

**MINUTES OF
HELLENIC CLASSICAL CHARTER SCHOOLS**

**SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
HELD ON JUNE 29, 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
Christina Tettonis	Superintendent
Joy Petrakos	Chief of Operations
Natasha Caban	Principal HCCS-PS
Cathy Kakleas	Principal HCCS-SI
Anastasia Etimos	Guidance Counselor
Christina Portelos	Director of Finance & Operations
Stacy Kokkoros	Operations Manager
Spiros Moustakas	Guest

ABSENT

Grazia Svokos	Member
Dr. Liana Theodoratou	Member
Bianca Rajpersaud	Member
Dean Angelakos	Member
Nik Mathews	Member
Dena Capetanakis	Director of Community & Engagement

Mr. Capetanakis chaired the meeting. Joy Petrakos acted as recorder.

The first item on the agenda is the approval of the minutes of the meeting on May 26, 2022. On a motion made by Harvey Newman and seconded by Ms. Lekas, the minutes were unanimously approved.

The second action item is the approval of the two budgets. Mr. Leonardos motions to approve the two budgets. Mr. Capetanakis seconds the motion. He asked if there are any questions on the budget. Ms. Petrakos reported that the schools budgets are in good shape and stated the following:

- The teachers received a salary increase of 3%
- We were able to continue with the 401k 3% Board pension match
- We are expecting a 10% increase in health benefits but have not received the updated premiums. The employees will continue to pay 7% of the cost of employee benefits. The school will continue to pay the 93%
- Very happy to continue with the longevity bonuses at both schools for employees who have completed their 10 year anniversary. They will receive a \$3k bonus.

Mrs. Petrakos wanted the Board to understand the impact of the salary employee increases in comparison to last year, 2022, for HCCS-SI which excludes shared employees. The impact will be about \$113k in HCCS-SI and for HCCS-PS which includes the shared employees the impact will be about \$300,000. We are balancing the budget and we are doing well. She asked if there are any questions. Mr. Capetanakis added that the salary increases evened out with the increase in the per pupil allocations.

Mr. Newman asked what are the comparative salaries between the DOE and our schools if any. Mrs. Tettonis answered that she asked Mrs. Petrakos and Mrs. Portelos to create a chart comparing our salaries to the DOE salaries. The reason that she asked for this is to understand if we are compatible with the DOE and to help us have an idea of where our teachers would be. In addition, for various state reporting purposes, Mrs. Petrakos and Mrs. Portelos had created a tracking system to include teacher certifications, college degrees, years of experience and any specialties. The salary comparisons will be included in the same spreadsheet.

Mr. Newman asked if there is any feedback about salary structures on a comparative basis. He asked if we have lost staff to the DOE. Mrs. Tettonis answered that she does not believe that we have. Mrs. Petrakos added that we are also creating our own entry level scale system. She added that we start off our teachers a little under what the teachers start with in the DOE. We cannot sustain what the DOE pays. However, Mrs. Portelos and Mrs. Petrakos stated that they are in the process of creating their own salary scale based on credentials. There are so many variables to consider. Mr. Leonardos asked if this system is compatible with other charter schools. Mrs. Petrakos answered that she is part of a city and a nationwide operations network, and she receives many emails with information. Each school has its own system that is similar to each other. Mr. Newman stated that there is no way you can compare as a financial package on a long term basis because of the pension. The pension is the critical factor. Hearing that it is stable is encouraging.

Mr. Capetanakis asked if there are any further questions or discussions on the motion to pass the two budgets. The motion to pass was voted unanimously.

Mr. Capetanakis stated that we are coming up on our renewal and to please reconnect with Paul, the banker and tell him we want to refinance.

Mr. Capetanakis reported that the superintendent's report was excellent.

Mr. Capetanakis congratulated the HCCS-PS students for coming in second place in the country for the National History Day Fair. He watched the documentary, and he was really impressed. Mrs. Tettonis explained to the Board that the five 6th grade students from HCCS-PS came in 1st place in the City of the New York, 1st place in the State of the New York and 2nd place in the nationals in the theme debate and diplomacy category. Mrs. Caban further explained that the theme this year was Triumph & Tragedy. The Documentary Title was Shirley Chisholm: Championing Domestic Workers through Debate and Diplomacy. Mrs. Tettonis congratulated our new theater director, Per Jansen, and our Dean of Student Development & Greek Cultural Studies, Maria Bonakis, for doing an amazing job along with the five 6th grade students who did the research. This is the first time that we competed in a documentary category.

Mrs. Tettonis thanked her team for a great year. She thanked both principals for a successful year. She thanked Mrs. Petrakos and Ms. Portelos for all of their hard work. She continued to thank Mrs. Etimos for high school admissions. She also thanked administrative staff Stacy Kokkoros and Dena Capetanakis who did not stop with all of the events. The majority of our events were in person this year, she added. We had the American Revolution and Award ceremonies. Everything was fabulous.

Great end of the school year she said. Thank you to Mr. Capetanakis for speaking to our students and giving them their diplomas at 8th grade graduation. We especially thank the Board for sticking by us and giving us moral support. It means so much to us. She continued to report that the children took the Living Environment, Greek Regents and Common Core Algebra Regents exams. She congratulated everyone. Fountas and Pinnell results are in the superintendent's report. The state exams are not released yet.

Mrs. Tettonis reported to the executive board that after the students take the State exams they are sent to a vendor called SME who grade the exams. SME made a mistake this year and then it was corrected. This was brought to everyone's attention including the NYSED and the NYCDOE. She has been assured that it was corrected. It had nothing to do with Hellenic. She thanked her leadership team for an amazing job. The NWEA results are in the report. The annual report will include all of these scores. Everyone worked very hard.

We have summer school programs in both schools funded by Summer Boost NYC. She thanked both principals for putting the programs together. Mr. Leonardos asked if the construction in HCCS-SI will affect the summer school program. Mrs. Petrakos answered that it may. She will put a plan together.

Mr. Capetanakis asked about high school admissions. Mrs. Etimos informed the Board about the changes that were made in the DOE. The goal was to increase the diversity in screened schools. This is the second year that we had students with disabilities, students with low averages and ELL students that were accepted into screened schools. Screened schools used to rely on attendance, high grades and test scores. However, this year, they looked at the 7th and 8th grade report cards. They put the students in different groups and they select them through lottery. All this was done to increase diversity in screened schools, she said. It worked out well for our students. Fifty percent of our students received their first choice. Seven percent received their second choice. We did very well. As far as specialized high schools most of our students do not apply. Three students made it in. Only twenty-two students took the exam. Our students do very well in the Catholic High schools and receive scholarships. Mrs. Etimos answered that our students received \$212k in scholarships. Mrs. Etimos continued to report that it is unclear what direction the new mayor and chancellor will take. There are a lot of changes in store. It is very confusing for parents. We had many families with high academic averages and test scores and did not receive an offer. This is the disadvantage. But it is Mrs. Etimos' opinion that because they are good students they will succeed. Mr. Newman asked how many of those students did not get an offer. Mrs. Etimos answered that 5 out of 52. Mr. Newman said that this is important. Listening to your data it is reflection of the realistic guidance from your team. The process is overwhelming. Fifty percent is bravo to you Mrs. Etimos. He is really impressed. Mrs. Lekas also thanked Etimos. Mrs. Etimos holds the families' hands, and this makes all the difference in the world. You make yourself available said Mrs. Lekas. Mrs. Etimos said that Mrs. Tettonis taught her that they are a team. She said that we have an amazing team. Mrs. Lekas said that she made the difference. Mr. Newman said that he knows that there are 9-12 schools in the city that are considered the most competitive. Of the 50 students that were admitted to their first choice, what are some examples of these school? She answered the following schools: Leon Goldstein, Millennium, Fort Hamilton Honors, Midwood Screened.

Mr. Newman thinks that the fact that these students were accepted into these schools is very important. He compliments Mr. Etimos for adapting. He said that Mrs. Etimos is a resource for HCCS-PS. Mrs. Etimos said that the goal is for our students go to the top schools. Specialized high schools are not for everyone. Mr. Newman asked about the five students that did not make it into their choices. He asked if Mrs. Etimos stays in contact with them over the summer? She answered that she does. She offers two workshops and has virtual office time. She continues to help them. Mrs. Lekas states that this is the key.

Mrs. Petrakos stated that she will be working on the Board evaluations. Mrs. Lekas asked if the Board evaluation will be annual. Mrs. Petrakos answered yes.

Mrs. Petrakos reported that she met with two members of the Holy Trinity church board in regard to the outdoor playground and electricity that may temporarily be needed through the church to supply the school building with power because there will be an interruption of electricity due to the construction. With the new infrastructure Con Edison will need to make upgrades to bring service into the new building. Since the building does not have electricity, we will be connected to the church. The church has a different electrical feed. In regard to the outdoor playground she reported that they have an issue with us updating the playground because they do not have space during the day and they were thinking of creating a new room where the playground is located. Mrs. Petrakos offered them another solution. When the new building is ready they will give the church the present main office or administrative space. We only need a space for an early childhood administrator. Mrs. Petrakos added that if we update the playground, it must be done this summer.

There being no unfinished business, Mr. Capetanakis asked for a motion to adjourn. The motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Newman Mr. Lekas seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 10:21 a.m.

The next Board meeting will be held via Zoom Conferencing on July 21, 2022, at 9:30 a.m.

Harvey Newman

Harvey Newman, Secretary

**MINUTES OF
HELLENIC CLASSICAL CHARTER SCHOOLS**

**SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
HELD ON JULY 21, 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
Dean Angelakos	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
Anastasia Etimos	Guidance Counselor
Christina Portelos	Director of Finance & Operations
Dena Capetanakis	Director of Community & Engagement
Stacy Kokkoros	Operations Manager

ABSENT

Dr. Liana Theodoratou	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 past two meetings on May 26, 2022 and June 29, 2022. On a motion made by Mr. Newman and seconded by Mr. Leonardos, the minutes were unanimously approved.

Mr. Capetanakis moved to amend the minutes from the meeting on May 26, 2022 to reflect that we did not have quorum. There was an action item for the approval of the two budgets. Mr. Leonardos motioned to approve the two school budgets. Mr. Newman second the motion on the adoption of the budgets. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Capetanakis asked for a motion to go to executive session. The motion was made by Mr. Leonardos and Mr. Newman seconded the motion. The meeting went to executive session at 9:36 a.m.

The meeting resumed at 10:19 a.m.

Mrs. Tettonis' described in her report that the children received summer enrichment packets to complete over the summer. The summer packets included reading lists, reading response activities, a school wide activity, math enrichment, supply lists and a school calendar. The teachers with the direction of their instructional leaders collaboratively authored curriculum maps for math, science, social studies, reading

and writing. Our students received their final report cards on the last day of school. The individual NWEA scores were included in their report cards. The Summer Boost Program was offered to students in grades K-8, from July 5, 2022 to August 4, 2022.

