially thanked Joy Petrakos for handling all COVID-19 related situations. She stressed that Mrs. Petrakos really takes care of every email and any question from parents and staff in regards to COVID-19 at time or any day. She works closely with our legal team to ensure that our schools remain safe.

Mr. Capetanakis asked about Specialized high schools, private school or public interest? Are parents taking advantage of test prep that is being offered? Mrs. Tettonis answered that parents apply to all. Once all the information comes in, they make an informed decision.

The guidance department is a huge support for our parents. After so many years, we are fortunate to have such expertise. Many of the families do take advantage of the SHSAT prep but they do also apply to private schools as well. Mrs. Tettonis is proud that they do have a choice to apply everywhere. She continued to report that families start to prepare from seventh grade with the help of our Guidance Counselor. Mr. Capetanakis commends administration for helping the parents make an informed decision.

Mrs. Caban added that there is a high school meeting coming up and they are inviting sixth grade families. They need to select their specialized high schools from now. The process has changed. This year Ms. Etimos has stressed the amount of seats and the probability of getting the seat in that high school. Mrs. Caban stressed that it is even more competitive.

Mr. Capetanakis asked about the gifted and talented programs. Mrs. Caban answered that they have not received any information on that yet.

CHIEF OF OPERATIONS REPORT

Mrs. Petrakos reported that there were many deadlines that have been submitted and are coming up. The School audit and part 2 of Annual Report are due November 1st. Mrs. Petrakos informed the Board that the audit is going great. She thanked Mrs. Portelos for all the hard work she has put in this year. She continued to report that there is a single audit (which is due November 1st). They are working on two schools, single audit and Friends of audit. She congratulates Mrs. Portelos on all her hard work. As soon as the audits are complete they will be distributed to the Board for review.

Mrs. Petrakos reported that on October 22nd the concrete was poured at HCCS-SI. It is a very exciting time. The students and staff are very happy. They were watching it take off.

In HCCS-PS the air conditioning has been completed. The elevator modification has begun.

The virtual open house days in HCCS-SI have been great. There are two in October, two in November and one in December coming up. There are already 40 applications submitted. Mrs. Petrakos stated that this is incredible. They are so excited. They will have a waitlist. She thanked the team for their hard work. She informed the Board that they will be accepting applications through School Mint. School Mint is the company that we partnered with to

conduct the lottery and collect the applications. Everything will be done electronically. She continued to report that this is a requirement of the State Education Department.

Mrs. Petrakos also reiterated that weekly COVID-19 testing has begun in both schools. In Park Slope, testing takes place on Thursdays and they have 45 students signed up. This, of course is only with parental/guardian consent. They do not perform random testing. The tests are performed only if the families request it. So far they have not had any positive results detected. Every time there is testing done in the building administration receive reports of the results..

At HCCS-SI testing takes place on Tuesdays and they have 17 students signed up with parent/guardian consent. Everything is going well in both schools.

Mrs. Petrakos reported that the Health and Safety Guide has been updated and was distributed to the families on October 12th. The new updates were in regard to closures of a classroom when there is a positive case. The school is no longer closing classrooms when there is a student that becomes positive in the class. They are asking the COVID positive child to quarantine along with the students that were sitting directly next to the COVID positive child, which would be within three feet. Anyone over three feet would not have to quarantine, unless the family feels that they should quarantine their child. Mrs. Petrakos stated this would be at the families' own discretion. Mrs. Petrakos expressed that they added flexibility in the update because there are families that want their child in school and they are not worried if there is an exposure and there are families that are very cautious and worried and want to keep their child home. She states that Hellenic is very balanced they want to keep the community safe and happy.

Both schools continue to submit daily COVID-19 report cards to the Department of Health.

There is weekly testing for unvaccinated employees who have submitted religious or medical exemptions. Over 90% of the employees are vaccinated in both schools.

Mrs. Petrakos reported that there are weekly meetings with DOH, SED, DOE, NYCCC, NYSCA and regular communication with our legal team. She explained that they are constantly looking out for the best interests of the children. They want them to be safe and academically sound in a happy learning environment.

Mrs. Petrakos informed the Board that they presented to the Community Board 2 Youth Services Committee on October 13th. She also attended Community Board 2 Board Meeting on October 19th. She further informed the Board that the Community Board 2 invited HCCS to present on November 16th. Lastly, Mrs. Petrakos and Mrs. Tettonis presented to the Federation of Hellenic American Educators and Cultural Associations of America and The University of Macedonia on October 6th. She stated that this was an honor for HCCS. They were amongst Greek government officials and great leaders from Greece and the United States.

DIRECTOR OF FINANCE & OPERATIONS REPORT

Mrs. Portelos reported on the financials. She indicated that for HCCS-SI there is a large amount for accounts receivable compared to last year. This is largely due to the UPK program funding

for FY21 which has not yet been received and year 1 of the CSP grant for FY21. She further noted that we budgeted to be in the surplus of \$584K before depreciation at the end of September and we ended at a surplus of \$455K. This is largely due to some upfront beginning of school year related costs also CSP funding that we have not yet received for the FY22 school year. This is still pending. We are working with CSBM, our consultants, on the current grant budget.

For HCCS-PS, we budgeted to be at surplus of \$2M. We ended the month in line with what was budgeted.

She noted that the audit was going well. The first draft was reviewed last night. The Board will be getting an updated draft today.

Mr. Capetanakis congratulated the team on a great job with the financials.

There being no unfinished business, Mr. Capetanakis asked for a motion to adjourn. The motion to adjourn was made by Mrs. Lekas. Mrs. Svokos seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 10:05 a.m.

The next Board meeting will be held via Zoom Conferencing on November 23, 2021 at 9:30 a.m.

Harvey Newman
Harvey Newman, Secretary

**MINUTES OF
HELLENIC CLASSICAL CHARTER SCHOOLS**

**SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
HELD ON NOVEMBER 23, 2021 AT 9:30 a.m.**

Members and Staff – via Zoom Conferencing

PRESENT

Charles Capetanakis	Chairman
Harvey Newman	Secretary
Nikolaos Leonardos	Treasurer
Dr. Liana Theodoratou	Member
Bianca Rajpersaud	Member
Effie Lekas	Member
Christina Tettonis	Superintendent
Joy Petrakos	Chief of Operations
Natasha Caban	Principal HCCS-PS
Cathy Kakleas	Principal HCCS-SI
Christina Portelos	Director of Finance & Operations
Dena Capetanakis	Director of Community & Engagement
Stacy Kokkoros	Business Administrative Assistant

ABSENT

Grazia Svokos	Member
Dean Angelakos	Member
Nik Mathews	Member

Mr. Capetanakis 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 meetings on September 28, 2021 and October 26, 2021. On a motion made by Mr. Leonardos and seconded by Mr. Newman, both minutes were unanimously approved.

