

**MINUTES OF  
HELLENIC CLASSICAL CHARTER SCHOOLS**

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

**Members and Staff – via Zoom Conferencing**

**PRESENT**

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

**ABSENT**

Dean Angelakos	Excused
Nik Mathews	Excused

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

*Harvey Newman*

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Harvey Newman, Secretary

**MINUTES OF  
HELLENIC CLASSICAL CHARTER SCHOOLS**

**SCHOOL BOARD MEETING  
HELD ON AUGUST 29, 2025 AT 9:30 a.m.**

**Members and Staff – via Zoom Conferencing**

**PRESENT**

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

**ABSENT**

Nikolaos Leonardos	Excused
Dean Angelakos	Excused
Nik Mathews	Excused

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 July 9, 2025. On a motion made by Mr. Newman and seconded by Mr. Moustakas, the minutes were unanimously approved.

Mrs. Tettonis states, "we did very well on the state assessments, but it's not the only way to measure our success." Over a thousand applications collectively were submitted in HCCS-PS and HCCS-SI. Mrs. Tettonis continues to state, "I think that's tremendous. I think that it is a testament to the great team that we have." She also reported that we exceeded district, city, and state performance. Congratulations to everyone.

The Superintendent reported on school openings and staff. Mrs. Tettonis reports that we are preparing for the opening of both schools with new staff members. She informed the Board that our Dean of Early Childhood has moved on but we have hired someone new.

Dena Capetanakis is spearheading a new initiative with the New York City Charter Advocacy with Rich Berlin. There is a rally on September 17th. The initiative aims to ensure that everyone knows that charter schools are important for kids.

Mr. Newman asked about the breakdown of application between the two schools, particularly for kindergarten and first grades. Mrs. Petrakos answered that our enrollment is on target for meeting the goal. Our rosters are ready with very few openings available. Mrs. Petrakos stated that we are exhausting our waitlists to fill the handful of openings. Mr. Newman states that what is happening in New York City is quite dramatic. Being steady is a positive sign. Mrs. Petrakos clarified that we are steady in HCCS-PS and we have more applications in HCCS-SI.

More specifically, Mrs. Petrakos added that early childhood and our rising sixth grade have the most applications. Wait lists have been exhausted to meet classroom goals, but there are still enough kindergarten applications to fill spots if families change their minds.

NYC public school enrollment is down to a little over 800,000 from 1.1 million. Charter school enrollment is approaching 100,000. There is a gap of 100,000 students who have left the city. Being steady is a positive sign given the competition and demographics.

HCCS PS & SI's amazing enrollment numbers have already been advertised by Mrs. Petrakos over the summer.

We received congratulatory emails and phone calls. The school's scores have been advertised on social media. The school plans to advertise the scores locally in newspapers in September to coincide with its 20th anniversary. Huge signs were ordered to celebrate the 20th anniversary, saying "Congratulations to us and 20 years of excellence" to be placed outside the building. The schools will also start celebrating at PTA meetings and curriculum nights.

The schools have hired 23 people for the new school year.

Dr. Svokos, Mrs. Lekas, Mrs. Capetanakis, Mr. Moustakas, Mrs. Petrakos and I are working on the 20th-anniversary gala, stated Mrs. Tettonis.

School Board member, Spiros Moustakas is planning a sports memorabilia section to generate revenue, with a special room dedicated to it. They are focusing on procuring high-end items, including Taylor Swift memorabilia. They are also considering non-sports memorabilia items like trips to generate revenue.

Mr. Moustakas had a question about the status of hiring, specifically regarding teacher transitions and departures. Do teachers see Hellenic's scores, but other schools want to hire Hellenic teachers? Mrs. Kakleas answered a teacher we recently hire for the second grade mentioned that their principal was happy they were going to Hellenic because of the school's PD (professional development). Teachers get hired once their resume shows Hellenic because of the training and PD they receive.

Retention is an issue after three years, when teachers become "free agents" for new contracts. It's hard to compete with other schools' offers, but Hellenic offers a better quality of life. Salaries have improved after discussions with the board, making Hellenic more competitive.

Update on the real estate situation: There may be some movement with the building next door. No clarity on the DOE (Department of Education rental assistance) situation, specifically regarding funding. Without receiving any answers regarding the funding received, the team is thinking that the city is paying the proper amount for the sixth grade for the coming school year.

Payments and Charter Term - Waiting for September's payment. Communicating with lawyers regarding the second charter term after the renewal. Added middle school, requested rental assistance for new grades (not part of the original K-5 charter).