In addition, The New York State Education Department will provide the Grades 3-8 English Language Arts (ELA) and mathematics (math) preliminary assessment data to schools prior to the beginning of the 2022-23 school year. Schools will receive their preliminary data in August so it can be used to help inform instructional decisions and to develop individualized learning plans for our students at the start of school. This will also allow parents to receive their student's information much earlier than in past years. This change will have final Grades 3-8 ELA, math, Grades 4 and 8 science, New York State Alternative Assessment (NYSAA), New York State English as a Second Language Achievement Test (NYSESLAT), and Annual Regents Examinations. SED has not released the Math and ELA scores as of date. We have received instructional reports for grades 3-8.

Mrs. Petrakos presented to the Board a proposal to bring in a new system of using finger print identification for clocking in and clocking out every day for the staff in both schools. Mr. Leonardos asked how is it is being currently performed. Mrs. Petrakos explained that the staff physically signs in and out of a binder in the main office. Mr. Leonardos asked what the cost of this new system. Mrs. Petrakos answered that the cost is low. Each machine will cost approximately \$250 and the monthly fee for the software will be \$129 for 100 employees.

Mr. Leonardos stated that he likes it. Mr. Angelakos added that with automation there is concern with security for personal information. He asked if adequate security is provided with this system. Mrs. Petrakos explained that this system will work off of our Wi-Fi which is protected by strong firewall systems that are constantly being updated by a two-step authentication system. Mrs. Petrakos will give the Board a full report on how we are protected. If our Wi-Fi is protected, we are protected. Mrs. Petrakos stated that this system works independently from our payroll company. Only our IT department will be doing any updates on this system. The only staff members that will have access to this system are Mrs. Petrakos, Mrs. Portelos, Mrs. Caban, Mrs. Kakleas and Mrs. Tettonis. They will have a log in and they will be able to track employees to see who is late and who is in or not. It will be a more efficient system rather than just grabbing a binder and see who signed in or not.

Mrs. Caban also added that the only information on this system will be the teacher's name and their fingerprint. This system is not connected to the payroll company.

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 10:30 a.m.

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

Harvey Newman

Harvey Newman, Secretary

**MINUTES OF
HELLENIC CLASSICAL CHARTER SCHOOLS**

**SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
HELD ON AUGUST 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
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
Dena Capetanakis	Director of Community & Engagement
Stacy Kokkoros	Operations Manager

ABSENT

Dr. Liana Theodoratou	Member
Bianca Rajpersaud	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 July 21, 2022. On a motion made by Mr. Newman and second by Mr. Leonardos, the minutes were unanimously approved.

Mrs. Tettonis stated that we are preparing for a new school year and she is very proud of both school teams. She made the Board aware that the YMCA is no longer going to be operating in HCCS-PS. We were surprised by this news given the late notice, however, Mrs. Petrakos already went into action and we will be starting our own after school program. Our families have been notified and pleased we will be coordinating our own program.

Next, Mrs. Tettonis reported that there is a new phase of the pandemic. Many of the restrictions have been lifted and there are new guidelines. We are excited for a more back to normal opening. Our new plan, which was approved by our legal team, is posted on our website.

She also reported that the NYSED assessment scores have been sent to the schools but they have been embargoed; therefore, they cannot be discussed. There are no comparisons since they have not been made public.

The board was informed that there are vacancies in both schools for teaching positions and we are actively looking for teachers. Mrs. Tettonis explained that she is confident that we will fill the vacancies. As of date, the following positions needed to be filled: HCCS-PS has (2) math; (1) special education, (1) ESL and (2) teacher assistant vacancies. HCCS-SI has (1) classroom-4th grade, (1) Greek, (1) Special Ed and (1) physical education vacancy.

Mr. Newman stated he is concerned since we are a week away from school opening. Mrs. Caban answered that it has been difficult throughout the city. Mrs. Kakleas answered that vaccinations are also a factor. Mrs. Petrakos added that several positions require special qualifications and charter school salaries are slightly lower than what the DOE is offering. Mr. Newman suggests that we revisit this. Mrs. Petrakos stated that we are doing our best within our budget. Mr. Newman explained that we are only as good as our teachers and this is a major priority. Mrs. Petrakos stated that the only challenge she would have with increasing entry level salaries is that we need to ensure veteran teacher salaries are also adjusted accordingly.

Mr. Newman answered that a plan must be created to address this. We must have an understanding of what the scope of our need is and create budgets moving forward. We have great leadership, and we need great classroom teachers. Mrs. Svokos added that she agrees and she understands that we would need to shift every salary up and figure what the salaries are and figure if we are underpaying the veteran teachers. Mrs. Tettonis added that there is a shortage of teachers nationwide. This is also a factor. Mr. Newman stated that this is discouraging talent from going into the teaching profession.

Mr. Capetanakis suggests that they discuss this matter after the Board's weekly construction meetings on Fridays. Mrs. Petrakos recommends that the financial team meet to brainstorm. Mrs. Petrakos also stated that sustainability is a matter that needs to be discussed. Mrs. Lekas agrees and suggests that we revisit fundraising.

Mrs. Tettonis added the training a teacher receives while working at Hellenic is superior. We have an excellent system in place to train new teachers. Even if a trained teacher decides to relocate to a different school, in a different state, it is comforting to know that children will benefit from highly skilled teachers we trained at HCCS.

Mr. Newman stated that our benefits package will never compete with the DOE. We have to figure out how to market ourselves to attract new teachers and to keep them as long as we can. Mrs. Petrakos is optimistic that we will find great teachers.

Mrs. Capetanakis reported that the galas for both schools are set for April 2023. Save the dates will be sent out soon.

Mrs. Petrakos let the Board know that over the summer they had a visit from Mr. Spiros Moustakas with his family in Park Slope. They toured the school. He is eager to join the

Board. Mr. Capetanakis asked if there are any objections to him joining the Board. There are none.

The lawsuit against SED has been filed for the miscalculation concerning the PPA for a prior year. It was also discussed that the DOE is disallowing the full amount of rental reimbursement for HCCS-SI that we are entitled to. There have been discussions with our legal team and plan on sending the DOE legal notice.

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

The next Board meeting will be held via Zoom Conferencing on September 29, 2022 at 9:30 a.m.

Harvey Newman
Harvey Newman, Secretary

**MINUTES OF
HELLENIC CLASSICAL CHARTER SCHOOLS**

**SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
HELD ON SEPTEMBER 29, 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
Dr. Grazia Svokos	Member
Spiros Moustakas	Prospective 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
Myra Alejandra Aguilar	HCCS-SI Parent
Alexia Parent	HCCS-SI Parent

ABSENT

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 meeting on August 26, 2022. On a motion made by Mr. Newman and seconded by Dr. Theodoratou, the minutes were unanimously approved.

Mr. Capetanakis congratulated the superintendent for her thorough report. He asked if anyone had any questions on her report. Ms. Lekas asked if all the vacant positions were filled in the two schools. Mrs. Tettonis responded that we are fully staffed, and she wanted to thank Mrs. Caban, Mrs. Kakleas Mrs. Petrakos and the whole team for an incredible job. In HCCS-PS we only have one vacancy for a teaching assistant. We are actively looking to fill the position. We are very pleased with our selections. She thanked everyone for their support. She mentioned that an added benefit to our staff is that we offer robust professional development for all

teachers. We also have our Deans of Academics that provide the professional development for all the new hires.

Mr. Capetanakis stated that given what is going on in academia today the fact that we found teachers and we are happy with our selections, is tremendous. Mr. Capetanakis asked how many students are registered for the high school exam prep course that we offer. Mrs. Caban responded that we are still receiving permission slips. We have about 10-15 students enrolled as of today. The test prep begins on October 3rd. Mrs. Bonakis, our Dean of Student Development & Greek Cultural Studies and Mrs. Etimos, our Dean of Guidance are both overseeing the program. Mr. Wong, our 8th Grade Common Core Algebra Teacher, is teaching the math portion and Ms. Wright, our 7th grade ELA Teacher is teaching the reading portion. The test is scheduled for December 3rd or 4th. The SHSAT test date has not been confirmed yet. The TACHTS test is scheduled for November 5th. Today will be our first High School meeting for 8th grade families geared specifically for the private high school application process. The next meeting will be for the public school application process. They are two very different processes. Mr. Capetanakis informed everyone that the Board has authorized test prep courses to all students for free. It is important for the Board to help the students. Mrs. Caban added that in previous years we used Kaplan for test prep but we recently had our own staff performing the test prep as we have found that our own staff is more effective. Mr. Moustakas added that it is evident through the results. He is very excited.

Mr. Capetanakis stated that he toured the HCCS-SI building with the Staten Island Borough President last week when he granted the school \$10k grant. He also stated that the new building looks awesome. Mrs. Petrakos updated the Board that the construction in HCCS-SI is on schedule. There were a few delays regarding deliveries, which was a nationwide issue. Moving forward, the fence pricing has been received. The brick work looks great. It is underway. The building is moving along nicely. It is gorgeous, said Mrs. Petrakos. The inside is also shaping up well. The room wall partitions are up. We are on track for a January completion and expecting to move in during the February break.

Dr. Svokos asked if we are planning an opening day. Mrs. Petrakos answered that Mr. Leonardos had an idea to do a ribbon cutting for the new building to share with the Board and the whole community.

Mr. Capetanakis asked if the mobile classrooms, which are amazing, he added, if they can be easily removed. Mrs. Petrakos answered that they can be removed within a couple of days. It involves the actual removal of the classrooms and then the electrical, plumbing, etc. She added security is there at all times. The parking lot is closed off so there is no movement when school is in session. It really has worked out well. There is staff watching the students as they move from classrooms to gym, to lunch and back to the classrooms. Mrs. Tettonis added that Mrs. Petrakos will have a whole transition plan in place for how the students will be moved into the new building once it is ready to be occupied. Mrs. Petrakos will have a plan in place and will work with Mrs. Kakleas and the team to make sure that it happens seamlessly. Mrs. Petrakos added that after the mobile units are gone the gravel in the parking lot will be removed and the parking lot will be new.

Mrs. Petrakos reminded the Board that the consultants meet on site every Tuesday. The minutes are distributed and the whole team knows the status of the project. It is an incredible team.

Mrs. Tettonis added that we had successful in person Curriculum Night events. Parents were able to see their children's classrooms. In HCCS-SI the parents were able to visit the mobile units and were able to see how amazing they are.

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

There being no unfinished business, Mr. Capetanakis asked to go into executive session. Mr. Newman seconds the motion. The meeting went to executive session at 9:50 a.m. There were no votes taken during executive session.

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

Harvey Newman
Harvey Newman, Secretary

**MINUTES OF
HELLENIC CLASSICAL CHARTER SCHOOLS**

**SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
HELD ON OCTOBER 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
Bianca Rajpersaud	Member
Spiros Moustakas	Prospective Member
Christina Tettonis	Superintendent
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

Dr. Liana Theodoratou	Member
Dean Angelakos	Member
Nik Mathews	Member
Joy Petrakos	Chief of Operations

Mr. Capetanakis chaired the meeting. Christina Portelos 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 September 29, 2022. On a motion made by Mr. Leonardos and seconded by Ms. Svokos, the minutes were unanimously approved.