CHIEF OF OPERATIONS REPORT

Mrs. Petrakos reported that everything is going well at HCCS-SI in regards to construction. They recently had another concrete pouring. She reported that the basement is set and they are up to the first floor now. She stated that the staff and students are very excited to watch the building go up. They have a very good system running with the concrete trucks going in and out at the same time as morning arrival and afternoon dismissal. Mrs. Kakleas is very happy with the system. There is constant communication between the construction company, the school and the community to make sure that everyone is in sync with the schedule, and everyone is cooperating. The school is doing very well.

Mrs. Petrakos reported that HCCS-PS is doing well. The elevator modernization to the cabin has been completed. The mechanical piece is still in progress and nearing completion. Once it is complete, a DOB inspection will be scheduled. Kelmar will work on the stucco outside of HCCS-PS that needs some repairs.

Mr. Capetanakis congratulated the operations team on how good the financials look.

Mrs. Petrakos reported that we have not received the UPK funding from last year for both schools. They believe that there is a delay due to the Federal Tax ID number change. Mr. Newman stated that he appreciated everything that they are doing to address all of their requests but he is wondering if it would be of any value to put them on notice that this has created a hardship for the schools? Mrs. Portelos answered that they have already communicated this.

Mr. Leonardos asked about rental funding in Staten Island. He asked if they will need assistance to cover any additional rental agreements or will they need to borrow money from HCCS-PS? Mrs. Petrakos answered that we will have to borrow money from HCCS-PS. She reported that the DOE rental assistance is not giving us the full rental assistance for the additional space that we are using because they think that they will use the funds for construction purposes. This is not the case. All the required documents have been submitted but they continued to believe that the money is being used on construction and not rent. Mrs. Portelos added that they are not accepting the sub-lease that was signed February 26, 2021. So, where the original lease showed approximately \$50k a month of rental payments, the new lease is \$190k a month. The DOE is denying to include the difference in the rental reimbursement calculation. Mr. Leonardos asked if they just do not understand the scenario that HCCS-SI is the sub-tenant and not the master tenant. Mrs. Portelos agreed.

Mrs. Petrakos informed the Board the Charter School Growth Fund Loan is due on November 30th in the amount of \$150,000.00.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mrs. Tettonis reported that the annual report was submitted on November 1st.

Mrs. Tettonis continued to report to the Board that on November 8th she met with David Frank and Regent Cashin to set up a possible visit for December 1st.

Letters of recommendation are ongoing for our eighth graders.

Mrs. Tettonis let the Board know that they are still looking to hire teachers.

NWEA base lines have been submitted. They are specifically looking for mid-year growth and end year and it will be submitted to the STD. This is valuable information for our school.

Professional development is ongoing in both schools. They had PAIDEA training for both schools on November 1st. Mrs. Tettonis thanked everyone for putting this together.

Mr. Capetanakis asked about high school admission tests. Mrs. Caban answered that they have 27 students scheduled to take the SHSAT on December 5th and 11th. Ms. Bonakis and Mr. Wong have been conducting test prep for the exam and they are anticipating good results. They have very strong students. She also noted that upon registration they had to list their high school preferences.

Mr. Newman stated that historically we used specialized high school as the gold standard for excellence. There has been a change in NYC in terms of what is considered academically good high schools and they should no longer use this single metric alone any longer because of the other dozen schools in NYC that would be considered part of the group. Are they able to look at data and segregate those that are considered high academic standards and a rigorous process for admissions, he asked. Going forward they can look at these multiple measures that can be used to promote themselves, he stated. Mrs. Caban agreed. She stated that in the past few years they have had some students apply to the elite private schools. High school admissions were very good last year. Mr. Capetanakis asked about the TACHS test. Mrs. Caban reported that they had over 30 students take the TACHS test.

Mr. Capetanakis brought to the Board's attention an article from the New York Times about a hedge fund for non for profit organizations that essentially get donations from various people. Mr. Capetanakis asked how do they approach a group like this? Dr. Theodoratou remarked that there must be a retainer. Mr. Newman added that we would have to present something that would broaden their impact based upon what they have already achieved. What they have going for them is their ability to create excellence. If they have an initiative it would be to expand this on a broader level. Mr. Leonardos suggested a virtual school or expanding nationally.

There being no unfinished business, Mr. Capetanakis asked for a motion to adjourn. The motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Newman. Dr. Theodoratou seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 10:18 a.m.

The next Board meeting will be held via Zoom Conferencing on December 22, 2021 at 9:30 a.m.

Harvey Newman

Harvey Newman, Secretary

**MINUTES OF
HELLENIC CLASSICAL CHARTER SCHOOLS**

**SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
HELD ON December 22, 2021 AT 9:30 a.m.**

Members and Staff – via Zoom Conferencing

PRESENT

Charles Capetanakis	Chairman
Nikolaos Leonardos	Treasurer
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
Stacy Kokkoros	Business Administrative Assistant

ABSENT

Harvey Newman	Secretary
Dr. Liana Theodoratou	Member
Dean Angelakos	Member
Nik Mathews	Member
Christina Portelos	Director of Finance & Operations

Mr. Capetanakis 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 November 23, 2021. On a motion made by Mrs. Svokos and seconded by Mrs. Lekas, the minutes were unanimously approved.

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Mrs. Tettonis reported how thankful she is to have Board support and what an incredible team she has. She said that it is superhero work that is going on. She explained that the team is so in sync and they really work hard to make sure everyone is safe while staying focused on education. The teams work hard to keep the love and the trust and the joy of learning continuous. It is quite the challenge, she stated.

Mr. Capetanakis asked how the COVID spike has affected the two schools. Will the school monitor student exposures and positive cases?

Mrs. Tettonis replied that last week both schools went fully remote due to the spike in COVID cases. For the current week both schools gave parents the option to stay remote or be in person because of the continuous spike. Mrs. Tettonis continued to report that if students test positive during the break, they have asked parents to email administration. The students will of course have to adhere to the quarantine policy. They have consulted with legal, and they have made it clear that they are not allowed to continuously offer remote since the school's learning model calls for in person learning. We can only offer remote learning when a student tests positive for COVID or has been exposed to someone who tested positive. She continued to report to the Board that they will not offer remote learning for families that have gone on vacation out of the contiguous states.

Mr. Leonardos asked if this will affect absences. If a family goes on vacation, the student will not be offered remote and will be marked absent.

Mrs. Petrakos informed the Board that HCCS's teaching model is an all in person teaching model. The school was asked to choose a teaching model, hybrid, remote or in person learning. Administration has informed NYSED that HCCS-PS and HCCS-SI are fully in person learning schools. Therefore, they cannot go back and forth between being remote and in person. She stressed they can only do this if there is a COVID positive case or exposure in the school. In this case we can have a temporary hybrid school model.

Mr. Leonardos asked about student vaccinations. Are we mandating them? Mrs. Tettonis answered that many of the students have been vaccinated in both schools. Parents are slowly vaccinating their children. Until it is mandated, they will wait for the NYS and DOH guidelines.