Mrs. Petrakos reported that we will begin advertising for open houses soon. She confirms that we will be adding a third kindergarten class in HCCS-PS for the 2026-2027 school year. She is unsure if that applies for kindergarten and 1<sup>st</sup> grades or just kindergarten. She will check her notes and move forward accordingly.

Dr. Svokos reports that invitations have been sent out for the gala. She is desperately seeking auction items. For example, items from home with value, spa certificates, hockey tickets, etc. Need the board to step up and offer items or send out invitations. Marketing campaigns will occur for the next two months. Early bird discount will be available. Trying to get alumni to attend.

Ticketing prices for faculty and alumni will cost money, but the Gala Committee feels they need to have them at the Gala. Prices are below the cost of the event. There is a plea from Mrs. Capetanakis and the Gala Committee (Dr. Svokos, Mrs. Lekas, Mrs. Capetanakis, Mr. Moustakas, Mrs. Petrakos and Mrs. Tettonis) for help to spread the word.

The committee has the following:

- One high-end item from Hermes (PTA)
- Spa basket (Mrs. Lekas)
- Longchamp Tote and make-up bag (Mr. and Mrs. Capetanakis)
- Hockey tickets (Mr. Svokos)
- Jet's tickets (Mr. Capetanakis)
- A gift certificate to AVLEE Restaurant (Mr. Poulos)

There will be an online auction bidding platform so people who don't go to the event can bid on items from home. Mr. Moustakas found a sports memorabilia person who will attend the event. Auction items brought free of charge are the real money makers.

Mrs. Capetanakis will send out save-the-dates if someone forwards the digital invitation.

Mr. Capetanakis asked to go into executive session. Mr. Moustakas seconds the motion. The meeting went to executive session at 10:04 a.m. All in favor. The Board returned from

executive session at 10:29 am.

There being no unfinished business, Mr. Capetanakis asked for a motion to adjourn. The motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Newman. Mr. Moustakas seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 10:30am.

The next Board meeting will be held via Zoom Conferencing on September 18, 2025 at 9:30 a.m.

*Harvey Newman*

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Harvey Newman, Secretary

**MINUTES OF  
HELLENIC CLASSICAL CHARTER SCHOOLS**

**SCHOOL BOARD MEETING  
HELD ON SEPTEMBER 18, 2025 AT 9:30 a.m.**

**Members and Staff – via Zoom Conferencing**

**PRESENT**

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

**ABSENT**

Dean Angelakos	Excused
Nik Mathews	Excused

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

The first item on the agenda is the approval of the minutes of the meeting on August 29, 2025. A correction was made to revise the minutes from August 29, 2025 to Mr. Newman's statement regarding the number of students in charter schools to approximately 150,000. On a motion made by Mr. Newman and seconded by Dr. Svokos, the minutes were unanimously approved.

The financials were not ready today due to the change of meeting date. There was a question raised about receiving the proper amount of Rental Assistance for September 1st. The amount approved was \$2,240,360, which covers grades K-6. This amount includes an increase in enrollment as of July 1st. Commissioner issued an order that the school is eligible for rental assistance starting this year. The order did not mention prior years in dispute.

The litigation over arrears continues, with a potential worst-case scenario of receiving nothing. The remaining issue is retroactivity. The court asked questions and kicked it back to the commissioner. The commissioner could rule with the school, but the city could appeal



again. Mr. Capetanakis expresses a lack of faith in settling the case and suggests reevaluating the situation if it continues for too long. He plans to contact the new person at the DOE who replaced the individuals who previously rejected them.

Mrs. Petrakos informs the Board that we are trialing AI for minute-taking to assist with the workload. She states that the AI settings have been adjusted to only include what is needed.

Mrs. Tettonis thanks teachers, faculty, Mrs. Petrakos, Ms. Caban, Ms. Kakleas and Dr. Svokos for their efforts in the school openings and shared the emotional moments of honorees receiving their gala invitations. The twenty-year anniversary employees who are being honored are Joy Petrakos, Natasha Caban, Cathy Kakleas, Joyce Liappas, Gabrielle Konstantinidis, Anatasia Etimos, Bernabe Sierra, JoAnn Katsaros and William Tinney (Mr. T). The founding Board members Mr. Capetanakis, Mr. Leonardos, Mr. Newman, Ms. Lekas, Dr. Theodoratou and Mr. Mathews will be acknowledged.

The committee decided to comp tickets for the nine honorees and their plus ones.

Ms. Lekas thanked the board and the Friends of Hellenic.