The second item on the agenda is the approval of the Financial Policies and Procedures Manual on the agenda. Mr. Capetanakis entertains a motion to adopt the approval of the Financial Policies and Procedures Manual. Mr. Newman seconds the motion. There being no discussion the motion carries unanimously.

There being no unfinished business, Mr. Capetanakis asked to go into executive session. Mrs. Svokos seconds the motion. The meeting went to executive session at 9:46 a.m.

Meeting resumes at 10:30 a.m.

Mr. Leonardos informed the public that there were no votes were taken during the executive session.

Mrs. Tettonis reported to the Board that HCCS-PS and HCCS-SI exceeded the NYS and NYC Exam in both Districts in both ELA and Mathematics. She applauded both leadership teams, the parents and especially the students for all of their hard work.

Mr. Leonardos asked for an analysis of how the scores compared to pre-pandemic. Mrs. Tettonis will prepare this for him. But she stressed that the pandemic did affect the students and there are gaps.

Mrs. Kakleas reported that the open houses were very successful. Applications are coming in every day. She continued to report that the construction is moving forward. Tiles are being installed in the hallway and the bathrooms and windows are being installed. Turf is also being installed in the playground. The church has rented a lift to replace the gym lights.

Mrs. Tettonis added that HCCS-PS will be going to Greece twice this year. The National History Fair students will be going in January to research Dr. Georgiou Papanikolaou. The Ancient Greek Theatre Club (AGT) will be going in February to research Antigone which they will be performing in May. We are very excited, she added. Mrs. Tettonis will be attending the NHD trip in January.

Mrs. Caban reported that we are preparing for high school admissions. We have already had two high school eighth grade meetings with the families and one for the seventh grade families. This year the criteria has changed for acceptances. Students will be put in tiers based on their averages. Fifteen percent is based on averages and that is how they will receive their high school acceptances. Our students are being prepared for the SHSHAT exam in November. They are also taking the TACHS exam as well. Transcripts are being put together. She believes that most of our families will be leaning towards the private sector. Mrs. Caban showed the slides from the high school meeting showing the Board the breakdown of high school acceptances. Twenty-two students have been taking the prep course. Students are preparing brag sheets for the teachers to write their recommendation letters.

Mrs. Caban added that one of the second grade teachers resigned and we are now transitioning in a new teacher into the position. We will make the transition smooth for the children.

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

The next Board meeting will be held via Zoom Conferencing on November 22, 2022, at 9:30 a.m.

Harvey Newman
Harvey Newman, Secretary

**MINUTES OF
HELLENIC CLASSICAL CHARTER SCHOOLS**

**SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
HELD ON NOVEMBER 22, 2022 AT 9:30 a.m.**

Members and Staff – via Zoom Conferencing

PRESENT

Charles Capetanakis	Chairman
Harvey Newman	Secretary
Effie Lekas	Member
Dr. Liana Theodoratou	Member
Bianca Rajpersaud	Member
Spiros Moustakas	Prospective 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

Nikolaos Leonardos	Treasurer
Grazia Svokos	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.

Mr. Capetanakis motions to revise the agenda to add a new agenda item. The acceptance of Spiros Moustakas as a Board member. Mrs. Lekas, seconds the motion. All in favor. Motion carries unanimously.

The first item on the agenda is the approval of the minutes of the meeting on October 26, 2022. On a motion made by Mr. Newman and seconded by Dr. Theodoratou, the minutes were unanimously approved.

Mr. Capetanakis explained that the Board previously accepted a Board resolution to acquire a new facility at HCCS-Staten Island and that a written resolution was required by NYSED. Mrs. Petrakos circulated the Board Resolution to the Board. Mr. Capetanakis motions to adopt the resolution. Mr. Newman seconds the motion. Mr. Capetanakis asked Mrs. Petrakos to explain the request from NYSED. Mrs. Petrakos reported that we received notice from Dr. Lisa

Long, Executive Director of the NY State Education Department asking about the new facility. Dr. Long sent an email stating that we are required to submit a charter revision pertaining to the acquisition of the new facility. Part of the process to submit this charter revision is a Board resolution that states the summary of the plan and the approval. The resolution states that we had an open meeting on September 29, 2020 approving the Bond financing. There were six Board members present and a quorum was declared. The charter revision will be submitted by the deadline, December 1, 2022. After SED receives and reviews the charter revision request, they will come in to inspect the facility to make the official approval. The facility has to be officially approved by NYSED in order to occupy the premises. This is a non-material change because we are not moving out of the district or going to another borough. Mr. Capetanakis asked if there is any further discussion. There being no further discussion the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Capetanakis motions for the approval of a new school board member, Spiros Moustakas to join the HCCS School Board. Dr. Theodoratou seconds the motion. There being no discussion the motion carries unanimously. Mr. Moustakas accepts. He is honored and looks forward to working with everyone in the future. Mrs. Tettonis congratulates Mr. Moustakas.

Mrs. Tettonis thanks Mr. Capetanakis for joining them at the Fun Run. It was a wonderful event she states. She wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Mrs. Tettonis reported that students are thriving, teachers are working hard and everyone is getting ready for the renewal. She has a meeting with Michael Kohlhagen from CEI to discuss both HCCS-PS and HCCS-SI renewals. It is a tedious process that needs to begin now. The submission of the applications are due on August 16, 2023. She expects onsite visits and lots of cooperation from everyone. She asked if there were any questions. There were none.

Mrs. Tettonis further reported that they are having a leadership team retreat on December 1st, 2022 for half a day in HCCS-PS for both schools. This includes the instructional leadership team. They will meet in HCCS-PS and they will have data drill downs.

Mrs. Tettonis informed the Board that in her report she included data that was requested by Mr. Leonardos from the previous Board meeting. He specifically asked for a comparison between 2019-2022. She reported that there are significant gaps between 2019-2022. She cautioned the Board when looking at this report you cannot compare each year because of the pandemic. She said to please keep in mind the different home circumstances that each child must have had. In addition to that there was no testing in 2020. It is difficult to compare. She expressed the significant gap. The good news is that she is very proud of the student subgroup data of 2022 for State assessments for black, Hispanic and English Language Learners. We have exceeded every single section. She is really proud of the work.

Mrs. Tettonis reminded the Board that there are interim assessments three times a year. The students have completed the first interim assessment (NWEA). It is a growth scale. These results are also included in the report by grade and by class.

She wants everyone to know there are many things happening in both schools. Both schools will be having their Holiday Spectacular Shows on December 22, 2022. Each school will be having two performances. One will be at 9:30 a.m. and the second at 1:30 p.m.

A newly hired Greek dance teacher will begin in Park Slope on Monday, December 5th, 2022. His name is Dimitri Carabas.

AGT and NHDF have begun preparing for their research and trips to Greece. Dena Capetanakis, Maria Bonakis and Mrs. Tettonis are going to Greece with the students in January. Maria Bonakis and Per Jansen are going in February.

OXI Day Performances and Parent Teacher Conferences were both very successful.

There are two galas coming up in April for both schools. Dena Capetanakis and both PTA's are working hard.

The SED report was submitted on November 1st which included the HCCS Financial Audits.

There being no unfinished business, Mr. Capetanakis asked for a motion to adjourn. The motion to adjourn was made by Dr. Theodoratou. Mr. Newman seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 a.m.

The next Board meeting will be held via Zoom Conferencing on December 21, 2022 at 9:30 a.m.

Harvey Newman

Harvey Newman, Secretary

**MINUTES OF
HELLENIC CLASSICAL CHARTER SCHOOLS**

**SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
HELD ON NOVEMBER 22, 2022 AT 9:30 a.m.**

Members and Staff – via Zoom Conferencing

PRESENT

Charles Capetanakis	Chairman
Harvey Newman	Secretary
Effie Lekas	Member
Dr. Liana Theodoratou	Member
Bianca Rajpersaud	Member
Spiros Moustakas	Prospective 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

Nikolaos Leonardos	Treasurer
Grazia Svokos	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.

Mr. Capetanakis motions to revise the agenda to add a new agenda item. The acceptance of Spiros Moustakas as a Board member. Mrs. Lekas, seconds the motion. All in favor. Motion carries unanimously.

The first item on the agenda is the approval of the minutes of the meeting on October 26, 2022. On a motion made by Mr. Newman and seconded by Dr. Theodoratou, the minutes were unanimously approved.

Mr. Capetanakis explained that the Board previously accepted a Board resolution to acquire a new facility at HCCS-Staten Island and that a written resolution was required by NYSED. Mrs. Petrakos circulated the Board Resolution to the Board. Mr. Capetanakis motions to adopt the resolution. Mr. Newman seconds the motion. Mr. Capetanakis asked Mrs. Petrakos to explain the request from NYSED. Mrs. Petrakos reported that we received notice from Dr. Lisa

Long, Executive Director of the NY State Education Department asking about the new facility. Dr. Long sent an email stating that we are required to submit a charter revision pertaining to the acquisition of the new facility. Part of the process to submit this charter revision is a Board resolution that states the summary of the plan and the approval. The resolution states that we had an open meeting on September 29, 2020 approving the Bond financing. There were six Board members present and a quorum was declared. The charter revision will be submitted by the deadline, December 1, 2022. After SED receives and reviews the charter revision request, they will come in to inspect the facility to make the official approval. The facility has to be officially approved by NYSED in order to occupy the premises. This is a non-material change because we are not moving out of the district or going to another borough. Mr. Capetanakis asked if there is any further discussion. There being no further discussion the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Capetanakis motions for the approval of a new school board member, Spiros Moustakas to join the HCCS School Board. Dr. Theodoratou seconds the motion. There being no discussion the motion carries unanimously. Mr. Moustakas accepts. He is honored and looks forward to working with everyone in the future. Mrs. Tettonis congratulates Mr. Moustakas.

Mrs. Tettonis thanks Mr. Capetanakis for joining them at the Fun Run. It was a wonderful event she states. She wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Mrs. Tettonis reported that students are thriving, teachers are working hard and everyone is getting ready for the renewal. She has a meeting with Michael Kohlhagen from CEI to discuss both HCCS-PS and HCCS-SI renewals. It is a tedious process that needs to begin now. The submission of the applications are due on August 16, 2023. She expects onsite visits and lots of cooperation from everyone. She asked if there were any questions. There were none.

Mrs. Tettonis further reported that they are having a leadership team retreat on December 1st, 2022 for half a day in HCCS-PS for both schools. This includes the instructional leadership team. They will meet in HCCS-PS and they will have data drill downs.

Mrs. Tettonis informed the Board that in her report she included data that was requested by Mr. Leonardos from the previous Board meeting. He specifically asked for a comparison between 2019-2022. She reported that there are significant gaps between 2019-2022. She cautioned the Board when looking at this report you cannot compare each year because of the pandemic. She said to please keep in mind the different home circumstances that each child must have had. In addition to that there was no testing in 2020. It is difficult to compare. She expressed the significant gap. The good news is that she is very proud of the student subgroup data of 2022 for State assessments for black, Hispanic and English Language Learners. We have exceeded every single section. She is really proud of the work.

Mrs. Tettonis reminded the Board that there are interim assessments three times a year. The students have completed the first interim assessment (NWEA). It is a growth scale. These results are also included in the report by grade and by class.