Mrs. Petrakos added that HCCS will wait for the CDC, Department of Health and New York State guidelines to change and only if the NYS adopts the changes we will be required to adopt them into our guidelines. Mrs. Petrakos recommends that they wait and see whether New York State mandates it. Mrs. Kakleas stated that many parents have voiced to her that they will not vaccinate their children.

Mr. Leonardos asked if it is mandated are they able to enforce it. If it is mandated, will the student not be allowed in school? Mrs. Petrakos answered if New York State mandates the vaccine the families need to be prepared.

Mrs. Petrakos added that any new hires would have to be vaccinated and may not provide religious or medical exemptions. Mr. Leonardos asked if religious exemptions expire. Mrs. Petrakos said they do not.

Mrs. Tettonis thanked Ms. Petrakos for giving up her personal time, weekends and weeknights handling all the COVID cases for both schools. This includes corresponding with staff, parents, contact tracing, timelines and so on. She does not stop making sure that we all stay safe along with the whole team, including Mrs. Caban and Mrs. Kakleas. Mrs. Petrakos continued by thanking Mrs. Kokkoros and the office staff at HCCS-SI for all their help.

Mr. Capetanakis asked about high school testing. Mrs. Tettonis reported that we are taking state exams this year. This is the first year for testing in HCCS-SI. HCCS-SI hired a third grade teacher for the vacancy in HCCS-SI. They are very happy with this new hire. Leadership team is working very hard with test prep. Student progress is being monitored via assessments and informal and formal data that is being used. She also thanked Mrs. Caban for helping Mrs. Kakleas with this.

Mrs. Caban reported that the high school application deadline is during the month of March. Twenty-five students have taken the specialized high school exam. The majority of our students have applied to private schools, and they have already submitted their applications. They will most likely get these results in June 2022.

Mrs. Tettonis also reported that the travel policy has been revised and sent out to all of the families. There was a complaint made to the State. The policy was changed to show that if students or staff visit any of the contiguous states you do not have to quarantine. Only if a student or staff member travels internationally or outside the contiguous states, and only for the unvaccinated individuals. Vaccinated individuals do not need to quarantine. They must monitor themselves for symptoms. There was push back from two parents regarding the travel policy. Their concern was that their unvaccinated child would not be eligible for remote instruction upon returning from vacation. The CDC defers to New York State for the travel policy and while this is their recommended policy, HCCS mandates it. We mandated it because in the past they have had families go away and have returned and they have infected staff and students. This is being done to protect the families and staff.

Mrs. Lekas agreed that administration made the right call. Safety first, she stated.

Mr. Leonardos asked if we need to be informed about anything concerning academics in the school.

Mrs. Tettonis thanked the leadership team for their amazing work. Student progress is being monitored. She reminded the Board that the students had to readjust to being back in school full time. It was a transition from being remote and coming back to in person learning.

Mr. Capetanakis asked for a motion to go to executive session. The motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Leonardos and Mr. Newman seconded the motion. The meeting went to executive session at 10:10 a.m.

The next Board meeting will be held via Zoom Conferencing on January 26, 2022 at 9:30 a.m.

Harvey Newman
Harvey Newman, Secretary

**MINUTES OF
HELLENIC CLASSICAL CHARTER SCHOOLS**

**SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
HELD ON JANUARY 26, 2022 AT 9:30 a.m.**

Members and Staff – via Zoom Conferencing

PRESENT

Charles Capetanakis	Chairman
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
Christina Portelos	Director of Finance & Operations
Dena Capetanakis	Director of Community & Engagement
Stacy Kokkoros	Business Administrative Assistant
Lisa Talletti	Grandmother of student in Class K-13

ABSENT

Dr. Liana Theodoratou	Member
Dean Angelakos	Member
Nik Mathews	Member

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

The minutes will be circulated to the Board after the Secretary reviews and will be approved at the next meeting.

Mr. Capetanakis updated the Board on the Investors meeting that they have coming up with the various institutions that have invested with the bonds such as Goldman Sachs and Blackstone Group alike who have invested in the \$44 million bond that led to the HCCS-SI construction financing. The meeting is to update investors on the HCCS-SI construction and financing progress. They will also want an update on how well the school is doing.

Mrs. Tettonis highlighted how incredible the attendance rate is in both schools. HCCS-PS has 94% and HCCS-SI has 91%. She is very proud. Compared to other schools in the city this is remarkable she said. She continued to describe how happy she is to see the COVID positive cases going down. She hopes that things will begin to go back to normal. She thanked Mrs.

Petrakos and the whole team for their endless hard work. December and January were very taxing she stated. They all worked nonstop, seven days a week and in the evenings to make sure everything ran smoothly in both schools. Mrs. Petrakos has the trust and expertise to give advice to our families and staff members and the community.

Mrs. Tettonis continued to report that they have several new partnerships including coding, Project Green Reach with the Brooklyn Botanical Gardens, Science Fair in both HCCS-PS and HCCS-SI and of course the annual tradition of VIP reader week. It has been a big hit in both schools she remarked. The idea is to make sure that everyone loves reading. Mrs. Tettonis thanked Mrs. Capetanakis for coordinating VIP reader week in both schools. The schools are currently gearing up for NWEA testing and the state exams. After school test prep has begun. Everything is going very well.

Mrs. Tettonis stated that the new building in HCCS-SI is looking great. She also mentioned that the Superintendent report lists Ted Talks, Greek Mythology Exam, National History Day Fair, Virtual trip to Greece, data regarding Special Education and ESL, school culture and climate regarding the social emotional program and reports from all the departments including math, science and ELA. She is very proud of everyone's hard work. The schools are on track she said.

Mrs. Svokos commented how outstanding the Superintendents report was. She also congratulated the team on the great job that they are doing. Mrs. Tettonis thanked her. She stated that they try to make the best decisions for the community and keep the staff and students safe. It is unbelievable how many questions they receive. That is the key to success, making sure that they are all in this together.

Mrs. Petrakos thanked everyone for their kind words. She expressed how amazing the two principals and the two office staffs are. There is a nice balance between the families and the school. The goal is to protect the staff and our forever resilient students. She said that they are a great team and that is why it works. Even when they don't agree. The trust is there and as long as we remain united, we can get through anything.

Mrs. Petrakos continued to report that the application process for both schools is ongoing. HCCS-SI has about 200 submitted applications. HCCS-SI is booming, she stated. HCCS-PS has over 200 submitted applications as well. Things are looking good.

Mrs. Petrakos reported that the concrete has been poured at HCCS-SI's new building project. She has included pictures in her report. It is incredible how great things are going she stated. They are planning on January 2023 as the completion date. They are looking at potential rental space for 3rd and 4th grades next door. They are going to need four classrooms for the next school year. If that does not work out the consultants will look at other options near the school or portable trailers to be housed in the school parking lot. The plan is for the potential space to be ready by July 2022.

On a financial note, Mrs. Petrakos reported that both schools are looking good, financially. In HCCS-PS their cash position is in good standing. For HCCS-SI the CSP grant has been approved by the comptroller's office for 1.2 million. The grant is a starter grant.

