

**Hatikvah International Academy Charter School**

7 Lexington Avenue

East Brunswick, NJ

**MEETING Minutes**

**January 22, 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 in the Asbury Park Press and the Courier-Post.

<b>Name</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Voting/Non-Voting</b>	<b>Present</b>	<b>Absent</b>
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-joined at 7:06	
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:**

25261209	HIB Confirmed
25261215	HIB Confirmed

**Director’s Report:** Claudia Fiel is stepping down as Recording Secretary, and we thank her for her years of service in this role. Jeffrey Villanueva will assume the role, and Rebecca Green will join meetings as the Teacher Representative. East Brunswick Mayor Brad Cohen will visit Hatikvah on Tuesday, January 27. Hatikvah has been awarded a \$20,000 SFY 26 NJ Nonprofit Security Grant Program (NSGP-SP) grant from the NJ Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness. This agenda includes a motion to revise the current school calendar to designate April 6, 2026 as a day off, contingent upon two remaining unused inclement weather days as of March 31. The 2026–2027 school calendar will be presented for approval at the February meeting, pending review of start dates in surrounding districts due to the late Labor Day.

**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.

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**BOARD OF TRUSTEES COMMITTEES**

**Financial Committee:**

Chairperson: Mr. Daniel Gresack and Mr. Marc Herman  
Administrative Liaison: Mrs. Amanda Rosenberg

**Education Committee:**

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

**Nominating Committee:**

Chairpersons: Ms. Shawntell Manning and Mr. Marc Herman

ITEM 1: Motion to approve the minutes from the December 11, 2025 meeting.

**Motion:** Shawntell Manning

**Second:** Dr. Dake Zhang

<b>Board Member</b>	<b>Voting</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Abstain</b>	<b>Absent</b>
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 following appointments to the School Board for the remaining 2025-2026 school year, effective as of January 22, 2026:

Ms. Rebecca Green as Teacher Representative.

Mr. Jeffrey Villanueva as Teacher Representative and Recording Secretary.

**Motion:** Cristal Sharma

**Second:** Marc Herman

<b>Board Member</b>	<b>Voting</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Abstain</b>	<b>Absent</b>
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 bills list dated from 12/05/2025 to 01/15/2026 in the amount of \$1,560,382.38; to approve the Secretary’s Reports dated 12/31/2025; and to approve the budget transfers from 12/01/2025 through 12/31/2025.

**Motion:** Shawntell Manning

**Second:** Marc Herman

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 following personnel items:

**Certificated Personnel:**

Sarah Ciaccio, teacher, part-time extra work as a middle school recruitment specialist at a rate of \$30.00 per hour payable by time sheets.

**Substitutes:**

Dorothy Demetor, Substitute Nurse, at a rate of \$325.00 per diem.

**Resignation:**

Stephanie Siegel, teacher, effective at the end of the day of 12/23/2025 for personal reasons.

**Motion:** Marc Herman

**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 5: Motion to approve Nursing Services Plan FY 2025

**Motion:** Marc Herman

**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 6: Motion to approve the revised 2025-2026 school calendar as presented, reflecting the correct date for the one of the two built in days (\* If one of these 2 built in days remains on March 31, 2026, April 6, 2026, will become a day off).

**Motion:** Marc Herman

**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 2025-2026 revised school budget based on October 15, 2025 revenue.

**Motion:** Marc Herman

**Second:** Arie Behar

<b>Board Member</b>	<b>Voting</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Abstain</b>	<b>Absent</b>
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 approve the updates of the following policies:

4111 Recruitment, Selection and Hiring

5145.7 Gender Identity and Expression

6163.1 Media Center, Library

**Motion:** Shawntell Manning

**Second:** Cristal Sharma

<b>Board Member</b>	<b>Voting</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Abstain</b>	<b>Absent</b>
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 9: Motion to accept the FY26 NJ Nonprofit Security Grant Program for security personnel charges in the amount of \$20,000.00.

**Motion:** Daniel Gresack

**Second:** Marc Herman

<b>Board Member</b>	<b>Voting</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Abstain</b>	<b>Absent</b>
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			
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Passed 6-0; no abstentions; 1 absent.

ITEM 10: Motion to adjourn at 7:20 PM.

**Motion:** Marc Herman

**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.