She wants everyone to know there are many things happening in both schools. Both schools will be having their Holiday Spectacular Shows on December 22, 2022. Each school will be having two performances. One will be at 9:30 a.m. and the second at 1:30 p.m.

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There being no unfinished business, Mr. Capetanakis asked for a motion to adjourn. The motion to adjourn was made by Dr. Theodoratou. Mr. Newman seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 a.m.

The next Board meeting will be held via Zoom Conferencing on December 21, 2022 at 9:30 a.m.

Harvey Newman

Harvey Newman, Secretary

**MINUTES OF
HELLENIC CLASSICAL CHARTER SCHOOLS**

**SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
HELD ON December 21, 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
Bianca Rajpersaud	Member
Dean Angelakos	Member
Spiros Moustakas	Member
Christina Tettonis	Superintendent
Joy Petrakos	Chief of Operations
Natasha Caban	Principal HCCS-PS
Dena Capetanakis	Director of Community & Engagement
Stacy Kokkoros	Operations Manager

ABSENT

Dr. Liana Theodoratou	Member
Nik Mathews	Member
Cathy Kakleas	Principal HCCS-SI
Christina Portelos	Director of Finance & Operations

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

The first item on the agenda is the approval of the minutes of the meeting on November 22, 2022. On a motion made by Mr. Newman and seconded by Mrs. Lekas, the minutes were unanimously approved.

Mr. Capetanakis congratulated Mrs. Tettonis on her thorough Superintendent report. He asked the Board if there were any questions. There were none. Mr. Capetanakis informed the Board that the annual holiday party that was held on Friday, December 16th, 2022 had great energy. Mr. Leonardos added that there were so many new faces along with the old faces. Mrs. Tettonis thanked them both for coming.

Mr. Newman brought to the Board's attention that social media has featured the drop in school enrollments and waitlists. There are charter schools that have closed because of drop in enrollment as well as other various reasons. He said that the best schools are hemorrhaging and there is a lot of speculations as to why. Mr. Newman suggests there should be a discussion to strategize to reach out to the parents that are in these schools that are phasing out and are in serious need of help. He asks that we think about this for the next school year and how we can reach out to these parents. Mr. Leonardos

adds that this might be an opportunity to annex other schools. Mr. Newman thinks we should conduct surveys to see what is going on. He would not want to take over another school but he says we are here to serve the community. Mr. Leonardos states that if we have an opportunity to do something and we don't take it we will regret it. Mr. Newman recommended that we reach out to the appropriate officials and act rapidly. Mr. Newman asked Mrs. Tettonis what her opinion is.

Mrs. Tettonis stated that she does not know which schools are closing and it would be useful to call the Charter Center to get the information. Mr. Capetanakis suggests we reach out to Erik Joerss. He does their government relations. Mr. Capetanakis added that the Governor is going to put in her budget that the cap should be lifted. Mr. Newman stated that if we know that charters are declining, and we know that public schools are declining he believes this will put pressure on the UFT to further go against charter schools. He believes that they will become more aggressive than ever addressing charter schools. The city is in serious trouble with their budgets. The biggest budget in the city is the public school system. If they haven't cut the school system yet they will have to cut it. Mr. Moustakas asked if there will be capacity issues now that students will be leaving charter schools and potentially going into the public school system. Mr. Newman answered that they have changed construction plans on school buildings because of the decrease in population. Mr. Moustakas added that this is interesting with the influx of immigrants that have arrived. Mr. Newman also states that the team understand what breakage means. When you lose ten percent of your students it becomes very hard to sustain a budget in a school. Also, this decline has been masked by COVID money.

Mrs. Petrakos states that in previous conversations they have heard about this challenge in District 15 and how many schools are losing at least 13-15% of their student body. She wants our parents to know that in HCCS-SI we have zero decline and a waitlist and in HCCS-PS we have a two percent decline in only kindergarten and that is because there was a mass exodus of families that left the City and State of New York with the pandemic. At the beginning of the year at HCCS-PS we were down about eighteen students. We have been recruiting and doing everything we could to bring in students. Today, we are registering a new student. We are down two percent in kindergarten only. Mr. Newman states that is close to \$200,000.00. Mr. Leonardos asked if the two percent was of the total population of the school or of just the kindergarten classes. Mrs. Petrakos answered that it is of the total population. We need to register about ten more students. Grades 1st through 8th are full with a waitlist.

Mrs. Petrakos continued to report that many people have moved and we have exhausted the wait list. We currently have families asking to come in now. Families outside of the district are now wanting to come in.

Mr. Newman stated that people of the lowest levels are taking a long term view of the education for their children and opting out of the city. This is one of the theories of what is happening. People are exiting the city because of what is happening system wide.

Mr. Leonardos asked if this is coincidence. He added if this is because of the economy or because of the pandemic. Mr. Newman answered that he was at a meeting where this was a discussion. District 15 schools are hemorrhaging but real estate is going up. One of the interesting theories are that the uncertainty of leadership in NYC and the ability of parents to make plans had a severe impact on their future planning. Parents want to move to a state where there is a certainty that their child will be in a school all day.

Mr. Leonardos takes the position of what can we do to hold them and to bring more students in.

Mr. Newman says that this is also a marketing issue. We should get out a message that we are a PreK through 8th grade school. We need to say, look at where our graduates went and promote that. Your child will be taken care of. When parents have that feeling they will stay in our schools.

Mr. Petrakos agrees with Mr. Newman's comment about marketing and informed the Board that we have increased our marketing for all of the reasons being discussed today. We are now advertising in Brooklyn Parent Magazine, which we were not doing in the past and we are still advertising in the El Specialito, which is the local Spanish newspaper. We are hoping to receive new applicants starting in January of students that have migrated here. At our open house meetings, we emphasize that we have a robust program, that we are a Pre-K – 8th grade school and have an amazing ESL team. We are trying, we hear you and we agree with the Board.

Mr. Leonardos asked if we can introduce an earlier registration for Park Slope? Offer an incentive that if you register now you will automatically get a seat for next year. Mrs. Petrakos answered that we take students at any time of the year if there is an open spot. Mrs. Petrakos informed the Board that students receive a seat through a lottery which takes place after April 1st. Mr. Leonardos is recommending to do an early decision. Mrs. Petrakos further explained that the lottery generates names.

Mr. Newman asked Mrs. Tettonis to put together a strategy that you think will work and present it to the Board. Mrs. Tettonis states that this is great and we need to be a team and strategize together.

Mr. Leonardos asked what happens if we are short \$200,000.00 at the end of the year? Mrs. Petrakos answered that we report every two months to the State. This way the correct numbers are reported. At the end of the year we do a reconciliation report if there are any discrepancies of the ins and outs we go back where they owe us. At the end of the year we reconcile. Mr. Leonardos asks if we think it will be a wash. Mrs. Petrakos answered that it would be for the months of July-September where there would be a discrepancy. In that period of time we bill for 498 students after that the numbers were corrected.

Mrs. Tettonis, states that right now we contracted with CEI for our renewal application. On January 3rd, we are meeting with the team that was put together for us. It might be a good idea to ask the team if they have any new ideas for recruitment. Mr. Newman asked if all of our Pre-K students get a seat in our Kindergarten class. Mrs. Petrakos said yes they matriculate to Kindergarten.

Mrs. Tettonis reported that HCCS-SI has a robust waitlist, and every class is full. We will reach out to the charter schools that are closing and have those students apply here. She will come up with a plan and present it and the next Board meeting.

Mr. Moustakas added that one of the keys is in the report and it will take some research and some legwork to get our arms around the variables with our own solutions that are contributing to the conditions that currently exist and we foresee. He asked if we can forecast the influx of incoming immigrant population.

Mr. Newman asked Mrs. Petrakos if we are getting applications from Red Hook? Mrs. Petrakos answered that she is part of a COO group and in discussion she receives information that the immigrants are applying everywhere. All schools are getting a good amount. She cannot give a specific number.

Mrs. Svokos added that a simple brochure in both English and Spanish that educates not only about us but about the process. As a child of immigrants, it is very difficult to navigate the NYC public school system. She recommends that we hand it out to our parents to give out to friends and family. Also, contact reporters that this is a story. We are successful and this is how we are doing it. Mr. Newman loves this idea. Mrs. Petrakos states that she will ask our ESL coordinator Ms. Stephanie Khoury to create a brochure in English and Spanish.

Mrs. Tettonis stressed her concern that we still do not have a science teacher. We have exhausted every possible opportunity. She has networked, they have advertised and have spoken to anyone and everyone. They have reached out to universities. Teacher recruitment is an issue right now. We have received few resumes. It is a talent issue. Mr. Capetanakis informed Mrs. Tettonis that this is going on in every industry. Mr. Moustakas suggested reaching out to retirees. Mrs. Tettonis said if we know of anyone to please let her know. Mr. Leonardos suggested looking for a part time person. This might make the position more appealing. Mrs. Tettonis also informed the Board that our librarian moved to New Jersey. Mr. Newman asked if you looked at your present staff and if you have someone who you think would be interested and if they are to incentivize their doing it. Mrs. Tettonis said that we did this with Math. The problem is that middle school science is not something that everyone wants to do. Mrs. Bader and Ms. Mousouroulis have been filing in the gap. This cannot be sustained. Mrs. Rajpersaud suggested that we partner with CUNY schools to find a science teacher. Mrs. Tettonis states that we have reached out to Brooklyn College. She is willing to reach out to CSI. Mrs. Tettonis will also be reaching out to Buffalo.

Mrs. Lekas asked if there is a date for the opening for HCCS-SI. Mrs. Petrakos answered that there is no date set as of yet.

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 9:50 a.m.

The next Board meeting will be held via Zoom Conferencing on January 26, 2023 at 9:30 a.m.

Harvey Newman
Harvey Newman, Secretary

**MINUTES OF
HELLENIC CLASSICAL CHARTER SCHOOLS**

**SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
HELD ON JANUARY 26, 2023 AT 9:30 a.m.**

Members and Staff – via Zoom Conferencing

PRESENT

Nikolaos Leonardos	Treasurer
Effie Lekas	Member
Dr. Liana Theodoratou	Member
Grazia Svokos	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
Christina Portelos	Director of Finance & Operations
Stacy Kokkoros	Operations Manager

ABSENT

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

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

The first item on the agenda is the approval of the minutes of the meeting on December 21, 2022. On a motion made by Mr. Moustakas and seconded by Mrs. Svokos, the minutes were unanimously approved.

Mrs. Tettonis wished everyone a happy new year. She thanked Mrs. Lekas for her annual tradition of donating “vasilopites” to each class. The students loved it. She continued by thanking Mr. Moustakas for attending the annual holiday show along with NYSED Executive Director, Dr. Lisa Long. She asked Mr. Moustakas for his impressions.

Mr. Moustakas stated that as a father of a little girl who has been to a couple of these holiday shows he was very impressed with the choreography and the overall talent and unique songs that every grade had. He liked the overall way it was professionally done. It was a unique experience and he recommends everyone to attend a show in the future. You can tell the amount of work that the teachers put into it, he added. It was evident from the enthusiasm of

the audience. He looks forward to seeing them every year. He also stated that he was able to speak to Dr. Long and he believes that she had similar words of congratulations on how the school was performing. He mentioned that we had one question to Dr. Long about when SED would come do an audit and she did not have a specific date. It was great that we had the opportunity to speak to her after the performance and to make the personal connection.