She continued to report that they have received UPK funding that was delayed.

Mrs. Petrakos thanked Mrs. Portelos for her amazing work on completing the Friends of audit which was completed this month.

Mr. Capetanakis asked about the waitlist and applications. Historically we have had thousands of applications. Mrs. Petrakos added that she would like to discuss this at the investors meeting. She would like to discuss enrollment, the total amount of students and how many applications we have had historically on the waiting list. In HCCS-SI the waitlist is relatively more impressive. For kindergarten alone next year there are 75 slots, but only 57 will be available because of the 18 Pre-K students that will matriculate. The waitlist is already at 200 applications for very few seats.

Mrs. Petrakos informed the Board that prospective parents are always asked how they heard about our school. The most common answer is word of mouth. Parents will leave where they are whether it is private or public to come to our school because of everything that we offer. For example, HCCS-PS is a National Blue Ribbon School, they love that their child will learn Greek because this will benefit them in high school and college and they just love what they hear about our schools.

Mrs. Tettonis will be presenting virtually at the British Council. The topic is embedding resilience. The panelists are from around the world. She continued to report how exciting it is to learn from leaders around the world. There will be over 1000 attendees from around the world. The areas that will be discussed during the presentation will be about communication and engagement, transparency, access and communication.

Mrs. Svokos stated how proud she is of the team. This is a reflection of the work that is being done.

Mr. Leonardos asked about the additional space that will be required. He asked if we should be thinking of a long term lease instead of short term?

Mrs. Petrakos answered that this is a future conversation that has to happen but not for this Friday with the investors. She agreed with Mr. Leonardos to reach out to them in the future to potentially rent for the short term.

Mr. Leonardos asked whether we are within the budget limits on the construction project. Mrs. Petrakos answered that they are very careful with the numbers. The requisitions are coming in and being paid out very efficiently and timely.

Mrs. Portelos added that they had some change orders regarding the electrical and the insurance at the beginning of the project. They had a meeting scheduled with the team to go over the

budget numbers, but it was postponed due to the DOB meeting that took place. Once they circle back, they will have better idea of projections. Mr. Leonardos asked if we are comfortable with what we have. Mrs. Portelos answered yes, as we have a contingency built in.

Mr. Leonardos continued to ask how is the community responding to the completion of the shell of the building? Mrs. Petrakos answered that they are happy. The feedback is positive.

Mr. Leonardos asked if there is any news about high school admissions. Mrs. Caban answered that they have received most if not all of the Catholic School acceptances. The students have received many scholarships. They are still in the process of submitting high school applications for public schools and specialized high schools. Most students will not get their acceptances until the summer. Mrs. Etimos hosts a parent zoom every Tuesday to help parents through the process of applying and answer any questions that they might have. Mrs. Caban further informed the Board of the high school application timeline. High School applications are due on February 28th. Specialized high school registration opened this week. March 4th is the public high school deadline. Mrs. Caban continued to explain that this year every child will be given placement. Previous years a students would not be offered a placement in any of their choices. They would have to select twelve high schools. There have been instances where students were not placed in any school. Now every child will be placed in a school of the twelve. Mr. Leonardos asked what criteria is used for placement? Ms. Caban believes that it is a lottery.

Mrs. Lekas asked will zoning requirements change for high schools? Mrs. Caban answered that there will be rezoning but does not know when that will go into effect.

There being no unfinished business, Mr. Capetanakis asked for a motion to adjourn. The motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Leonardos. Mrs. Lekas seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 10:08 a.m. The meeting went into executive session. There were no votes taken during executive session.

The next Board meeting will be held via Zoom Conferencing on February 17, 2022 at 9:30 a.m.

Harvey Newman
Harvey Newman, Secretary

**MINUTES OF
HELLENIC CLASSICAL CHARTER SCHOOLS**

**SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
HELD ON FEBRUARY 17, 2022 AT 9:30 a.m.**

Members and Staff – via Zoom Conferencing

PRESENT

Charles Capetanakis	Chairman
Harvey Newman	Secretary
Nikolaos Leonardos	Treasurer
Grazia Svokos	Member
Dr. Liana Theodoratou	Member
Joy Petrakos	Chief of Operations
Natasha Caban	Principal HCCS-PS
Cathy Kakleas	Principal HCCS-SI
Christina Portelos	Director of Finance & Operations
Dena Capetanakis	Director of Community & Engagement
Stacy Kokkoros	Business Administrative Assistant

ABSENT

Christina Tettonis	Superintendent
Effie Lekas	Member
Bianca Rajpersaud	Member
Dean Angelakos	Member
Nik Mathews	Member

Mr. Capetanakis 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 past two meetings held on December 22, 2021 and January 26, 2022. On a motion made by Mr. Newman and seconded by Dr. Theodoratou, the minutes were unanimously approved.

Mr. Capetanakis asked for an addition to the January 26, 2022 minutes. He proposed to add to the last page that the Board came out of executive session and there were no votes taken. With the revision that was proposed are all in favor of the motion to pass both minutes? All in favor.

Mr. Capetanakis expressed his appreciation to Mrs. Tettonis for her excellent Superintendent's Report. He then asked Mrs. Petrakos to give a brief overview of the Superintendent's report and also update the Board on the Staten Island construction site.

Mrs. Petrakos read Mrs. Tettonis' Superintendent's Report which included upcoming dates including parent teacher conferences, staff development, state assessments, end year events, high school admissions data, SEL program updates, cyber safety presentations, parent workshops, and subject department updates.

Mrs. Petrakos reported that the Con Edison issue in HCCS-SI is moving along. Con Edison required that a new electrical service is installed to supply power for the new building. Mrs. Petrakos stated that the experts do not foresee a delay. The building is moving along beautifully. The completion date is still expected for January 2023.

Mrs. Petrakos stated that there is a possibility that we can free up some of the construction budget earmarked for IT infrastructure and use grant funding for these expenses instead. Mrs. Portelos added that the construction budget for furniture, fixtures and equipment is about \$800,000 for the new school.

Mr. Leonardos asked Mrs. Petrakos to elaborate on the HCCS-SI expansion. Mrs. Petrakos reported that we are on schedule. She added that we have almost 225 new student applications and come September, the present building will not fit the number of students that they will have. They are in the process of looking at mobile classrooms instead of renting space in a nearby building. The architect mapped out a drawing of where the mobile classrooms would fit in the parking lot. We are still receiving competitive bids for the mobile classrooms and are expected to finalize a contract soon.

Mr. Newman asked if there are any local codes for setting up mobile classrooms for the purpose of education. He added that there might be mandates for bathrooms or accessibility to bathrooms or square footage per child or certain codes that we might be required to adhere to. Mrs. Petrakos responded that they will look into this and let the Board know.

