Hatikvah International Academy Charter School
7 Lexington Avenue
East Brunswick, NJ
MEETING Minutes
May 14, 2026

7:00 P.M. Meeting

Meeting called to order by Daniel Gresack 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:

25260417	HIB Confirmed
25260416	Non-HIB
25260423	Non-HIB

Director's Report: Our new generator has been successfully installed, helping to ensure continuity of instruction and operations during power outages.

ELA and Math NJSLA-A testing has been completed, with Science testing for grades 5 and 8 scheduled for next week. Thank you to our teachers for preparing students, and special recognition to Samantha Passo for coordinating a smooth and successful testing window.

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 April 23, 2026 meeting.

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 5-0; 1 abstention; 1 absent.

ITEM 2: Motion to approve the bills list dated from 04/17/2026 to 05/07/2026 in the amount of $614,588.41; to approve the Secretary's Reports dated 04/30/2026; and to approve the budget transfers from 04/01/2026 through 04/30/2026.

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 6-0; no abstentions; 1 absent.

ITEM 3: Motion to approve the following personnel items:

Certificated Personnel:
Oshrat Hoffman, Occupational Therapist, part-time, to conduct student testing and evaluations as needed, effective May 18, 2026. She shall be compensated at a rate of $90.00 per hour, not to exceed a total amount of $2000, and shall work hours as assigned and/or approved by the administration.

Andrea Houtras**,** part-time Occupational Therapist, at a rate of $80.00 per hour, not to exceed a total amount of $1500.00, effective May 15, 2026 through June 30, 2026.

Non-certificated Personnel:
Rajdeep Kaur, current Hatikvah employee, to assume the substitute teaching role for one math class period for the remainder of this school year. The compensation for the additional planning and grading time shall be an additional two hours per week at the rate of $36.63 per hour, retroactively effective April 27, 2026 through June 19, 2026.

Substitutes:
Risa Hines, long-term replacement certificated teacher at an annual salary of $66,350.00, prorated for effective dates of employment, on or about October 8, 2026 through on or about January 4, 2027.

Contract adjustments:
Employee #22822120(local ID) agrees that 8/24/2026 will be used as the five-year retention increase date.

Paternity Leave:
Employee #83115130 (local ID) on or about October 8, 2026 with a return to work date of on or about January 4, 2027.

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.

ITEM 4: Motion to Amend Prior Board Resolution:

Motion to amend the Board resolution originally approved on August 25, 2022, regarding retention increases for employees hired on or after August 27, 2021, to clarify and include the complete effective date.

The original agenda item referenced “August 2021” as the hiring date period. The amended resolution shall state that employees hired on or after August 27, 2021 shall receive a salary increase of $2000.00 at the completion of each five-year period of employment.

All other terms and conditions of the original resolution approved on August 25, 2022, shall remain unchanged.

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 6-0; no abstentions; 1 absent.

ITEM 5: Motion to adjust 2026-2027 contracts. The following employees were approved for a $2000 retention increase in the March 2026 Agenda. Based on a review of their dates of hire, they are entitled to an additional $3000 retention increase (local ID): #82321002, #82321008, #82321014, #82321007, #82321013, #121919213.

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 6-0; no abstentions; 1 absent.

ITEM 6: Motion to re-approve the following professional contracts and Independent Contractors:

Austin and Company Inc. of Albany, NY	Insurance, workman's compensation	Depends on the policy each of which are annually determined by quotes completed by the agent and shared with the school.
Hoboken Tech Solutions	IT infrastructure, installation, configuration, testing, and support.	$ 62.00/hour
Claire Hollywood	Testing data analysis	$125.00/hour
J.E.O.D. Consulting LLC	Consulting for finances, budget, and bond covenants	$250.00/ hour
Carmen Rine	Food Services Director	$30.00 /hour
Dr. Jonathan Wierzbicki	School Physician	$2,000.00 stipend
James Shoop, SBA	Consulting services for business administration	$125.00/hour
Johnston Law Firm, LLC	Legal Services – General	$85.00 - $295.00/hour dependent upon whether the work is done by paralegal, associates, or named attorney.
Flanagan, Barone, & O'Brien, LLC-Rita Barone	Legal Services- Special Education	$75.00 - $175.00/hour dependent upon whether the work is done by paralegal, associates, or named attorney.

Charter School Business Management	Financial bookkeeping and budget work; grant management	$175/hour for controller (approximately 10 hours per year) and $215/hour for Chief Financial Officer (approximately 120 hours/year).

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 6-0; no abstentions; 1 absent.

ITEM 7: Motion to reapprove contracts for substitute teacher/ nursing services:

1. Swing Education - $175.00 per diem ($140.00 going to the substitute)
2. Horizon Staffing Resources - $72.00 hourly for health office and field trips; $85.00 hourly for school certified nurses.
3. Delta T Group for substitute nursing services at a rate of $58.00/hr for LPN and $60.00/hr for RN.

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 6-0; no abstentions; 1 absent.

ITEM 8: Motion to re-approve the following providers for testing and evaluations for students as required by the Child Study Team for the 2025-2026 school year:

1. Dr. Batul Ladak, M.D.,F.A.A.P., at a rate of $750.00 per Neurodevelopmental evaluation.
2. Educational Specialized Associates at a rate of $800.00 per Neurodevelopmental evaluation.
3. Learning Tree Multicultural/Multilingual Evaluation and Consulting, Inc. to perform Bilingual Psychological and Educational testing at a rate of $850.00 per evaluation.
4. Dr. Rajeswari Muthuswamy for CST psychiatric evaluations at a rate of $575.00 per evaluation.
5. Dr. Alison Smoller, Developmental Pediatrics of Central Jersey at the rate of $650.00 for Neurodevelopmental Evaluation and $1250.00 for Autism ADOS testing.
6. Dr. Anne Roth, Developmental/Behavioral Pediatrician, at a rate of $600.00 per Neurodevelopmental Evaluation and Autism ADOS testing.
7. Kira Shmuler, Ed.S. School Psychologist, at a rate of $1,200.00 per Bilingual (Russian) Psychoeducational Evaluation.
8. Dr. Eric Li, Alexander Road Associates, at a rate of $880.00 per Psychiatric Evaluation.
9. Sally Weisbrot, Physical Therapist, DPT, at the rate of $450.00 per evaluation, including the report and follow-up meeting.
10. New Hope Psychological Services LLC to perform Psychological and Educational testing at a rate of $1,350.00 per evaluation
11. Behavior Therapy Associates for Functional Behavior Assessment at the

hourly rate of $220, the total cost not to exceed $4,070.

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 6-0; no abstentions; 1 absent.

ITEM 9: Motion to appoint Olugbenga Olabintan, CPA, at a rate of $27,500.00 for preparation of the school's Annual Financial Report (CAFR) and Auditor's Management Report (AMR) for FY 2025-2026.

Motion: Daniel Gresack

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 6-0; no abstentions; 1 absent.

ITEM 10: Motion to approve Students Use of Cell Phones and Internet-Enabled Devices Policy, #5131.2.

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 6-0; no abstentions; 1 absent.

ITEM 11: Motion to approve the lease between Friends of Hatikvah and Hatikvah International Academy Charter School. The total annual amount of the lease remains unchanged at $1,085,000 which is about $19.38 per sq. ft.

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 12: Motion to move into Closed Session at 7:25 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 6-0; no abstentions; 1 absent.

ITEM 13: Motion to move back into Open Public Session at 7:56 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.

ITEM 14: Motion to adjourn at 7:56 PM.

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 6-0; no abstentions; 1 absent.