

Hatikvah International Academy Charter School

7 Lexington Avenue

East Brunswick, NJ

MEETING Minutes

February 26, 2026

7:00 P.M. Meeting

Meeting called to order by Marc Herman at 7:00 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:

25261218	HIB Alleged
25260115B	HIB Alleged
25260112	HIB Alleged

25260115A	HIB Confirmed
25260123	HIB Confirmed
25260115C	HIB Confirmed

Director’s Report:

- Motion to Approve 26-27 School Calendar
- Winter Administration of NWEA MAP Assessment in Grades 1-8
- Mayor Cohen’s Visit
- EB Kindergarten Orientation
- Capstone Trip to Israel

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.

2 members of the public present.

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 January 22, 2026 meeting.

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 4-0; 1 abstention; 2 absent.

ITEM 2: Motion to approve the bills list dated from 01/16/2026 to 02/19/2026 in the amount of \$1,117,401.41; to approve the Secretary's Reports dated 01/31/2026; and to approve the budget transfers from 01/01/2026 through 01/31/2026.

Motion: Marc Herman

Second: Cristal Sharma

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 5-0; no abstentions; 2 absent.

ITEM 3: Motion to approve a request for a waiver of Special Education Medicaid Initiative (SEMI) FY 2027 funding:

Revenue Projection:

Medicaid-Eligible/Special Education Student Count Per NJSLEDS 10/15/25 snapshot: 15

District Projected Reimbursement Revenue: \$6,382.80

District Budgeted Reimbursement Revenue Requirement: \$5,744.52

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 5-0; no abstentions; 2 absent.

ITEM 4: Motion to approve the 2026-2027 school calendar as presented.

Motion: Marc Herman

Second: Cristal Sharma

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 5-0; no abstentions; 2 absent.

ITEM 5: Motion to approve the following school field trips:

Grade	Field Trip Location	Date
6-8	Philadelphia - Franklin Institute	04/24/2026
1	State Theatre New Jersey	03/24/2026

Motion: Cristal Sharma

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 5-0; no abstentions; 2 absent.

ITEM 6: Official Newspapers for Publication of Legal/Public Notices Recommendation:

That, for the 2026 calendar year, starting March 1, 2026 through December 31, 2026, The Home News Tribune and The Star Ledger as the official publications for legal/public notices pursuant to N.J.S.A. 35:1-1 et seq.; and,

That, pursuant to legislation signed into law by the Governor on June 30, 2025, effective March 1, 2026, whenever a public entity is required by law or by order or rule of any court to publish or advertise a legal notice, the public entity is to publish or advertise the legal notice on the public entity’s official Internet website. The public entity’s official Internet website is to be accessible and available to the public free of charge, and a direct hyperlink to legal notices published on the public entity’s official Internet website is to be conspicuously placed on the public entity’s Internet homepage. Each public entity is required to submit the entity’s hyperlink to the Secretary of State and provide any updates thereto.

Additionally, a public entity is required to maintain an Internet archive of legal notices that are no longer displayed, which are required to be kept for at least one year. A public entity is required to display a legal notice on its legal notices’ webpage for at least one week, or other time period as required by law, before transferring it to the archive. A local government unit is not required to maintain an archive until July 1, 2026. A local government unit may in addition to the publication on its official website, publish or

advertise a legal notice on an eligible online news publication that meets the criteria as specified in the law.

Additionally, a newspaper utilized by a public body, as defined in section 3 of the "Open Public Meetings Act," P.L.1975, c.231 (C.10:4-8), for the purpose of complying with any requirements for issuing or publishing a public notice or legal advertisement, including, but not limited to, for providing adequate notice of a meeting, the solicitation of bids, qualifications, or proposals, or the publication of any ordinances, synopses, or summaries of official documents, is deemed eligible for the same purposes if the newspaper's publication is in print or electronic format. Public bodies may continue using qualifying newspapers for required public notices and legal advertisements until March 1, 2026 regardless of format.

Motion: Marc Herman

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 5-0; no abstentions; 2 absent.

ITEM 7: Motion to move into Closed Session at 7:22 PM.

Motion: Shawntell Manning

Second: Cristal Sharma

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 5-0; no abstentions; 2 absent.

ITEM 8: Motion to move back into Open Public Session at 8:15 PM.

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 5-0; no abstentions; 2 absent.

ITEM 9: Motion to adjourn at 8:15 PM.

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 5-0; no abstentions; 2 absent.