Mr. Capetanakis reminded the Board that there are continuous weekly as well as daily email chains on the construction project at HCCS-SI. In particular, there are two weekly meetings. One is on premises every Tuesday morning where all the internal construction team and construction professionals (architects, contractor, engineers, construction managers), meet to discuss the construction updates and any outstanding items. We also have an internal team zoom every Friday morning which consists of the construction manager Avison & Young, the architect Jennifer Gerakaris, representatives from the school as well as Nick Leonardos and himself to monitor the progress.

Mrs. Kakleas reported that the schools have Parent Teacher Conferences coming up on March 10th. The students have been assessed. Progress reports and promotion in doubt letters have gone out. Parents have been made aware if their child will need summer school.

Mrs. Petrakos added that there is ongoing test prep in both schools.

HCCS-PS had their first in person basketball game against St. Demetrios, Astoria. HCCS won! It was great having the families in the building. We had a vaccination check at the door. The

visiting team was tested for COVID. We received many compliments on our beautiful new elevator that day. It was a great night. Hopefully we can hold more in person events.

Both schools celebrated I Love My School Day. Black history month is being celebrated all month. International Greek Day, Mo Willems Day and VIP reader week were all successful. Second grade Storytelling contest is coming up as well as TedX in March.

Ms. Caban informed the Board that at HCCS-PS they had Special Agent Fischer presenting on cyber safety. The presentation is on how to keep children safe. She thanked Mrs. Kakleas for helping them set this up.

Ms. Caban continued to report to the Board that HCCS-PS currently has 80 special education students that are not receiving speech services. Their provider resigned and now we are having a difficult time hiring a new speech provider. Their provider was through an agency. We have been searching for a replacement but have not found one. It is a citywide problem but we are being proactive she said. One of the problems that they are facing is that most of the individuals that they are interviewing are not vaccinated or have religious exemptions. We will continue to actively interview.

Mr. Newman informed the Board about an article on a DOE census that he read. It stated that there used to be over a million and a half students and now there are about 850,000 registered. There has been a significant decline in public schools according to the article. The confidence in public schools have declined. Mrs. Kakleas added that they have many transfers from different public schools in the area. This has caused a budgetary situation in the City, stated Mr. Newman. The Mayor will be putting in a fund of \$300 million dollars to stem the tide of the decrease in the population. One of the things that this means is that there will be more space in public schools.

Mr. Capetanakis made a request for executive session. The motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Newman and Dr. Theodoratos second the motion. Entered into executive session at 9:57 a.m.

The Board came out of executive session and there were no votes taken.

The next Board meeting will be held via Zoom Conferencing on March 24, 2022 at 9:30 a.m.

Harvey Newman
Harvey Newman, Secretary

**MINUTES OF
HELLENIC CLASSICAL CHARTER SCHOOLS**

**SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
HELD ON MARCH 24, 2022 AT 9:30 a.m.**

Members and Staff – via Zoom Conferencing

PRESENT

Charles Capetanakis	Chairman
Harvey Newman	Secretary
Nikolaos Leonardos	Treasurer
Effie Lekas	Member
Dr. Liana Theodoratou	Member
Grazia Svokos	Member
Christina Tettonis	Superintendent
Joy Petrakos	Chief of Operations
Natasha Caban	Principal HCCS-PS
Cathy Kakleas	Principal HCCS-SI
Christina Portelos	Director of Finance & Operations
Dena Capetanakis	Director of Community & Engagement
Stacy Kokkoros	

ABSENT

Anastasia Etimos	Guidance Counselor
Bianca Rajpersaud	Member
Dean Angelakos	Member
Nik Mathews	Member

Mr. Capetanakis 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 February 17, 2022. On a motion made by Mr. Newman and seconded by Mr. Leonardos, the minutes were unanimously approved.

Mrs. Tettonis began by bringing to the Board's attention an on-going problem HCCS-PS has regarding meeting the needs of our children with IEPs requiring speech services. We continue to work with CSE 8 in Brooklyn and our speech agency *City Sounds* to find a full-time speech provider. At this time, the CSE has gone through the cascade of agencies with no available providers to pick up our caseload. Our Dean of Special Education, Denise Catapano has met with numerous potential providers and was given start dates however, none have actually begun. RSA forms will once again be reissued to our 55 families so they can seek out their own independent provider. On March 22nd, Natasha Caban, Joy Petrakos, Denise Catapano and Christina Tettonis met with CSE 8 Chair Carolyn Danner, SEEPO Alicia Holmes, DOE Senior Director for Special Education Services Karyn Thompson, and Senior Advisor for Special Education Policy Harold Hines to discuss our speech concerns. In conclusion the CSE will continue to reach out to agencies about our speech service needs and we will reissue RSA

forms to families. We discussed the potential to bring on our own provider with reimbursement from the DOE. We have been keeping a log of our outreach efforts.

They have exhausted everything that can be done to solve this issue. On numerous communications, the school was promised that a service provider would be sent however, that promise never came through. We have been told that there is a city shortage. Mrs. Tettonis further reported that David Frank has been contacted. His recommendation is to possibly hire our own service provider for the school. Mrs. Petrakos reached out to Anyeli Matos at the DOE to confirm if the school will get reimbursed if they hire their own service provider. Mrs. Petrakos further reported that billing is indeed available to schools should they choose to hire their own provider. This all depends on the children's services and how it is reported, whether it will be 20% or above or 20-60% of the services. Reimbursement depends on the services that will be provided. Mrs. Tettonis asked if there are any questions from the Board. Mr. Capetanakis recommends that we reach out to the Charter Center. There should be a letter sent stating that these students cannot be denied their services just because of administrative issues. If the school goes out of pocket they should be reimbursed. Mrs. Tettonis added that a voucher called an RCA will be issued to the students so they can possibly find their own service providers on their own time. It is very difficult to navigate finding your own service provider privately, she stated. Mrs. Tettonis stressed said that in school service is a good practice. Mr. Newman suggests even if the services are not given by qualified licensed service providers maybe we can reach out to universities and see if they have interns that might be able to provide services with no fees so the students are getting something. Mrs. Tettonis already reached out to someone.

Mrs. Tettonis continued to report to the Board that Regent Christine Cea and Executive Director of NYS Education Department, David Frank, will be visiting HCCS-SI on April 1st, 2022.

HCCS-PS received a \$100,000 grant that will be used for the students at HCCS-PS for their Greece research trips from Investors Grant.

Both schools are gearing up for the NY State exams. HCCS-SI will be participating in their first NY State exams this year. She thanked Mrs. Caban for going to HCCS-SI and training everyone. There is just great collaboration between both schools.

Mrs. Petrakos reported to the Board that the Greek Independence Day parade will be on Sunday, June 5, 2022. Mr. Leonardos advised that it would be beneficial for HCCS to march twice. Each school will march with their landlord. HCCS-PS will be marching with Kimisis Theotokou/Park Slope and Mrs. Petrakos and Mrs. Caban. HCCS-SI will be marching with Holy Trinity/Staten Island with Mr. Capetanakis, Mr. Leonardos, Mrs. Kakleas and Mrs. Tettonis. Both schools are preparing for the parade. New parade banners and sashes are being ordered for the parade. The flag raising ceremony will be Friday, March 25, 2022. HCCS-PS will be the only school performing at the ceremony. Our 5th grade students will be playing instruments and will also be singing and dancing. Mrs. Bonakis, Mr. Tashie and Mrs. Tsoutsas will be attending the ceremony with the students. Mrs. Petrakos also requested that our marching band perform at the second flag raising ceremony on June 3rd.