Mrs. Tettonis added that it was a huge honor to have both Mr. Moustakas and Dr. Long at the show. She congratulated both principals and both teams for their hard work on putting the shows together. She informed the Board that HCCS-PS and HCCS-SI had two shows on the same day and that she and Mrs. Petrakos went to both campuses on that day to see the shows.

She continued to report that Mr. Capetanakis will be hosting a Staten Island Delegation Day in HCCS-SI on Friday, February 10, 2023. More information will follow. She thanked Mrs. Kakleas for hosting this event.

The biggest news is that we have started preparing the charter renewal. Within that she reported that we hired Empire Charter Consultants through an introduction from CEI. Every week, Mrs. Tettonis, Mrs. Petrakos, Mrs. Caban, Mrs. Kakleas and the leadership team will meet with the consultants to prepare the two applications. The applications will be submitted in August. By the end of June, the final draft will be ready for the Board to approve. The site visits will be in the Fall of 2023. In preparation for the applications, she shared in HCCS-SI we were number one in English Language Arts statewide for charters schools that only tested one grade statewide. That is amazing. There were twelve schools that tested statewide, and HCCS-SI was number one. In addition, based on test scores in Staten Island, we were the highest performing school in District 31. This is based on third grade scores only. HCCS-SI also scored 10% higher in Math and 14% higher in ELA.

Mrs. Tettonis reported that in Park Slope we tested grades 3rd – 8th and we scored higher than the district and the city in both ELA and Math. The only other charter schools that scored higher than us was Success, ICahn and the Classical Schools. We are now prepping students for the state exams that are coming up in the Spring. Mr. Leonardos asked if other schools scored higher than HCCS. Mrs. Tettonis answered that she would get him that information.

Mrs. Tettonis further reported that at the previous school board meeting, Mr. Newman had asked to come up with a strategy for student recruitment. We have been working nonstop on it and it is included in her report. We have hired Stephanie Stroud full time. She now has a dual role as ESL Coordinator and Operations Assistant and has been working on these efforts. Mrs. Tettonis stressed that we have been working diligently to make sure our recruitment efforts remain strong.

Since the last school board meeting, HCCS-PS has admitted 4 new students in Park Slope. There are 11 seats available.

Mrs. Tettonis thanked Ms. Rajpersaud for her assistance with the battery storage facility situation on behalf of the families. Ms. Rajpersaud reported that a battery storage facility was going to place containers on Richmond Avenue across the street from HCCS-SI. This would

have been the first time that a project like this would have been put in a residential area specifically on Staten Island. They worked diligently on the back end with Staten Island elected officials and the company felt pressured and they withdrew their application. Ms. Rajpersaud stated that she is still working with the community board to keep an eye on this company. She thanked Mrs. Tettonis and Mrs. Petrakos for helping her with all the calls.

Mrs. Tettonis informed the Board that we went to Greece with the 5 National History Day Fair students from Park Slope. The students studied Dr. Papanikolaou. They interviewed his niece on the island of Aegina, they traveled to Kimi where he grew up, they went to Gennadius Library, and so many other sites. It was amazing. It is so impressive how much the students learn in one week. The documentary is complete and now submitted. The Ancient Greek Theater group will be going in February with Per Janson, Maria Bonakis and Dena Capetanakis as well as the sixteen students. It is tremendous learning experience. One of the reasons that she wanted to go is because we are growing and in two years HCCS-SI will be sending students to Greece and we have to take a look at how we will send so many students to Greece. Until you really experience it is indescribable, she said. Congratulations to the entire team that spends so much time on this. She thanked the donors because without all of the donations this would not be possible. She asked the Board if anyone knows someone who would like to donate to please let them know. She is so proud of the program.

We are gearing up for state testing, promotion in doubt and report cards.

Dena Capetanakis is going to Kansas City and is representing our school at the annual convention for the Diverse Charter Schools Coalition. This year's theme is demanding Equity in Integration.

There will be two Galas this spring. The HCCS-SI gala will be held on Thursday, April 20, 2023 at Arrianna's South in Staten Island and the HCCS-PS gala will be held on Friday, April 28, 2023 at The Dyker Heights Golf Club in Brooklyn.

Mrs. Petrakos presented her Chief of Operations report. She asked that the Board take a look at her report, specifically the enrollment chart per school that shows that we are fully enrolled with the exception of the kindergarten in Park Slope. In the past fifty students is considered full but because we extended the enrollment it should be at fifty-seven, fifty-eight. We are missing about eight to eleven students. We can also fill one or two seats in other grades as well. All in all, we are down eleven students in Park Slope. We were down fifteen students but we did gain four students in the past month since the last school board meeting. We are also reaching out to several families of English Language Learners and Students with Special Needs that are looking to go into first or second grade for September and we are asking them if they would like to apply for the current year. She wants everyone to know that we are continuing our efforts and trying to fill the kindergarten seats. The chart shows the number of students in each grade. She included columns of students with special needs in different categories and English Language Learners.

As you know in HCCS-SI we are fully enrolled. We are currently at 20% with Special Ed students and 11% of English Language Learners. Mrs. Petrakos stated that we are at a 2%

decline in HCCS-PS, which is damaging for our operating revenue, but it is only at a 2% decline because of our recruitment efforts throughout the years. She said she has heard of other schools that are at a decline of ten, twenty or even thirty percent in their enrollment. Our team is working very hard to recruit. It is damaging, but we are grateful that it is not much worse.

She also included with her report our advertisements in El Specialito, the Brooklyn and Staten Island Family and Parent Magazine, NEO magazine, Anamnesis, National Herald and Greek News. This is ongoing. Marketing is over \$50,000 per year. We will continue to enhance it.

As Mrs. Tettonis mentioned, we have a new Operations Assistant, Stephanie Stroud. She is handling recruitment in terms of marketing. She speaks Spanish and has created the brochure that is attached. This brochure is specifically targeting students with special needs and English language Learners. Mrs. Petrakos asked the Board if they need us to do anything further to please let her know. There is also a QR code on the brochure that goes directly to our website. Stephanie Stroud will be visiting local churches and spreading the word and will be working with the New York Charter Center to try to recruit immigrant Ukraine students to our school. These Ukraine students are being brought to centers. Mrs. Stroud asked if she can include our name on this list. She called Eric Joerss for guidance.

Mrs. Stroud is also looking to recruit teachers. She went to a job fair and she brought us eight resumes.

Mrs. Petrakos continued to inform the Board that our Charter Revision was approved. The State needed some clarification and information for the Charter revision and it was done and approved. This is for the facility acquisition for approval from the State before we can occupy the new building in Staten Island. HCCS-SI continues to have monthly meetings with the landlords. The first meeting was on January 5, 2023. It went well. They will continue to strengthen the partnership.

Mrs. Petrakos reported that there was a water lead test conducted on December 28, 2022 in Park Slope and we passed. We are required to have one every five years.

She reported that in Park Slope we budgeted to be at a surplus of one million before depreciation and we are in line with the budget. We are at a two percent enrollment decline in Park Slope. In Staten Island the financials we budgeted to be at a surplus of \$840k before depreciation and we ended the month with a surplus of one million mostly due to timing of expenses. Of course we have a receivable of \$590k on the books from FY 22 related to the amount we believe we are due from the DOE for the rental reimbursement that we have not received yet. So we added that in.

The guidance counselors of both schools and Mrs. Petrakos attended a webinar on student and staff mental health.

The update for the construction project is that the team continues every Tuesday. The building is about 95% complete. The NYC Fire Department paperwork was submitted. We are waiting

for an inspection date. We are working on a few things with the DEP. There is an annual Investors call scheduled for tomorrow for the new building.

Mr. Leonardos asked since the last meeting is there any update as to the TCO? It looks like end of February. We are looking at a March move in.

Mrs. Petrakos further informed the Board that we also extended the builders risk insurance. To March 31st, 2023. It was due to expire.

Mrs. Lekas asked about the Park Slope landlord and potential purchase of more property. Mr. Leonardos answered that there is an ongoing discussion with the corner building. However, the community wants to continue with the project without the corner property.

Mrs. Petrakos asked about the Park Slope improvement project extension, are we going to extend it? Mr. Leonardos answered, yes, the money that we have remaining for the project cannot be transferred to the Staten Island Project. It can only be used in Park Slope.

Mrs. Caban reported that it is very busy in Park Slope. We are getting ready for State testing. Some of the private high school acceptances have come in. Great news, we have a student who received a full academic scholarship from two schools Xavarien and Fontebonne Hall Academy.

We are preparing for monitoring student progress. Identifying students that are at risk of attending summer school or potential hold overs for the next school year. We are contacting families with attendance and lateness issues. We see a connection of students that attendance is not strong to academic progress. Parent teacher conferences are in March. Progress reports have gone out. Public school acceptances will not be out until May or June. We had an amazing science fair. The best yet. Our students presented on their laptops and had PowerPoint presentations. They are ready to take over the world she said.

Mrs. Lekas asked if every student that applied to Catholic schools was accepted. Mrs. Caban confirmed that they did. Mrs. Lekas also stated that the scholarship money was also very impressive. She congratulated Mrs. Caban and the team for their hard work. Mrs. Caban thank her and stated that we always push the bar. There is always room to grow. Mrs. Caban says that we feel confident about Specialized high schools. Mrs. Lekas expressed her gratitude of the accomplishments of this dream team, the administration, the teachers the parents and the students. She stated that the Board is so grateful and appreciative of all your efforts at all times. She has been on the Board of HCCS since day one and just when you think we have reached our best you guys out do yourselves and you reach the next level. The sky is definitely the limit at Hellenic. Every member must be very proud to be serving on this Board.

Mrs. Lekas suggests an in-person retreat for the Board soon.

The Greek parade is on Sunday, April 30, 2023.

Mrs. Kakleas reported that they are moving full steam ahead in HCCS-Staten Island. It is VIP reader week and the volunteers are over whelming. Today we have State Senator Gounardes reading to the first-grade class. She continues to report that progress reports and PID letters have gone out. Teachers have called the parents. They are getting ready for Parent Teacher Conferences. Test prep is going on for third and fourth graders. The sports program is going great. Family participation is wonderful here. We are doing well. Open houses are well attended.

There being no unfinished business, Mr. Leonardos asked for a motion to adjourn. The motion to adjourn was made by Dr. Theodoratou. Mrs. Svokos seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

The next Board meeting will be held via Zoom Conferencing on February 28, 2023 at 9:30 a.m.

