

Hatikvah International Academy Charter School

7 Lexington Avenue

East Brunswick, NJ

MEETING Minutes

June 11, 2026

6:00 P.M. Meeting

Meeting called to order by Daniel Gresack at 6:02 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 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:

25260511	HIB Confirmed
25260515	Non-HIB
25260519	HIB Confirmed

Director's Report: On tonight's agenda, there is a motion to approve the Board member terms for the 2026–2027 school year. I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to each member of the Board for

their continued dedication, service, and unwavering support of our school community. Their leadership and commitment play a vital role in our success.

As we conclude another wonderful school year, June is filled with exciting events and celebrations for our students and families:

June 1 – Student Council Talent Show

June 2 – Band and Guitar Showcases

June 4 – Field Day

June 9 – Israel Day

June 11 – NJSLA Celebration Party

June 11 – 8th Grade Dance

June 12 – Service Exhibition

June 17 – 8th Grade Graduation

June 18 – Kindergarten Moving-Up Celebration

These events highlight the accomplishments, growth, and spirit of our students throughout the year. We look forward to celebrating these special milestones together.

To our Hatikvah community, thank you for your partnership and support throughout the school year. We wish our Board members, staff, students, and families a safe, relaxing, and enjoyable summer.

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.

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 May 14, 2026 meeting.

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 2: Motion to approve the bills list dated from 05/08/2026 to 06/04/2026 in the amount of \$967,249.81; to approve the Secretary's Reports dated 05/31/2026; and to approve the budget transfers from 05/01/2026 through 05/31/2026.

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 5-0; no abstentions; 2 absent.

ITEM 3: Motion to approve the following personnel items:

Certificated Personnel:

Mary Sonny Ukpog, teacher, for 2026-2027 school year, at an annual salary of \$64,000.00. Additionally, she will be paid a \$1,500.00 signing bonus paid out over the first six months of employment.

Judy Adornati, part-time Speech and Language therapist, for 2026-2027 school year, at an annual salary of \$20,000.00.

Manavi Patel, part-time Occupational Therapist, for 2026-2027 school year, at an annual salary of \$42,000.00, adjusted monthly, according to time sheets for actual hours worked at a rate of \$80.00 per hour.

Non-certificated Personnel:

Gajalakshmi Sakthivel, current employee, for part time clerical work during summer hours at a rate of \$15.92 per hour on any regular office workdays from June 23, 2026, through August 21, 2026, the total compensation not to exceed \$1000.00.

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 4: Motion to authorize Amanda Rosenberg, Director, to offer employment contracts during the summer to fully staff the school.

Motion: Arie Behar

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			
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Passed 5-0; no abstentions; 2 absent.

ITEM 5: Motion to readopt Hatikvah's policy manual for 2026-2027, inclusive of the critical policies.

Motion: Cristal Sharma

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.

ITEM 6: Motion to authorize Amanda Rosenberg, Director, the authority to write and submit the school's Annual Report in consultation with the Board's President.

Motion: Daniel Gresack

Second: Marc Herman

Board Member	Voting	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
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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 approve the Board meeting dates for the 2026-2027 school year as follows:
 2026 meetings at 7:00 PM: August 20, September 24, October 22, November 19, December 17.
 2027 meetings at 7:00 PM: January 21, February 25, March 25, April 15 and May 20.
 The June 2027 meeting will take place at 6:00 PM on June 17.

Motion: Arie Behar

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 8: Motion to approve the following terms for Trustees for the 2026-2027 school year and to approve the officers:

Two-year terms from July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2028:

Marc Herman

Shawntell Manning

One-year term from July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027:

Dr. Dake Zhang

Mr. Arie Behar

Mrs. Cristal Sharma

And to approve the positions of:

President, Daniel Gresack

Vice President, Harish Hathiramani

Co-chairs of Finance Committee: Mr. Daniel Gresack, Mr. Harish Hathiramani, and Mr. Marc Herman

Chair of Education: Dr. Dake Zhang

Chair of Fundraising: Ms. Shawntell Manning

Co-chairs of Nominating Committee: Ms. Shawntell Manning and Mr. Marc Herman

Recording Secretary and Teacher Representative: Mr. Jeffrey Villanueva

Teacher Representative and substitute recording secretary: Rebecca Green

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 9: Motion to approve the Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA) FY27 APPLICATION FOR GRANT; WHEREAS, the State of New Jersey Department of Education has allocated money from the IDEA Grant to Hatikvah International Academy Charter School in the FY27 in the total amount of \$139,100.00 IDEA Consolidated; \$3,561.00 IDEA Preschool; and WHEREAS, Hatikvah International Academy Charter School has prepared the IDEA Grant application; to approve spending of the same once approved by the Department of Education.