Mrs. Petrakos further reported on the mobile classrooms that we are leasing for HCCS-SI from Cassone. It will be one unit of four classrooms that will occupy the back end of the parking lot.

Father Nick from Holy Trinity is on board with this. Kelmar is working on the permit and the logistics for the bathroom and the electricity. Anthony Underwood, the IT Specialist, is working on access points for internet. The cost is going to be cheaper than if we would have rented space to build out classrooms. The overall cost including set up and take down will be approximately \$140k for a period of 7 months. We are on track to open the new building in January 2023. These mobile units will serve two 3rd and two 4th grade classrooms.

Mr. Leonardos stated that this is going to be better than splitting the students into another building for six months and more cost effective. Mr. Leonardos also reported that they will be connected to the electricity and sewer system.

Mr. Newman asked if there are special certificates needed because we are a school. Mrs. Petrakos answered that as long as the requirements are complied with installing the units and the permits are acquired by our contractors per code, we will be in compliance. Mrs. Petrakos has also spoken to David Frank regarding whether the mobile classrooms are permissible.

Mrs. Dena Capetanakis informed the Board that she had a meeting with the HCCS-SI PTA president and they are ecstatic that they are doing trailers instead of renting in the nearby building for classrooms.

Mrs. Petrakos highlighted the number of submitted applications for both schools. She believes that this year they will exceed the usual number of applications. As of today, we have 250 submitted applications for HCCS-SI and 403 for HCCS-PS.

Mr. Leonardos updated the Board that within the next couple of weeks the building attached to HCCS-PS that has been purchased by the landlords will be demolished. He further reported that the building on the corner is structurally sound. He also stated that the scaffold will be eventually removed. The community will be going ahead with the plans to start the new building extension. The school should look into creating a team to work with the landlord to create a new extension. Mrs. Tettonis asked if we should be reaching out to SED about an expansion. Mr. Capetanakis answered that we should speak to Mr. Frank. Mrs. Tettonis asked what the projection is and how many classrooms would there be. This will be a 2-3 year project and there will be approximately 12-14 classrooms available. HCCS-PS would be the tenant not the entity that will build the building.

The Board was informed that HCCS-PS entered a new category in the National History Day competition. The category is the Junior Group Documentary and the project title is: *Shirley Chisholm: Catalyzing Change through Debate & Diplomacy*. Mrs. Tettonis asked if the Board would like to see the video that was submitted. The board agreed to watch the video after they adjourn.

There being no unfinished business, Mr. Capetanakis asked for a motion to adjourn. The motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Newman. Mrs. Svokos seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 10:01 a.m.

The next Board meeting will be held via Zoom Conferencing on April 27, 2022 at 9:30 a.m.

Harvey Newman
Harvey Newman, Secretary

**MINUTES OF
HELLENIC CLASSICAL CHARTER SCHOOLS**

**SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
HELD ON April 27, 2022, AT 9:30 a.m.**

Members and Staff – via Zoom Conferencing

PRESENT

Charles Capetanakis	Chairman
Harvey Newman	Secretary
Nikolaos Leonardos	Treasurer
Effie Lekas	Member
Dr. Liana Theodoratou	Member
Christina Tettonis	Superintendent
Joy Petrakos	Chief of Operations
Natasha Caban	Principal HCCS-PS
Cathy Kakleas	Principal HCCS-SI
Christina Portelos	Director of Finance & Operations
Dena Capetanakis	Director of Community & Engagement
Stacy Kokkoros	Operations Manager

ABSENT

Grazia Svokos	Member
Bianca Rajpersaud	Member
Dean Angelakos	Member
Nik Mathews	Member

Mr. Capetanakis chaired the meeting. Joy Petrakos acted as recorder. There were five 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 March 24, 2022. On a motion made by Mr. Newman and seconded by Dr. Theodoratou, the minutes were unanimously approved. Mr. Newman commended the individuals involved in putting together the minutes. The quality of the minutes has been very high, the completeness has been outstanding. He thanked Ms. Petrakos. Mrs. Petrakos accepted his thanks and answered that a thank you also goes to Ms. Kokkoros, Mrs. Portelos and Mrs. Tettonis. Mr. Newman thanked the team for their efforts.

Mr. Capetanakis noted on the bottom of the Profit and Loss Statement the loan paid out is listed but it is not budgeted. He stated that it looks like the school over budget. He referred to the excel spreadsheet line 168. Mrs. Portelos explained that the line item he is referring to is for depreciation and amortization and it is not related to the pay down of the loan. Mr. Leonardos asked Mrs. Portelos if we can add a line item to the new budget for key money payments to the landlord as it pertains to the new building extension at HCCS-PS. Mr. Capetanakis stated that

we do not have a written agreement yet. Mr. Leonardos asked if we can allocate a line for savings for \$100k a year if they can afford it.

Mrs. Lekas wanted clarification about the plans for expansion. Mr. Leonardos answered that the community is building an extension to the current building that will be approximately 20k square feet and will include 12-14 classrooms. The building will have a community room and an event room on the top floor with use of the roof. The potential for our school is use of the classrooms to increase the number of classrooms per grade by one. Mrs. Tettonis asked for the expected completion date of this building. Mr. Leonardos answered that it is his understanding that it will be a 2.5 year construction project. Mr. Capetanakis asked if we can request in our next charter renewal if we can expand one class per grade. Mr. Newman stated that we should ask David Frank. Mrs. Petrakos answered that they have asked Mr. Frank and he stated that we can request it during our next charter renewal. Mr. Leonardos would like this in writing so that the landlord will know that we have the approval for this. The new charter term starts September 2024. Mrs. Petrakos would also like to ask for a letter of commitment from the landlord, Kimisis Theotokou, that they will indeed be offering the school the extra space. Mr. Newman added in the event the building will not be ready for September 2024, generally we will be granted a year's term beyond that. Mrs. Tettonis stated, to clarify, if they occupy the new building with only one class per year, this will make a difference in the rent. Mr. Leonardos stated that they are in the process of negotiating the rent.

Mrs. Caban added that this opens conversations on our increased special education and ELL students and maybe making some changes. Mr. Newman offered another suggestion. He suggests that this is an opportunity to begin recruiting one year earlier and use the mobile classroom units. Mrs. Petrakos answered that she does not believe that the units can be accommodated on this property. Mr. Leonardos suggested another option, building temporary classrooms in the parking lot. He requested an estimate of what this would cost. Mrs. Petrakos stated that we would need electricity, heat, HVAC, etc. Mrs. Lekas stated that it would be one year of no parking lot for the landlord. Mrs. Petrakos does not think that this will work. It will not be a healthy environment for the children. The space would be too small. The ceilings will be low.

