Hatikvah International Academy Charter School
7 Lexington Avenue
East Brunswick, NJ
MEETING Minutes
March 26, 2026

7:00 P.M. Meeting

Meeting called to order by Daniel Gresack at 7:01 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 on the school's website. Written notice was also provided to Asbury Park Press, the Courier-Post, The Star Ledger and The Home News Tribune.

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	
Mrs. Amanda Rosenberg	Director; Ex Officio	Non-voting	X	
Mrs. Kathleen Mone	SBA; Ex Officio	Non-voting		X
Mr. Jeffrey Villanueva	Teacher Representative; Recording Secretary	Non-voting		X
Mrs. Rebecca Green	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:

25260219	Non-HIB
25260123	HIB Confirmed *(amendment to prior case)*

Director's Report: FY27 Budget Presentation

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.

No public present.

ITEM 1: Motion to approve the minutes from the February 26, 2026 meeting.

Motion: Dr. Dake Zhang

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; 2 abstentions; 1 absent.

ITEM 2: Motion to approve the bills list dated from 02/20/2026 to 03/19/2026 in the amount of $1,010,786.09; to approve the Secretary's Reports dated 02/28/2026; and to approve the budget transfers from 02/01/2026 through 02/28/2026.

Motion: Shawntell Manning

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 6-0; no abstentions; 1 absent.

ITEM 3: Motion to approve the following personnel items:

Certificated Personnel:
Sarah Cartmell, Part-Time Mathematics Teacher, at an hourly salary of $43.60, effective 04/01/2026-06/30/26.
Sarah Cartmell, Full-Time Mathematics Teacher, at a 10-month salary of $75,000, effective 08/24/2026-06/30/27.

Christine L. Limongello (Limon Educational Consulting, LLC), Long-term Substitute Part-time Independent Contractor for Psychologist at a rate of $65.00 per hour for meetings and at a rate of $320.00 for evaluations, effective on or about April 15, 2026 through on or about October, 2026.

Non-certificated Personnel:
Sima Salama Smith, receptionist, at an annual 12-month salary of $34,242.00 retroactively effective as of March 18, 2026.

Medical Leave of Absence:
Employee # 82117174 (local ID) beginning on or about 04/24/2026, returning on or about 10/01/2026.

Resignation:
Citlali Olivares-Mejia, Receptionist, retroactively effective at the end of the day of 03/06/2026 for personal reasons.
Dr. Victoria Krupnik, Mathematics Teacher, effective on or about 05/06/2026 for personal reasons.

Motion: Daniel Gresack

Second: Arie Behar

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 6-0; no abstentions; 1 absent.

ITEM 4: Motion to approve the fiscal year 2027 School Budget as presented.

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 6-0; no abstentions; 1 absent.

ITEM 5: Motion to approve the contract renewals for 2026-2027 as presented.

Motion: Cristal Sharma

Second: Arie Behar

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 6-0; no abstentions; 1 absent.

ITEM 6: Motion to approve:

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE HATIKVAH INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOL TO RENEW FOOD SERVICES CONTRACT

WHEREAS, the School Board currently contracts with a commercial vendor Nu-Way Concessionaires to provide meal services to students; and
WHEREAS, the Board has the option to renew said contract for the 2026–2027 school year with an additional option to renew for the 2027–2028 school year; and
WHEREAS, the renewal pricing for the 2026–2027 school years reflects the applicable index rate adjustment;
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the School Board approves the renewal of the contract with the current food service commercial vendor, Nu-Way Concessionaires, for the 2026-2027 school year, at an estimated total cost of $136,038.20, subject to all terms and conditions of the original agreement; and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that meal pricing for the 2026–2027 school year shall be as follows:

Breakfast: $2.25
Lunch: $4.00

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Director is authorized to execute all necessary documents to effectuate this renewal.

Motion: Shawntell Manning

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 6-0; no abstentions; 1 absent.

ITEM 7: Motion to approve:

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE HATIKVAH INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOL TO RENEW CLEANING CONTRACT

WHEREAS, the School Board currently contracts with a commercial cleaning company ACB Services Inc. to provide cleaning services; and

WHEREAS, the Board has the option to renew said contract for the 2026–2027 school year, with an additional option to renew for the 2027–2028 school year; and

WHEREAS, the renewal pricing for the 2026–2027 school year reflects the applicable index rate adjustment;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the School Board approves the renewal of the contract with the current cleaning company, ACB Services Inc., for the 2026-2027 school year, with an option to renew for the 2027-2028 school year, subject to all terms and conditions of the original agreement; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the cleaning annual cost for the 2026–2027 school year shall be $79,351.20.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Director is authorized to execute all necessary documents to effectuate this renewal.

Motion: Arie Behar

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 6-0; no abstentions; 1 absent.

ITEM 8: Motion to adjourn at 7:36 PM.

Motion: Dr. Dake Zhang

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 6-0; no abstentions; 1 absent.