Harvey Newman
Harvey Newman, Secretary

**MINUTES OF
HELLENIC CLASSICAL CHARTER SCHOOLS**

**SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
HELD ON FEBRUARY 22, 2023 AT 9:30 a.m.**

Members and Staff – via Zoom Conferencing

PRESENT

Harvey Newman	Secretary
Nikolaos Leonardos	Treasurer
Effie Lekas	Member
Dr. Liana Theodoratou	Member
Grazia Svokos	Member
Dean Angelakos	Member
Spiros Moustakas	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
Anastasia Etimos	Dean of Guidance
Stacy Kokkoros	Operations Manager
Karen Daniels	COO Charter School Business Management
Kamilah O'Brien	Charter School Business Management
Karen Peters	Charter School Business Management

ABSENT

Charles Capetanakis	Chairman
Bianca Rajpersaud	Member
Nik Mathews	Member

Mr. Newman 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 January 26, 2023. On a motion made by Mr. Moustakas and seconded by Dr. Theodoratou, the minutes were unanimously approved.

Mrs. Petrakos began by introducing the Charter School Business Management (CSBM) team. They have been working with Mrs. Petrakos and Mrs. Portelos for the last couple of weeks. As you all know, Christina Portelos has resigned from the Hellenic Classical Charter Schools. Her last day is March 3rd. We want to thank her for her work and everything that she has brought to us with her professionalism and knowledge and want to wish her well on all of her future

endeavors. Having said that Mrs. Petrakos introduced the new finance team, CSBM, that will be taking over the finance department at Hellenic. The operations piece will be managed by Mrs. Petrakos and the operations managers/team. Mrs. Petrakos asked Karen Daniels, the President and COO of CSBM to say a few words.

Karen Daniels thanked Mrs. Petrakos and stated that she is thrilled for the opportunity to work with everyone. She stated that she is the President and COO of Charter School Business Management and they have been around for 17 years. CSBM started out managing the finances for Charter Schools in New York and also New Orleans and have since then expanded to markets all over the United States. What we provide is a do it for you or teach you how to model. So eventually any levels of service in the finance department we can play a role in any department. If you have a team already in place we can step in and provide professional development for your team. We also provide management services which we have been providing HCCS for the past couple of years. We are beyond thrilled to be here and I see many familiar faces. I have always been a huge supporter and am thrilled to join you. We also do grant management services. I have attended many HCCS events and are excited for the opportunity to partner with you. Kamilah O'Brien has also been on the team for seven years and is not new to the charter world. Karen Peters is our lead here as well and has been working in the Charter world for twelve years. Please feel free to ask us any questions.

Mr. Newman thanked her for the explanation and pending the formal vote we are glad that you know the schools and will be part of the process moving forward in both a professional and personal level. This only enhances the ability. Mr. Newman would like to understand the structure of the relationship. He asked who will be the person the team will be working with most directly? How do they interface with the rest of your organization? Ms. Daniels answered that we operate on a team approach. She explained that our Finance Associate, and CSBM team member Franklin will be on the controller level and will be handling the day to day operations. Your strategic partner and the client lead and project manager will be Karen Peters. Kamilah O'Brien will oversee and will work on all the initiatives with Mrs. Petrakos. In addition to that, Gretchen is our Director of Development, and she will be helping with the compliance and grant work, applications, final submissions. You have the support of the whole team, she said. The team is made of CFO's, CPA's, people from public and private accounting. Our motto allows us to leverage their expertise when we need it in reference to the bond deal for example.

Mr. Newman thanked Ms. Daniels. Mr. Leonardos asked about their specializing in grants. He asked if this is part of the contractual services or is this contracted separately. Mrs. Daniels answered that we have already had a grant agreement prior to this new engagement. We are supporting with the CSP grant for HCCS-SI. We are also supporting with the Consolidated Application and the ESSER/ARP grants. This will be supported once everything is in place. We will be playing a larger role in taking over the items that Mrs. Portelos was working on prior. We specialize in the federal grants. We do not do too much work with the private grants.

Mr. Newman asked Ms. Daniels if she had any questions or concerns for the Board. She asked if there is anything that keeps the Board up at night. What are the Board's priorities? She

continued by stating that their role is to keep the Board calm about the school's financials. Mr. Leonardos answered that the biggest issue is to finish the project in HCCS-SI and to get the students into the building. That is our goal right now. The school is doing very well and we are able to meet our obligations.

The Board and all attendees introduced themselves to the new financial team.

Mr. Leonardos motions to approve a contract with CSBM and Hellenic Classical Charter Schools for services rendered from February 23, 2023 until June 20th, 2023 as well as a new contract with CSBM from July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024. Dr. Theodoratou seconds the motion. Motion carries with a unanimous vote to approve the contractual relationship.

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Mrs. Tettonis also welcomed CSBM to Hellenic. She has known Karen Daniels for years and has always admired her expertise and dedication. She is thrilled that her team will be working with us. As she said earlier Ms. Daniels has attended many of our events at the school and she knows Hellenic very well. Mrs. Tettonis wished Mrs. Portelos all the best to her and her family.

Mrs. Tettonis continued by thanking Mr. Capetanakis and Ms. Rajpersaud for hosting Delegation Day in HCCS-SI. They both did tremendous work. She also thanked Mrs. Kakleas, Mrs. Capetanakis and the whole team for putting together a great event. We had many people that attended including Regent Christine Cea and Assemblyman Michael Tannoussis. There were at least thirty representatives and leaders from Staten Island that came to our school. Thank you to Mr. Capetanakis and Ms. Rajpersaud and the New York City Charter School Center for hosting an amazing event.

She also congratulated HCCS-PS National History Day Fair students for winning first place in New York City competition. Our students will now compete on the NYS level. She congratulated Dena Capetanakis for her management of the trip. She is very organized. This trip cannot happen without her and the rest of the team Maria Bonakis, Per Janson and Joy Petrakos.

The Ancient Greek Theater Group just returned from Greece. Same team made it happen. They will be performing ANTIGONE on May 25th, 2023 at 5:00 p.m. Mrs. Capetanakis is preparing the invitations and links to the upcoming events for May and June.

Both schools will have their Greek Independence Day performances on Thursday, March 23, 2023.

The Greek Independence Day Parade will be on Sunday, April 30, 2023.

The Board will be receiving invitations to our two upcoming Galas. HCCS-SI is having theirs on Thursday, April 20th, 2023 and HCCS-PS will be having theirs on Friday, April, 28th, 2023.

Ribbon cutting for the new building in HCCS-SI is being planned.

Mrs. Tettonis continued to report that we are preparing for the charter renewals for both schools. Every Monday, we meet with the team from Empire Charter Consultants.

We are preparing for report cards, Parent Teacher Conferences and promotion in doubt letters are being prepared in both schools. State testing is beginning very soon. Students are in after school for test prep.

Mr. Newman asked if HCCS-SI scored first in New York State? Mrs. Tettonis answered that they were number one in third grade out of ten schools.

HCCS-PS did extremely well in comparison to the local district. They exceeded the city, the state and the district.

Mrs. Tettonis stated that we have to share our participation rates in addition to the scores regarding how many students actually took the test. Our participation rate is currently:
HCCS-Park Slope: 98% in ELA and 98% in Math vs District 15 77%
HCCS-Staten Island: 96% in ELA and 98% in Math vs District 31 88%

Mr. Newman stated that two meetings ago we discussed the recruitment process. He knows that it has become a priority and that we a team to help coordinate this effort. He was happy to hear that it has born some fruit since we began this discussion. We have increased our enrollment in HCCS-PS from down eleven to down seven. Are there any new updates? Mrs. Tettonis answered that we are doing more outreach and marketing and we are preparing a new brochure. Mr. Newman asked Ms. Daniels on some feedback from her about enrollment in other schools.

Karen Daniels answered that overall in New York City enrollment is down. We did see a mass exodus after COVID. Because of the emergency COVID funding ending the schools are making an effort to decrease their expenses and it has been pretty dramatic because the funding will be ending in 2024. Mr. Newman stated that HCCS-SI is full and HCCS-PS was down 17 and we are now down 7. Mr. Newman asked Ms. Daniels, with this information are we doing well in comparison with other charter schools? She answered that we are in an excellent position. That is phenomenal. She sees declines in enrollment in other schools. Schools are making dramatic changes to their budgets. Ten students is phenomenal in comparison to the market. Mr. Newman stated that we have been proactive in recognizing this. Mr. Newman continued to ask what do you attribute to this loss? Ms. Daniels answered that it is the mass exodus to other states after the pandemic. Mr. Newman also asked, in terms of addressing this situation have you seen any initiatives that are worthy of sharing and are successful? Ms. Daniels answered that the one thing that was working with one of her clients was they were able to partner with other Charter schools to fill their gap.

Mr. Newman asked the Board if there are any other questions about this issue.

Mrs. Svokos asked if this is attributed to the flight out of the city or is it a change in attitude about charter schools. Ms. Daniels does not feel that it has anything to do with charter schools.

Mr. Moustakas asked what are the other charter schools doing to deal with the loss. Ms. Daniels answered that in the beginning of the pandemic there was a big push to give staff bonuses to stay and keep everyone on board. At this point where the money is running out and enrollment is going down, they are budgeting more conservatively. They are cutting salaries. This is the only influx that we are seeing.

Mr. Leonardos asked about if any charter schools have collaborated together to meet some of these deficits. If so, how do they work together? Second, are they having any budget cuts? What are they doing exactly, dismissing employees or just not giving increases in the new year or are they eliminating programs. Ms. Daniels answered that as far as how schools are collaborating is to refer students to other schools. If the school does not have a wait list and have exhausted all measures sees if there is any opportunity to come to their school. In regards to the measures that they are taking there is a head count decrease it is tricky. You want to keep the staff that you need as well as keep a balanced budget and not scare off the staff you have to serve your students and not remove any of your programs.

Mrs. Petrakos reported that we have seen some movement in enrollment in Park Slope. We are down in kindergarten. Except for kindergarten all of our other classes are maxed out. In kindergarten we have fifty total, twenty in each class. We are trying to enroll three or four in each class.

How many siblings will be coming into Kindergarten. Mrs. Petrakos reports that the team at Park Slope has been working on recruiting new families for Kindergarten.

Mr. Newman asked Mrs. Kakleas about enrollment in HCCS-SI. Mrs. Kakleas answered that they have over 304 applications for September for all grades. Mr. Newman stated that this is remarkable.

Mrs. Petrakos being that it is Christina Portelos' last board meeting, she would like her to give the summary of the financials.

Mrs. Portelos reported HCCS-SI budgeted for an income of \$925,000 and we ended the month with \$1.1 million. The rental reimbursement has not been fully received yet. She also noted on the balance sheet for HCCS-SI we do have \$300,000 that HCCS-SI borrowed from HCCS-PS. When the per pupil allocation is received that will be returned.

HCCS-PS we did budget for a surplus of \$1.1 million and we are pretty much in line for 498 and we invoiced for 483 students.

At this point Mrs. Portelos thanked Mrs. Petrakos for the opportunity to say a few words to the Board. This is her last Board meeting and this Friday, March 3, 2023 officially as an employee. Mrs. Portelos will continue consulting on the consulting project until the end of next month. She thanked the Board for the opportunity to work with a strong dedicated team. She admires the teams hard work and dedication. She is very happy that CSBM was joined the team to support Mrs. Petrakos and she just wishes the schools continued success.

The board thanked Mrs. Portelos and wished her continued success.