Mrs. Lekas congratulated Mrs. Petrakos and her team for finding resources from the State to help offset the expenses of the mobile classrooms in HCCS-SI as referred to in the COO Report. Mrs. Petrakos stated that the lease for mobile classrooms is qualified to be submitted for rental reimbursement.

Mrs. Tettonis asked if HCCS-PS will qualify for rental assistance with the proposed expansion. The assumption is that we can only qualify for rental assistance if we expand a new grade. Mr. Capetanakis stated that in 2014 HCCS-PS was one of the 67 schools that did not get grandfathered into qualifying for rental assistance. He said that because we were fully expanded, we did not qualify. Mr. Capetanakis has been working on this for years.

Mrs. Petrakos reminded the Board about the ongoing issue we are having getting speech providers to service the children at HCCS-PS. She asked the DOE if we can bill for a speech provider. Their answer was that speech service alone does not qualify. We can bill only if the

student is at the 20-60% range and receives another service. Mr. Newman asked for this to be confirmed by someone in Special Ed. Dr. Theodoratou stated that this sounds discriminatory. She is incredibly surprised by this. Mr. Newman asked Ms. Tettonis to run this by David Frank. Ms. Tettonis confirmed that she has spoken to Mr. Frank and he basically recommended that we hire our own person. Mrs. Tettonis is extremely concerned as we have 55 students not being serviced. In addition, 25 kids are also not being serviced in HCCS-SI. The expectation is for us to increase our number of special needs students in both schools. The DOE is providing a voucher for the parents to get their own provider but it is extremely difficult for the parents to get their own providers. There are only three students out of the 55 that have found their own provider. Mrs. Tettonis reached out to someone in NYU. Technically we are in compliance because we are offering vouchers for the parents to find their own providers. The agencies cannot find speech providers. Mr. Newman asked if these parents are getting vouchers and then they hire a speech provider whether we can use the voucher. Mrs. Natasha answered that she does not believe that we can do that. Mrs. Tettonis added we are increasing the number of special needs students, but need a speech provider. Mr. Newman added that this is the first time that we are experiencing with this number of students with special needs. Ms. Caban added that this is a reflection of our charter changes.

Mr. Capetanakis stated that he sees in the Superintendent Report that we have students who were accepted to specialized high schools, Stuyvesant and Staten Island Tech. Ms. Tettonis is not sure if these students will all be accepting. They are considering private school. Ms. Tettonis stated that school report cards indicate where students go to high school not where they were accepted.

Mrs. Tettonis informed the Board that we are applying to the Summer Boost Program.

Mrs. Tettonis reported that she was honored that Regent Christine Cea and David Frank visited HCCS-SI on April 1st. They were extremely impressed with our schools. They toured our classrooms, spoke our students and visited our soon to be built new building in Staten Island. Also Charles Capetanakis & Christina Tettonis attended a meet and greet at the Charter Center with Chancellor David C. Banks on April 26th. Mrs. Tettonis reported that the Keynote Speaker for 8th Grade graduating class of 2022 will be Wally Green, professional athlete.

Mrs. Tettonis reported that our SED midterm self-evaluation report was submitted on April 22nd. The SED midterm site visits will be in May for both schools.

HCCS-PS lock down for Sunset subway shooting - situation was handled well.

Mrs. Petrakos advised the Board about the loan forgiveness program that is being offered by the New York City Charter Center. It is an opportunity to sign up for this program to provide the staff with assistance for their loan forgiveness. The fee is \$3500 for a year where the staff would have unlimited support when completing their application for forgiveness. Everyone unanimously agreed.

Mrs. Kakleas reported that HCCS-SI is doing well. We are all very excited about the new building. Mrs. Petrakos met with the new president of Holy Trinity community. It was a

productive meeting. He told her that they were on the same page. He also told her that it was a blessing that Hellenic came to them. They would have shut down during the pandemic otherwise.

Mr. Leonardos asked Mrs. Petrakos and Mrs. Portelos for an update on their meeting with the contractors and the construction team concerning HCCS-SI. He asked if we are optimistic on the completion date being on track for January 2023. Mrs. Petrakos is confident with her communication with the contractors that the project will be completed this January. Mr. Leonardos is concerned that they need to make sure to communicate how important the January date is. Mrs. Petrakos expressed to them the sense of urgency that is there and their lack of delivery on a timely fashion will cost the school money. Mr. Leonardos wants to make them understand that if the project is not completed for any reason in January, they will all be penalized.

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 10:40 a.m.

The next Board meeting will be held via Zoom Conferencing on May 26, 2022, at 9:30 a.m.

Harvey Newman
Harvey Newman, Secretary

**MINUTES OF
HELLENIC CLASSICAL CHARTER SCHOOLS**

**SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
HELD ON MAY 26, 2022, 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
Christina Tettonis	Superintendent
Joy Petrakos	Chief of Operations
Natasha Caban	Principal HCCS-PS
Cathy Kakleas	Principal HCCS-SI
Christina Portelos	Director of Finance & Operations
Dena Capetanakis	Director of Community & Engagement
Stacy Kokkoros	Operations Manager
Lisa Taletti	Member of the public- HCCS Grandparent

ABSENT

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 meeting on April 27, 2022. On a motion made by Mr. Newman and seconded by Ms. Lekas, the minutes were unanimously approved.

The second item on the agenda is the adoption of the strategic plan. Dr. Theodoratou motions to adopt the strategic plan. Mrs. Lekas seconded the motion.

Mrs. Tettonis began the discussion by thanking every board member for being present for the NYSED site visit board interview. The New York State Education Department site visit was for three consecutive days between both schools. During those three days part of the process was to interview the Board. In addition, the site visit included teacher and leadership team focus groups and 16 classroom observations via zoom. There was an independent evaluator in addition to the State Education Department present. In regard to the strategic plan, Mrs. Tettonis explained that it is part of the goals that have been set which we are required to implement throughout the charter term. She thanked Mrs. Petrakos for all of the work that she did in preparation for the Board and the State Education Department.

Mr. Leonardos stated to the Board that this was a well-prepared document. It was informative, and he is sure that it must have taken a lot of time and effort to compile the numbers and resources on Mrs. Petrakos' part. He is very proud and happy to see the final product. Mrs. Lekas also added that the summary was superb. Mrs.

Tettonis further informed the Board that the HCCS Key Design Elements and the goals are a part of the Charter. Mr. Capetanakis asked if there is any further discussion on the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

The third item on the agenda is about videoconferencing. Mrs. Petrakos stated that there have been changes to the Open Meetings Law (OML) and it is set to be in effect on June 9, 2022. The Board must have a board resolution and a public hearing. This law will expire in 2024. Mrs. Petrakos reported to the Board that Boards may conduct remote participation during their public sessions. The changes to the OML enable Boards to return to the pre-pandemic rules regarding video-conferencing during meetings or can adopt a resolution that enables remote participation by a select number of Board members under specific circumstances. The Open Meetings Law must provide the public with a physical address for those Board members attending Board meetings via videoconference. This is meant to allow anyone who wants to physically attend a Board meeting to do so by going to any Board members location. Mr. Leonardos asked if you provide a link, is that enough? Mrs. Petrakos answered that it is not. Mrs. Svokos expressed concern about providing their home addresses to the public. Mrs. Petrakos read the new public officers law. Mr. Capetanakis summarized that the members who do not want to give out their physical address will just not count for quorum. He stated that from a practical standpoint there are usually enough Board members for quorum.

