

Hatikvah International Academy Charter School

7 Lexington Avenue

East Brunswick, NJ

MEETING Minutes

December 11, 2025

7:00 P.M. Meeting

Meeting called to order by Daniel Gresack at 7:02 PM.

Sunshine Law Notice: The New Jersey Open Public Meetings Law was enacted to ensure the rights of the public to have advance notice of and to attend the meetings of the public bodies at which any business affecting their interest is discussed or acted upon. In accordance with the provisions of this act, the Hatikvah International Academy Charter School has caused notice of this meeting to be published by having the date, time, and place thereof posted in the Asbury Park Press and the Courier-Post.

Name	Title	Voting/Non-Voting	Present	Absent
Mr. Daniel Gresack	President	Voting	X	
Mr. Harish Hathiramani	Vice President	Voting	X	
Mr. Marc Herman	Trustee	Voting		X
Ms. Shawntell Manning	Trustee	Voting	X	
Mr. Arie Behar	Trustee	Voting		X
Dr. Dake Zhang	Trustee	Voting	X	
Ms. Cristal Sharma	Trustee	Voting		X
Ms. Amanda Rosenberg	Director; Ex Officio	Non-voting	X	
Dr. Marcia Grayson	SBA; Ex Officio	Non-voting	X	
Ms. Claudia Fiel	Teacher Representative; Recording Secretary	Non-voting		X
Mr. Jeffrey Villanueva	Teacher Representative	Non-voting	X	

Pledge of Allegiance: I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United State of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

HIB Investigations:

25261022	HIB Confirmed
25261121	HIB Confirmed
25261125	HIB Confirmed

Director’s Report: A core element of Hatikvah’s mission is to “*promote a better and more peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect.*” Last week’s K-2 Cultural Heritage Fair exemplified this commitment. We are grateful to the many families who prepared presentations celebrating and honoring a wide array of countries and cultures. Special thanks to Sara Schwartz for her leadership in organizing this successful event. We look forward to the upcoming fairs for grades 3-5 on March 5 and grades 6-8 on April 17.

Hatikvah School Pride assemblies will be held on December 23 to celebrate our Blue Ribbon recognition and to further reinforce our Mission with students.

Additionally, K-5 teachers and curriculum supervisors are engaged in a review of our writing program, examining student performance data to ensure alignment with best instructional practices and to support continuous improvement in student outcomes.

Public Discussion: This portion of the meeting is open to members of the public for the purpose of addressing resolutions on this agenda or other matters. Members of the public who have requested to speak prior to the meeting will be recognized by the chair first. Each speaker will be given three (3) minutes, for a period of fifteen (15) minutes; and then time permitting, other public comment limited to three (3) minutes per speaker will be allowed, until the fifteen (15) minute period transpires. All speakers are asked to state their full name, spell their last name, group affiliation, if appropriate, and provide their address. **Issues raised by members of the public may or may not be responded to by the Board.** All comments will be considered, and a response will be forthcoming if and when appropriate. The Board asks that members of the public be courteous and respectful of the rights of other individuals when speaking. Specifically, comments regarding students and employees of the Board are discouraged, and the Board and the Administration will not respond to them. Students and employees have specific legal rights afforded to them by the laws of New Jersey. The Board is not responsible and is not liable for any comments made by members of the public. Members of the public should consider their comments in light of the legal rights of those affected or identified in their comments. Members of the public are reminded that they are legally responsible and liable for their comments.

One member of the public present.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES COMMITTEES

Financial Committee:

Chairperson: Mr. Daniel Gresack and Mr. Marc Herman
Administrative Liaison: Dr. Marcia Grayson

Education Committee:

Chairperson: Dr. Dake Zhang
Administrative Liaison: Mrs. Amanda Rosenberg

Fundraising Committee:

Chairperson: Ms. Shawntell Manning
Administrative Liaison: Dr. Marcia Grayson

Nominating Committee:

Chairpersons: Ms. Shawntell Manning and Mr. Marc Herman

ITEM 1: Motion to approve the minutes from the November 20, 2025 meeting.

