

**MINUTES OF THE HELLENIC CLASSICAL CHARTER
SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
HELD ON September 29, 2017 AT 9:30 a.m.
AT
646 5th AVENUE, BROOKLYN, NEW YORK 11215**

MEMBERS AND STAFF

PRESENT

Nikolaos Leonardos	Treasurer
Christina Tettonis	Principal
Joy Petrakos	Director of Operations
Natasha Caban	Assistant Principal
Anastasia Etimos	Guidance Counselor
Stacy Kokkoros	Business Administrative Assistant

VIA SKYPE CONFERENCE

Charles Capetanakis	Chairman
Harvey Newman	Secretary
Effie Lekas	Member
Dean Angelakos	Member

ABSENT

Dr. Liana Theodoratou	Excused
Nik Mathews	Member

Charles Capetanakis chaired the meeting. Joy Petrakos acted as recorder.

The first item on the agenda is the approval of the minutes from the last meeting held on August 30, 2017.

The minutes have been reviewed, transcribed and made available for public review. On a motion made by Mr. Newman and seconded by Mr. Leonardos. Mr. Capetanakis asked if there are any additions, deletions or corrections to the minutes from the August 30th, 2017 meeting as transcribed. Members of the Board, members of the public here and now, Mrs. Petrakos called the roll. Mr. Capetanakis asked if there are any other action items that need a vote, there are none.

Mrs. Tettonis reported that she is very happy with the great job that the new teachers are doing. Mr. Capetanakis stated that the principal's report is comprehensive. Mr. Newman also stated that the principal's report was thorough and amazing.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Mrs. Tettonis congratulated HCCS for being accepted into the School Empowerment Network. She stated that this is huge towards our replication. Mrs. Tettonis reported that the School Empowerment Network will support our new leader in how to start up our new school in every aspect. In addition to that they will support our application, and make sure that before we submit it, it is reviewed and that they do not find anything that would stop us from getting the application. They will support us in anything from operations to finding a building and just networking. The grant amount that we will receive is \$375,000.00 which will be disbursed in a three year commitment. After the new school would open they will conduct weekly site visits. In addition they will probably support replication for the next site. Mrs. Tettonis and Mrs. Petrakos had many interviews with The School Empowerment Network before HCCS was finally accepted. The funding comes from The Walton Foundation and basically their mission is to help small schools replicate. In order to do that they actually focus on the professional development of the new leader and the school operations. They will support us in any way they can and they will guide us through the process.

Mr. Newman asked Mrs. Tettonis if she can forward him the parameters. He also asked if the \$375,000 was a total for three years. She will forward him the information and yes the \$375,000.00 is a total sum.

Mr. Leonados asked, where do we stand with the application. Mrs. Tettonis answered that the last time she spoke with Amy Shore from CEI she said that we need a location to go ahead with an application. Mr. Newman confirmed that we do need a location to continue with the application.

Mr. Capetanakis suggested that we use some of our alumni as ambassadors for the community outreach. It would be a good lesson for them, he stated. Mrs. Tettonis stated that they will be forwarding us information about other grants that might be available to us for our replication in addition to their grant.

Mr. Capetanakis asked if there are any further questions on the principal's report? There are none. Any questions on the treasurer report? There were none.

Mrs. Tettonis reported to the Board that it is very difficult for teachers to teach under the tough conditions of not having air conditioning in warm weather when the room is filled with children. She said that when you walk into these classrooms it is unbearable. Some teachers were cancelling tests. She suggested that we organize a fundraiser to be able to purchase air conditions for the classrooms.

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Mrs. Tettonis also reported that she receives complaints from parents every single day. Groups of parents have been purchasing fans for their classrooms to help but they want the fans to follow their children as they move up in grade. We have issues as to why some classes have fans and some don't.

Mrs. Petrakos will look into getting estimates from one of our parents who works for an air conditioning company and will look into getting a second estimate from another company. It has become an issue, she says. The teachers have a hard time teaching and the children cannot concentrate. It is not a comfortable environment during the warm weather. Mrs. Tettonis highly recommends that something be done to correct this situation.

Mrs. Petrakos gave an update on the C of O and how we are very close to obtaining it. She reported that we had a fire inspector visit recently who tried to give us a violation. She was able to give him the proper documentation so he did not give us any violations. After he left she was on a conference call with Kelmar and Code, the expeditors. She asked them to work faster and with more urgency towards the steps that need to be done for the school's C of O. It has been very rough, she said, but we were finally able to get Code to react. After a long and strenuous conversation with them she was able to get all the paperwork we need from them the next day. We now have the Equipment Use Permits (EUP), which were missing, but are on site and signed by the DOB. There is still a slight problem with the plumbing and should be corrected in the next couple of weeks. Mr. Leonardos asked about the violations that are still pending. He stated that if we do not get these in line it could take six months to get the C of O. Mrs. Gerakaris and Mrs. Petrakos are taking care of resolving these violations. Mrs. Petrakos stated that everything should be cleared by the end of the year.

Mrs. Tettonis reported on our special education students stating that we have eight children in our building that are not in the right setting. Instead of being in an 8 to 1 setting they are in a whole class setting receiving what is called resource room ten times a week, two periods a day, from our special education teachers instead of what is written on their IEP as an appropriate setting (ICT). The parents and the committee of special education are aware of this. The children are receiving the services and making progress. We received an email from the DOE after they rejected our invoice due to this issue. They requested we submit a category discrepancy comment for each of the 8 students that are not in the right setting as per their IEP.

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Mrs. Tettonis stated that we will continue working with the committee of Special Education about this and will try to change the IEP's to indicate that the children receive SETSS. She added, however, the committee of Special Education may not change the IEP if they deem that having SETSS is not the appropriate setting for the child. It is a very serious issue.

Mrs. Petrakos said she is concerned about this because we are trying to increase our special education numbers each year and the DOE is stating that we and other schools are over billing for services that are not written in the individual child's IEP. We are at a crossroad where we do not have an ICT setting but offer SETSS (special education teacher support services). Yet, we are expected to increase our special education percentages but we are told by the DOE that we are over billing on our invoice. She added we hope that this issue does not affect our special education revenue.

Mrs. Tettonis informed the Board that we are hosting educators from Chile. Mrs. Kakleas is presenting what we do with new teachers and she will focus a walk through with them and doing professional development with them. We are very excited to open up our school, she stated. CEI is taking a different direction and doing a lot of international work. They would like to have more people come to our school to learn from us.

There being no unfinished business, Mr. Capetanakis asked for a motion to adjourn. The motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Newman. Mr. Leonardos seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

Harvey Newman
Harvey Newman, Secretary