Mr. Capetanakis motions to adopt the videoconferencing Open Meetings Law. Mr. Leonardos seconds motion. There being no abstentions the motion carries unanimously.

Mrs. Petrakos brought up that one of the expectations that the Board has is to have a self-evaluation of the Board. It is a three-step process. There is an annual assessment of the Board's performance, and it is treated as a form of ongoing development. The process includes a self-assessment of each individual member of his or her performance. The second step is an evaluation of each individual Board member by the Board Chairman through the review of an annual Board member report card. Third, is a self-evaluation of the Board members performance completed by each board member. The executive committee will provide each Board member with a survey instrument designed to achieve comprehensive assessment of self and the Board. Mr. Capetanakis, Mr. Leonardos and Mr. Newman must create a report card.

Mrs. Tettonis explained to the Board that the State Education Department had two evaluators. One was an independent evaluator that the State Education Department appoints to the school. The other was a liaison from the State Education Department. The evaluators observed 16 classrooms and they asked for feedback, lesson plans and observed classrooms. It was all evidence based reported Mrs. Tettonis. She continued to report that they had focused based interviews with the leadership teams of both schools. They met with the Special Education coordinator, the ELL coordinator as well as the School Board. It was a full three-day review. She stated how extremely proud she is of both principals, Mrs. Caban and Mrs. Kakleas and of course Mrs. Petrakos, the leadership teams and the teachers. The State Education Department observed students in Socratic seminars, they observed mathematics, writing, reading and Greek. We showed evidence of our three key design elements. We were asked many questions. A final report will be provided. Mrs. Kakleas added that the visit went very well. She is very happy and proud of her staff. She reported that we showcased a lot of social emotional learning in their building. It was one of our goals from the beginning of the year. Small groups work was also very evident in the observations. Mrs. Kakleas was pleased.

Mrs. Caban added that the evaluator was very impressed with the work that we are doing in both buildings.

Mrs. Petrakos reported that they wanted to discuss the school's culture. They asked if there is growth in the school's faculty. Succession planning. How do we prevent from echoing each other, etc. She explained how we do echo each other but in such a way where everyone is aligned so it starts from the leadership team. Everyone takes their example from the leaders of the school, and they see the trust that we have between us, the solidarity and similar vision. Our culture is strong. It is also felt with the families through the social emotional

support that is given to the children and through our constant communication. Mrs. Petrakos also told the Board that they were asked about attendance, discipline, and student voice. They wanted to know how we let the students have a voice.

Mrs. Tettonis thanked the Board for taking the time to be interviewed.

Dr. Theodoratou stated that they should have emphasized that the two Board members entrusted their children to attend the school during the interviews.

Mrs. Tettonis stated that they were asked if any of the teacher's children attend the school. They were very pleased to hear that they did.

Mr. Leonardos asked on the status of construction for HCCS-SI. Mrs. Petrakos reported that we are still on track to finish construction in January 2023. Mrs. Portelos added that we are waiting for change orders from the last budget meeting and waiting to get an updated budget from the Jennifer Gerakaris, the architect. Mrs. Petrakos informed the Board that the new security guard in HCCS-SI, who is a former NYC police detective, is working out great with the present security guard, Mr. Rich. The two security guards have a schedule, and they patrol the building. There are cameras and surveillance. She further added that in the future when we will have two buildings, we will need to have a new security plan for visitors as well as revamping arrival and dismissal procedures. For now, we will continue to have the students enter in the morning through Richmond and line them up in the gym and then transfer then into the building and the mobile classrooms. Once we grow a little more and there is a middle school we will need to have two plans. One for the elementary and one for the middle school. Mrs. Petrakos added that she has inquired about bullet proof windows for the new building to the architect and the contractors. Mr. Leonardos added it is sad that we have come to this. Mrs. Svokos stated that security needs to be reevaluated in Staten Island. For the temporary classrooms, there will be security monitoring the mobile classrooms on a rotation. Mrs. Petrakos recommends that as we grow we will need a third security guard. Mr. Leonardos asked if the landlord has any security plans. Mrs. Petrakos stated that she will raise that question. Mrs. Svokos asked if there is a liaison between the school and the police department and whether the security guards are armed. Mrs. Petrakos is not at liberty to answer. Mrs. Petrakos reported that their designated police precincts have reviewed their safety plans that are made public as well as the internal detailed safety plan.

Mrs. Petrakos continued to report in HCCS-PS, we have great systems in place. We hold regular security and office meetings. Parents have been calling since the tragedy this week. The 5th avenue gate will remain locked on school days. The landlord is being asked to use 19th street instead.

Mr. Newman stated that it is a commentary on our society that we have spent this needed time going over security in our schools but ultimately, we are a place where students come to learn in a safe environment. He wanted to bring to the Board's attention an article in the New York Times about balanced literacy and Lucy Caulkins who for the last 20 years has been selling what she deemed the most valuable reading program in the world. After 20 years there was research that showed that there was something much more to be added to her Balanced Literacy program and that is a focus on phonics. There has been research in neuro brain development that has shown that cognition is enhanced in a different segment of the brain when phonics is taught. Mrs. Tettonis stated that this was known to the team many years ago. She explained that we actually incorporated a phonics program over ten years ago because we knew what was most effective for our children. He congratulated the team for being ahead of the curb. Mrs. Tettonis thanked Mrs. Kakleas and Mrs. Caban for their expertise in coming to the realization, several years ago. Students need a period of phonics every single day in addition to the workshop model that we do. She also thanked Mr. Newman for introducing them to Reading Rescue because not every student learns the same. Mr. Newman expressed that education is the heart of what we do.

Mrs. Caban introduced a program that they are planning on implementing school wide for the next school year. She explained that we are looking to target a more robust program. We experienced Teacher's College phonics but we are looking at purchasing Foundations. She continued to report that we have applied for a grant through a neighborhood program for our at-risk populations. Mrs. Caban also informed the Board that they will now be assessing children for dyslexia. This is something very new.

Mrs. Caban continued to report that they have not found a speech therapist. They are actively looking. HCCS-SI has a part time speech teacher. High school acceptance will be released the week of June 6th. High School open houses will be the third week of June.

There being no unfinished business, Mr. Capetanakis asked for a motion to adjourn. The motion to adjourn was made by Mrs. Svokos. Mr. Newman seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 10:35 a.m.

The next Board meeting will be held on June 29, 2022, at 9:30 a.m.

Harvey Newman

Harvey Newman, Secretary