Dr. Svokos reports that the sponsorships for the gala seem to be positive. However, encouraged Board members to continue to engage potential sponsors. Dr. Svokos continued to inform the Board that the committee is meeting weekly until the event via Zoom. She states that more auction items are needed. The committee decided to hire someone to supervise the auction that night. Stacy Kokkoros from PS and Maria Krisilas from SI will be at the check-in desk. Dr. Svokos asked the Board to approach the sponsors from last year to sponsor again this year. Invitations will be sent out.

Dr. Svokos stated that an email was sent to board members requesting them to send out invitations. There is a desire for greater board participation in the event. At minimum \$80,000 has been contributed so far. She continued to report that invitations to the faculty will be sent out this week, followed up next week by the marketing person. There is an October 20th early bird discount to encourage ticket sales. Mrs. Petrakos was asked to send an invitation to landlords of the two schools.

Dr. Svokos continued to report that flowers will be donated. Presentations will be short with a video montage of honorees. There will be alumni involvement. Dimitri Leonardos, an alum from the first graduating class of 2010, will be greeting guests as they arrive at the gala. The goal is to start an alumni group for support and volunteering. Alumni invitations should be sent out with faculty invitations.

Mrs. Petrakos informed the board about the addition of kindergarten and first-grade classes at Hellenic Classical Park Slope, set for September 2026, and emphasized the new law requiring smaller class sizes by 2028. She mentioned that if charter schools need to adhere to this law, the anticipated gains in class size reductions are not significant and indicated that Staten Island would require a fourth class due to high enrollment. Mr. Leonardos inquired about the charter's regulations regarding these changes.

Mr. Leonardos provided an update on the building sale next door, highlighting issues between the partners that could delay progress. Joy Petrakos expressed her thoughts on the situation. We will plan on adding kindergarten and first grade at Hellenic Classical Park Slope by September 2026.

Ms. Caban and Mr. Newman addressed concerns about the declining enrollment in New York City public schools, which has decreased by about 20% in recent years, while charter schools have maintained a steady enrollment. Ms. Caban highlighted the opening of new public schools in the Bay Ridge area, which affects local families. They agreed on the need for transparency regarding these changes.

Mrs. Lekas congratulates everyone on obtaining the Certificate of Occupancy at Staten Island. This is a big deal she said.

There being no unfinished business, Mr. Capetanakis asked for a motion to adjourn. The motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Newman. 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 October 15, 2025 at 9:30 a.m.

*Harvey Newman*

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Harvey Newman, Secretary

**MINUTES OF  
HELLENIC CLASSICAL CHARTER SCHOOLS**

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

**Members and Staff – via Zoom Conferencing**

**PRESENT**

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

**ABSENT**

Harvey Newman	Excused
Dean Angelakos	Excused
Grazia Svokos	Excused
Dr. Liana Theodoratou	Excused

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

Mrs. Petrakos noted that minutes from the previous meeting were not available due to the Jewish holiday of Sukkot. The conversation ended with the Pledge of Allegiance and roll call of all members present.

The Board reviewed financial updates for Park Slope and Staten Island schools, with both locations showing improved performance compared to budget projections.

The team discussed the progress of the audit, which is on track for the November 1st deadline, with plans for an upcoming meeting with the audit committee.

Mrs. Tettonis emphasized the importances of high attendance rates across schools and she attributed to strong efforts by Ms. Caban and Mrs. Kakleas in promoting attendance. Mrs.

Tettonis informed the Board that she held her annual Superintendent data retreat hosted by Mrs. Kakleas on Staten Island. The team reviewed and analyzed various data points and developed action plans. Additionally, they touched on ongoing activities such as observation reports, parent-teacher conferences, and the upcoming gala event celebrating 20 years of HCCS success.

Mrs. Capetanakis reported that faculty and staff are purchasing tickets for the gala celebration. She stated that she will send a reminder to the church presidents regarding their sponsorship for the gala and will continue reaching out to alumni to encourage their participation in the gala. Mrs. Petrakos mentioned that several business partners have confirmed attendance. Mrs. Petrakos highlighted the positive responses from various vendors, including CSBM and Austin and Company, who confirmed their attendance. Mr. Capetanakis acknowledged the importance of vendor participation.

The group discussed a new student information platform called PowerSchools, which is being implemented and trained on.

Mr. Moustakas inquired about a recent staff transition, and Mrs. Tettonis assured him that it was going smoothly.

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 9:50 a.m.

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

*Harvey Newman*

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Harvey Newman, Secretary