Mrs. Petrakos continued by reporting that the construction at HCCS-SI is going well. We were on the construction call with the construction team. There are a few tweaks that have to be worked on. They hope to get the COO approval to they can move into the site. We had an Investors call which is annual. It went very well.

Mrs. Petrakos thanked Mrs. Portelos for the easy transition. Christina Portelos' departure is a smooth one and she thanked both teams, HCCS and CSBM for all their hard work during the transition.

Mr. Newman thanked Mrs. Petrakos for her report. He expressed the reaction that he had when he read the narrative about the group that Mrs. Capetanakis accompanied to Greece. He feels that the students that traveled to Greece and the work that they did there was meaningful and lifelong memories a student can take. It sounded like a miraculous trip. It would be interesting to see the student's own reaction. Mrs. Capetanakis thanked Mr. Newman and answered that it is was an intense four days starting at 7:00 a.m. and ending at 10:00 p.m. We make it very engaging and fun. Part of what we changed this year was add some student reflections. Mrs. Capetanakis stated that the team is just amazing and the support from administration is wonderful. It is wonderful to attend. NHD in January has five students, five chaperones, Ms. Bonakis, Mr. Per, Mrs. Tettonis and Mrs. Capetanakis. The February trip was the AGT group with fifteen students, fifteen parents and a total group size of thirty-three people. Mr. Newman said that this is amazing. The focus for the first trip was a research project.

Mrs. Capetanakis is the trip coordinator. Mrs. Bonakis spearheads the research piece, Mr. Janson helps coordinate the educational piece with the students. This trips research was based on Dr. Papanikolaou's creation of the pap smear. The research was based on secondary resources in Athens. We went to his home town of Kymi, Evoia where we saw his childhood home and we visited a hospital which was named after him. We also went to the island of Aegina and met with his great niece and she was able to show us firsthand letters and different items that they still had from Dr. George. It was really an amazing trip for the students, their families and the faculty members. They opened up their home for us. We were also able to meet different people with various items that they had from him. Mr. Newman remarked that they are looking forward to hearing from the students. It is a credit to our school that we do these things. It was something extra special.

Mrs. Capetanakis added that for our theater group (AGT) that went on the trip were philhellenes. The feedback was amazing. One of the dads actually brought her to tears on how thankful and appreciative he was for the experience. What we do is handle the logistics. A lot of the parents are fundraising. This trip changed and this trip gave them the opportunity to bond with their children.

There being no unfinished business, Mr. Newman asked for a motion to adjourn. The motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Leonardos. Mr. Lekas seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 10:50 a.m.

The next Board meeting will be held via Zoom Conferencing on March 24, 2023 at 10:45 a.m.

Harvey Newman

Harvey Newman, Secretary

**MINUTES OF
HELLENIC CLASSICAL CHARTER SCHOOLS**

**SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
HELD ON MARCH 24, 2023 AT 9:30 a.m.**

Members and Staff – via Zoom Conferencing

PRESENT

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

ABSENT

Grazia Svokos	Member
Nik Mathews	Member

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

The first item on the agenda is the approval of the minutes of the meeting on February 28, 2023. Mr. Newman asked for a correction on the minutes. He asked that the time announcing next month's meeting be corrected. It should read 9:30 a.m. not 10:45 a.m. Mr. Newman made a motion which was seconded by Mr. Moustakas. Mr. Capetanakis abstained since he was not present for the meeting. The motion carried.

Mr. Capetanakis informed the Board that Mrs. Tettonis has been invited to give an interview with WCBS radio after today's Board meeting.

Mr. Capetanakis reported that the Superintendent and Chief of Operations reports are quite thorough.

Mr. Capetanakis asked if there were any questions for the Superintendent. Mr. Moustakas asked about teacher retention. Mrs. Tettonis answered that preference sheets will be going out in the next two weeks. Right now we have no information other than teachers are returning in September. Mrs. Tettonis reported that we have hired a science teacher for Park Slope.

Mr. Newman asked Mrs. Tettonis if we are advertising about the test results of our students in both Staten Island and Park Slope to the community. Mrs. Tettonis answered that this was done back in the fall. She stated we released high school admissions where we did outrageously well. Mr. Newman would like for us to focus on the broader community given the recruitment focus that we have. Even if we released the information out earlier he said, there might have been people who did not see it. It might be best to get it out to the consciousness of both communities to hear how outstanding the results have been. He would also like for us to self-promote and get this information out there. Mr. Capetanakis states that the reason that this is important is because the DOE and the Charter Center are losing students and we are not. He states it is important to advocate for us to say that we are not losing students. Mrs. Tettonis said that we are very proud that we exceed the District, the City and the State. Mr. Newman stated that we should inform our community and go beyond our community. He mentioned during our renewal we will be asked about outreach to the community. He suggested putting a press release in a newspaper and or in a circular.

Mrs. Petrakos added that she is looking into digital advertising so that our schools pop up first in news feeds. She received some quotes. We will be adding digital advertising soon.

Mrs. Lekas also added that HCCS will be doing press interviews about how we are a National Blue Ribbon School and that we exceed on retention, test scores, participation and celebrate our victories.

Mr. Moustakas asked if there are any student to student social networks that share their activities and promote our community. Mrs. Tettonis answered that because they are minors we should not do that.

CHIEF OF OPERATIONS

Ms. Petrakos reported that we are close to obtaining the TCO for HCCS-SI. We have a zoom meeting every Friday with the team and receive updates. Mrs. Petrakos reported that we are at the finish line. We have passed the special inspections, the boiler, the fire alarm, standpipe and all other inspections. We are very excited. We are putting the finishing touches on the library, the bulletin boards are up, the floors are finished and are being buffed. Landscapers were on site providing quotes. The parking lot islands located in the middle of the parking lot will have landscaping added. Technology wiring is being prepared for the classrooms. Smartboards are being delivered, everything is looking great. March 31st is the target completion date. The next step will be to have the trailers dismantled and removed from the premises. Once removed the contractors can put the permanent plaque with the established date. The parents got to see the building at the last PTA meeting when we gave a tour of the new building. They were very happy. Mr. Leonardos added that twenty years ago this was a dream that has now become a reality. Third and fourth grades will only be moving into the new building hopefully by the end of April. The second grade will move in September. The new building will only house

grades second – eighth. Mrs. Petrakos spoke with the construction team to make sure that they will finish on a timely manner. She also received a quote for the narrow space between the two buildings. They want over \$25,000. It is 25 x 4 foot space. She said that it is expensive and suggested we install pavers instead.

Mrs. Petrakos further reported that in Park Slope there was tons of furniture that was not being used. They rented a U-Haul truck and took the furniture to Staten Island. This was very helpful.

Mrs. Petrakos reported that they are continuing to plan for work to be done in Park Slope. EDC came and they looked at the improvement areas that we are planning on working on and said that everything looked good. Kelmar, the contractor provided a construction schedule. All the work will begin in July when most of the students will be out of the building. The construction will be soft and mostly outside. There will be a new gate installed, we are redoing the stucco, a new sidewalk all around the building, new tiles on the second and third floors, the storage rooms will be shelved.

Mr. Capetanakis brought to the Board's attention that the Staten Island project has gone over budget. He states that the reason is because of the delays that were caused by the professionals. The main out of pocket costs are the trailers for the 3rd and 4th grades.

Mr. Capetanakis asked to discuss news from the state legislature and the governor's budget. Ms. Rajpersaud reported that the Governor placed in her executive budget to lift the cap for Charters. There has been push back in both houses to lift the cap. She states that we are in the midst of budget negotiations. Last week the Senate released their budget and so did the Assembly. They were both rejected for the cap lift. During this week and next week both the Senate assembly and the executive chamber will be sitting down to negotiate their priorities. From what we are hearing it seems like zombies are the most favorable topic when it comes to Charters. There may be a possible win come April where zombies will be revitalized and that could go to NYC mom and pop charters. The budget is due April 1st. It does not look like we will have it by April 1st. We might have an overdue budget in two weeks. It seems like we will have a win. Mr. Leonardos asked if there will be an increase on the per pupil allocation. Mrs. Rajpersaud answered that this is part of the push back. Mr. Capetanakis said the per pupil funding will be consistent with the Charters appropriate share of the districts spending. He states that we will not be getting the rental assistance for the 67 schools who are not eligible. That is next year's project.

Mr. Newman, thinks that the City is going to fight against any facilities very hard because they have the immigrants coming in who are increasing the cost to the City to almost four billion dollars. That will mitigate against any voluntary or encouraged increase on behalf of the City. On the revenue per student, Mr. Capetanakis indicated that there is a formula based on NYC spending which means there is a lag in this formula. What we get next year is based upon what was expended last year. This could work to our benefit because NYC's budget for education has not decreased but its population has decreased in excess of ten percent so that the capitated expenditure has actually increased which down the line could be to our benefit.

Mr. Leonardos states that in reality there will be vacant buildings. Something needs to happen to provide help. Mr. Newman is looking at the reality of what is happening to the City.

Mrs. Petrakos reported that Karen Peters from CSBM will be presenting the financials. She thanked Ms. Peters on a job well done. Mrs. Peters gave a brief overview. Mrs. Peters stated that this has been a very smooth transition. There are no significant changes from last month. She reported that we are tracking well. Everyone knows that enrollment is going well. The cash position in Park Slope is strong at 3.4 million. We are keeping an eye on Staten Island which is at \$900,000 she reported. We will keep moving forward and keep working with your team to make sure you are in good financial health. Mrs. Petrakos stated that she has a very high level of comfort in the whole transition.

Mrs. Tettonis congratulated both principals on an amazing Greek Independence Day show from each school yesterday. She is proud of them both.

Mr. Leonardos asked to hear from the two principals.

Mrs. Caban reported that they are preparing for New York State ELA tests that are on April 19th and 20th. New York State Math Tests are on May 2nd and May 3rd.

Mrs. Kakleas reported that they had a full house at the Greek Independence Day Show yesterday. It went really well. We are also preparing for State tests. We have two grades taking the tests, 3rd and 4th grades. They are also waiting eagerly to get into the new building. The lottery is coming up in a couple of weeks. They are still receiving applications.

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 10:10 a.m.

The next Board meeting will be held via Zoom Conferencing on April 27, 2023 at 9:30 a.m.

Harvey Newman
Harvey Newman, Secretary

**MINUTES OF
HELLENIC CLASSICAL CHARTER SCHOOLS**

**SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
HELD ON APRIL 27, 2023 AT 9:30 a.m.**

Members and Staff – via Zoom Conferencing

PRESENT

Charles Capetanakis	Chairman
Harvey Newman	Secretary
Nikolaos Leonardos	Treasurer
Grazia Svokos	Member
Dean Angelakos	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
Anastasia Etimos	Guidance Counselor
Dena Capetanakis	Director of Community & Engagement
Stacy Kokkoros	Operations Manager
Karen Peters	CSBN Senior Financial Manager
Mrs. Panos	HCCS-PS Parent

ABSENT

Effie Lekas	Member
Nik Mathews	Member

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

The first item on the agenda is the approval of the minutes of the meeting on March 24, 2023. On a motion made by Mr. Newman and seconded by Dr. Theodoratos, the minutes were unanimously approved.