Motion: Daniel Gresack

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.

ITEM 10: Motion to approve Resolution for FY27

Application for Title I, Title II Part A, and Title IV grant and to join the Lindenwold Public Schools Title III Consortium:

WHEREAS, the State of New Jersey Department of Education has allocated money from the TITLE I, II, III, and IV Grant to Hatikvah International Academy Charter School in the 2027 fiscal year; and WHEREAS, Hatikvah International Academy Charter School will prepare the Title I-IV Grant application:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of Hatikvah International Academy Charter School hereby approves the Title I-IV FY27 application, the assurances, and the allocation and spending of the grants once approved:

Title I PART A BASIC, CONCENTRATION, TARGETED & EFIG \$91,646.00 (including \$12,115.00 transferred from Title II-A; and \$10,000 transferred from Title IV); Title III Immigrant \$3,775.00. TOTAL ALLOCATION , \$91,646.00.

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 5-0; no abstentions; 2 absent.

ITEM 11: Motion to make 2026-2027 re-appointments: Mrs. Heather Winder as the school's Affirmative Action Officer, anti-bullying specialist; and Title IX Officer; Mrs. Chevy Speiser and Mrs. Heather Winder as the employees designated to coordinate compliance with Section 504; and Mrs. Joyel Furges as the school's McKinney Vento liaison.

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 12: Motion to approve a 6th grade field trip to Fairview Lake YMCA Camp on September 8-10, 2026, for two nights and three days. The trip will cost \$370.00 per student and will include all meals, lodging, and activities as well as supervision by teachers/administrator, and a nurse. Students eligible for free/reduced lunch will be provided with financial aid.

Motion: Daniel Gresack

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 13: Motion to approve Virtual or Remote Instructional Programs plan for 2026-2027 school year 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 14: Motion to approve the Board's Self-Evaluation as presented.

Motion: Arie Behar

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 5-0; no abstentions; 2 absent.

ITEM 15: Motion to approve the acceptance of a voluntary donation of services from Mr. Arie Behar for the mechanical installation and connections of ductless split HVAC systems at the School. The services shall be provided at no labor cost to the School. The Superintendent or designee is authorized to coordinate the work and ensure that all required permits, inspections, certifications, and applicable federal, state, and local regulations are satisfied prior to and upon completion of the installation.

Motion: Daniel Gresack

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 4-0; 1 abstention; 2 absent.

ITEM 16: Motion to approve contracts for substitute teacher/ nursing services:

1. Health Source Group for substitute nursing services at a rate of \$54.00/hr for LPN; \$71.00/hr for RN for health office; \$74.00/hr for RN for field trips; \$76.00/hr for school certified nurses.

Motion: Marc Herman

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 17: Motion to retroactively approve the appointment of the following teachers to provide home instruction services for eligible student from May 23, 2026 until June 30, 2026, at the \$50.00 hourly rate.

- Tracey Schreiber, total compensation not to exceed \$600.00
- Tristan Laferriere, total compensation not to exceed \$975.00

- Sarah Ciaccio, total compensation not to exceed \$300.00

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 18: Motion to move into Closed Session at 6:34 PM

Motion: Daniel Gresack

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.

ITEM 19: Motion to move back into Open Public Session at 7:10 PM

Motion: Daniel Gresack

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.

ITEM 20: Motion to approve Mrs. Rosenberg's annual evaluation and to approve a maximum permitted award of merit pay consistent with the terms of her employment contract.

Motion: Daniel Gresack

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.

ITEM 21: Motion to adjourn at 7:25 PM.

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			
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Passed 5-0; no abstentions; 2 absent.