Motion: Shawntell Manning

Second: Harish Hathiramani

Board Member	Voting	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Daniel Gresack	Trustee	X			
Marc Herman	Trustee				X
Harish Hathiramani	Trustee	X			
Shawntell Manning	Trustee	X			
Arie Behar	Trustee				X
Dr. Dake Zhang	Trustee	X			
Cristal Sharma	Trustee				X

Passed 4-0; no abstentions; 3 absent.

ITEM 2: Motion to approve the bills list dated from 11/14/2025 to 12/04/2025 in the amount of \$637,505.43; to approve the Secretary's Reports dated 11/30/2025; and to approve the budget transfers from 11/01/2025 through 11/30/2025.

Motion: Dr. Dake Zhang

Second: Shawntell Manning

Board Member	Voting	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Daniel Gresack	Trustee	X			
Marc Herman	Trustee				X

Harish Hathiramani	Trustee	X			
Shawntell Manning	Trustee	X			
Arie Behar	Trustee				X
Dr. Dake Zhang	Trustee	X			
Cristal Sharma	Trustee				X

Passed 4-0; no abstentions; 3 absent.

ITEM 3: Motion to approve the following personnel items:

Non-certificated Personnel:

Suma Siddantapu, part-time School Nutrition Assistant, from 12/08/25 to 06/30/25 at a rate of \$15.92 per hour (estimated to be approximately \$12,000 annually, adjusted by timesheets of actual hours worked).

Adjust the following faculty/staff contracts for 25-26:

Priyanka Taribagil, part-time School Nutrition Assistant, \$0.42/hr increase, effective as of 01/01/2025.

Independent Contractor:

System Soft Technologies, LLC for IT work (software, hardware, and network) contract end date: 12/12/2025.

Motion: Daniel Gresack

Second: Shawntell Manning

Board Member	Voting	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Daniel Gresack	Trustee	X			
Marc Herman	Trustee				X
Harish Hathiramani	Trustee	X			

Shawntell Manning	Trustee	X			
Arie Behar	Trustee				X
Dr. Dake Zhang	Trustee	X			
Cristal Sharma	Trustee				X

Passed 4-0; no abstentions; 3 absent.

ITEM 4: Motion to approve the following school field trips:

Grade	Field Trip Location	Date
4	Poricy Park nature center for fossil exploration	05/29/2026
8	U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum (Washington DC), sponsored by the Daniel Pearl Education Center.	01/19/2026

Motion: Harish Hathiramani

Second: Dr. Dake Zhang

Board Member	Voting	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Daniel Gresack	Trustee	X			
Marc Herman	Trustee				X
Harish Hathiramani	Trustee	X			
Shawntell Manning	Trustee	X			

Arie Behar	Trustee				X
Dr. Dake Zhang	Trustee	X			
Cristal Sharma	Trustee				X

Passed 4-0; no abstentions; 3 absent.

ITEM 5: Motion to approve paying the Charter Schools Fund a monthly premium payment via ACH which will be documented on the bills list as a non-check item.

Motion: Harish Hathiramani

Second: Daniel Gresack

Board Member	Voting	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Daniel Gresack	Trustee	X			
Marc Herman	Trustee				X
Harish Hathiramani	Trustee	X			
Shawntell Manning	Trustee	X			
Arie Behar	Trustee				X
Dr. Dake Zhang	Trustee	X			
Cristal Sharma	Trustee				X

Passed 4-0; no abstentions; 3 absent.

ITEM 6: Motion to adjourn at 7:13 PM.

Motion: Daniel Gresack

Second: Dr. Dake Zhang

Board Member	Voting	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Daniel Gresack	Trustee	X			
Marc Herman	Trustee				X
Harish Hathiramani	Trustee	X			
Shawntell Manning	Trustee	X			
Arie Behar	Trustee				X
Dr. Dake Zhang	Trustee	X			
Cristal Sharma	Trustee				X

Passed 4-0; no abstentions; 3 absent.