The second approval on the agenda is the Board resolution on the HCCS-Statens Island school to expand up to grade six. Mr. Capetanakis motions for the expansion and seconded by Mr. Moustakas, the resolution was unanimously approved.

The third approval on the agenda is the HCCS-Park Slope school expansion to add a third class in grades Kindergarten and First starting in school year 2025. Mr. Leonardos

motions for the expansion and seconded by Mr. Newman. The expansion was unanimously approved.

The next item on the agenda is to add a new policy to our Financial Policy and Procedures Manual that states HCCS-PS and HCCS-SI will purchase USA products to the best of their abilities. That statement will be added to our FPP (Financial Policy & Procedures) and once this is added by our consultants Mrs. Petrakos will reintroduce the new policy to the Board at the next Board meeting for approval. Mrs. Petrakos is asking the Board for approval to proceed to add to the policy. The Board agrees for Mrs. Petrakos to move on with this.

Mr. Capetanakis informed the Board that the ribbon cutting ceremony for HCCS-SI will have to be rescheduled because they are still waiting for the Certificate of Occupancy. They will be informed of the new date. Dena Capetanakis will be making personal calls to the invited guests to inform them of the postponement. Mr. Capetanakis states that this has been a difficult period but the admiration of the Board to administration is endless for all of their hard work. They know how especially hard it has been for Mrs. Petrakos to make decisions about whether to cancel or keep the mobile classrooms and all the work and time that has gone into this. He commends the team for all of the work that the administration does for our schools. Dr. Theodoratou thanked them as well for all of their hard work.

Mrs. Tettonis added that the team is extraordinary but she applauds the Board because without them this would not be happening. We are very blessed.

Mr. Newman states that the condition of the school is strong and getting stronger. The leadership is outstanding and getting better. The board has to continue to work harder. Mr. Newman further states that an ongoing concern has been enrollment. He asked Mrs. Tettonis how the lottery went and if she can give the Board the fine points. Mrs. Tettonis reported that Mrs. Petrakos and her team, Joyce Liappas and Stacy Kokkoros from Park Slope and Maria Krisilas and Dawn Demenagas from Staten Island are in charge of the lottery. As shown in her report they had a great turn out of applications. She reported that it was more than efficiently done. The lottery was seamless. It was the most seamless lottery that we have ever had. The team is incredible. As you can see in the report Park Slope has 431 applications and Staten Island had 379 applications, very few seats. It was very difficult for the parents that did not get in. There is a waitlist in both schools. We did better than last year, she said. Our numbers are growing in both Park Slope and Staten Island. The lottery was held in seconds. It was a public lottery and the parents were immediately informed. The best part of the whole thing was that an independent auditor was on the Staten Island lottery. Mrs. Tettonis further reported that over the spring break the administrative team was handling all the lottery inquiries that were coming in from prospective families all on their own. Mr. Newman understood that there was an overwhelming response and that it was better than last year. He asked about what it means demographically. Mrs. Tettonis answered that our numbers are better than last year in applications because we have been doing this for a while it is more seamless and we are used to the new automated system. It is electronic. The lottery is electronic and time efficient. Mr. Newman asked if we are getting the same diversity? Mrs. Tettonis answered that we are. We actually listed our outreach in our reports. We did tremendous outreach with our new brochures that are in both English and Spanish so that we are able to reach our Special Ed and ELL students. We have a QR code to make it easier for parents to look us up. We have done

more outreach than ever before. In addition, Mrs. Petrakos and Ops Associate are working with a media group.

Mr. Newman asked if we have the availability to fill the eighth grade classes. Mrs. Petrakos answered that when we lose a seventh or eighth grade student and we have room in Kindergarten or first grade we fill the Kindergarten or first grade seat first. We have the flexibility to do so. Mrs. Petrakos further reported that in April we enrolled two more students in Park Slope. We are only nine students below from when we started with 19 students below in the beginning of the year. Mr. Newman asked how do we address this moving forward for next year. Mrs. Tettonis answered that families are registering, we are completely full for September and we have a huge waitlist. Mr. Leonardos asked that when families apply and then receive an offer is there a reason why they would decline the offer?

Is there something that we need to enhance to make the school better to raise the bar? Mrs. Tettonis answered that there is never a day that we do not try to get better. What we do is have practices in place where we do reflections with the leadership team and the teachers and we get together and we make sure we just keep climbing. But we are constantly meeting, reflecting and looking at data and looking at our practices to make us better. It could be from implementing structures for data meetings and drill downs, teacher retreats, professional developments, to activities and listening to our families. Parents have great ideas. Everyone together we try to make sure it is a happy place to come together to go to school and to learn and at the same time we want to make sure we are meeting the needs for all learners and it is rigorous enough for every child. Mrs. Tettonis also added that we just came out of a very difficult time in history. We are still catching up. We are bringing back some of the programs we had before COVID. We are trying to catch up right now. Trying to have all of the programs that we had before COVID, we were able to do it this year, but not to the fullest extent. It was a lot of work to do.

Mr. Leonardos' second question is if the current building up to par to handle new programs and initiatives that the team wants to implement. Is there something that we should be looking at for the new expansion in Park Slope. Mrs. Tettonis answered that we could discuss this. Mrs. Caban answered that what appeals to the families is the strength of our teachers because we give them a lot of professional development. Another appeal is just how hard it is to get into Hellenic. The reputation that we have. We have to be in it to win it mentality. Mr. Capetanakis added that you are also great at retaining employees. Mrs. Tettonis reported that teacher preference sheets have been put out to prepare for September. They are also preparing for New York State Exams.

The team is working hard on the Charter Renewal.

HCCS-SI had their first Gala last week and HCCS-PS will have their gala this week.

The six grade students in Park Slope won first place in the National History Day Fair and they are going to Nationals in June. They are all very proud.

Mr. Capetanakis asked Karen Peters from CSBM to give the financial report. Mrs. Peters reported that there is no significant differences. She noted that we are 75% into the year. The

monthly budget is very conservative. We are trending right on track for your expenses. Your revenues are right on track. So glad to hear that we are fully enrolled. Mrs. Petrakos added that Karen and she started the budget planning. The executive team and she will be having planning meetings to get the budget ready for the Board's approval by June 30th.

Mr. Leonardos reminded the Board that the Greek Independence Day parade is the Sunday, April 30th and invites the Board to march with us. Mrs. Petrakos also invites the Board to the Parade Gala at The Hilton on Saturday April 29th. She will forward the information to the Board.

Mr. Capetanakis asked to go into executive session. Mr. Leonardos seconds the motion. The meeting went to executive session at 10:01 a.m. All in favor. The Board returned from executive session at 10:13am. 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 10:14am.

The next Board meeting will be held via Zoom Conferencing on May 25, 2023 at 9:30 a.m.

Harvey Newman
Harvey Newman, Secretary

**MINUTES OF
HELLENIC CLASSICAL CHARTER SCHOOLS**

**SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
HELD ON MAY 25, 2023 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 Rajpersaud	Member
Spiros Moustakas	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
Karen Peters	CSBN Senior Financial Manager
Stacy Kokkoros	Operations Manager
Mrs. Panou	HCCS-PS Parent
Rosario Guaman	HCCS-PS Parent

ABSENT

Dr. Liana Theodoratou	Member
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, 2023. On a motion made by Mr. Newman and seconded by Mr. Moustakas, the minutes were unanimously approved.

Mr. Capetanakis brought to the Board's attention the action item on the agenda. He asked Ms. Petrakos to explain the action item. Mrs. Petrakos answered that she will create a Board resolution for next month's Board meeting. There will be two items on one board resolution. The first item will be that the Board approves the Charter revision that will go into the charter renewal. One being the organizational chart change since we no longer have a Director of Operations and Finance (DOF). Since our DOF resigned we have engaged with CSBM. In addition, there are a few other items that she and Mrs. Tettonis would like to change such as

who reports to who. These changes are considered a charter revision and will be submitted with the renewal. The next item is a board approval for the submission of the renewal application for both schools. The resolution is required to give board approval to a school officer besides the Board Chairman, Charles Capetanakis. Our Chief of Operations, Joy Petrakos will be the person that will submit the renewals on the SED portal. The Board must give her the authority to do so. Our consultants said the Board has to authorize this action.

Mrs. Petrakos states that there are no action items today. As discussed at the previous board meeting we added the "MADE IN THE USA" policy to our FPP.

Mr. Capetanakis asks that the Superintendent report and the Chief of Operation reports be adopted into the minutes. He asked if there are any questions for the Superintendent and the Chief of Operations on their reports? There are none. Mr. Capetanakis then asked if there any questions for our Senior Finance Manager, Karen Peters? There are none.

Mr. Capetanakis asked for an update on the temporary Certificate of Occupancy in HCCS-SI. Mr. Leonardos reported that we received the construction sign off yesterday. That means that the document will be signed any day. This is great news he said and we will finally be able to use the building. We have been waiting six months.

Mrs. Petrakos asked if we are having the ribbon cutting ceremony in Staten Island. Mrs. Capetanakis would also like to confirm this. She is unsure if they are able to get the word out in time and have an event in the Hellenic fashion. Mr. Leonardos states that if the document is actually signed in the next few days we can continue with the scheduled day. Mrs. Capetanakis states that if we delay by a week we start running into our graduations. There is an event every day she said. Mrs. Capetanakis also said that she will do whatever the team wants her to do.

Mrs. Svokos asked if we are worried about support from the community or the politicians? She asked if we think that this is not enough time. Mrs. Capetanakis answered that there is enough time but she does not know what their schedules look like with the event so close. If we send it out tomorrow it is two weeks ahead.

Mrs. Tettonis added that as soon as we have the signed Certificate of Occupancy in our hands we will have a quick meeting to move forward with the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony.

Mr. Capetanakis added that if the community members can make it, they will. If they cannot make it they will send a representative.

Mr. Capetanakis asked if the seventh graders in Park Slope are showing interest in the high school test prep for next year. Mrs. Caban answered that they are very eager. We have received many permission slips. Mrs. Tettonis added that we had a high school meeting last night. It was very well attended. Mrs. Tettonis also informed the Board that we have had nonstop events at both schools. For example, the Soap Box Derby in Staten Island. There were seventy schools competing and we came in second. She congratulated Mr. Adam Konstantopoulos and Mr. Kevin Linehan for starting the club in HCCS-SI. Mrs. Kakleas reported to the Board that the students actually built the car and then they

selected one student to race it by school vote. The student that they chose to drive in the derby is in the 3rd grade and has been in the school since kindergarten. On the day of the race it was raining all morning but all of the parents and students stayed until the end to cheer him on when he won second place. It was amazing.

Mr. Capetanakis asked to go to executive session at 9:55 a.m. Mr. Leonardos seconds the motion. The meeting went to executive session at 9:55 a.m. All in favor. The Board returned from executive session at 10:10 a.m. and stated that no votes were taken during executive session. 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 10:11 a.m.

The next Board meeting will be held via Zoom Conferencing on June 30, 2023 at 9:30 a.m.

Harvey Newman
Harvey Newman, Secretary