

**MINUTES OF THE HELLENIC CLASSICAL CHARTER
SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
HELD ON January 24, 2018 AT 9:30 a.m.
AT
646 5th AVENUE, BROOKLYN, NEW YORK 11215**

MEMBERS AND STAFF

PRESENT

Christina Tettonis	Principal
Joy Petrakos	Director of Operations
Natasha Caban	Assistant Principal
Stacy Kokkoros	Business Administrative Assistant
Christina Portelos	Operations Manager

VIA SKYPE CONFERENCE

Charles Capetanakis	Chairman
Harvey Newman	Secretary
Nikolaos Leonardos	Treasurer
Dean Angelakos	Member
Nik Mathews	Member

ABSENT

Effie Lekas	Excused
Anastasia Etimos	Excused
Dr. Liana Theodoratou	Excused
Grazia Svokos	Excused

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 December 18, 2017. The minutes have been reviewed, transcribed and made available for public review. On a motion made by Mr. Leonardos and seconded by Ms. Lekas, the minutes were unanimously approved. Mr. Capetanakis asked if there are any deletions or corrections to the minutes from the last meeting as transcribed. Members of the Board, members of the public here and now, Mrs. Petrakos called the roll.

PRINCIPAL REPORT

Mrs. Tettonis wished the board a Happy New Year. She reported to the Board that once again the Agnes Varis Foundation made a generous donation of \$100,000 that will go toward new classroom libraries and STEM materials. This donation was made possible because of the generosity of Mr. & Mrs. Svokos. We have already placed the order for the classroom libraries, she stated. This was a very general donation and we are extremely grateful.

**HCCS Board of Directors
Meeting Minutes**

January 24, 2018

Mrs. Tettonis emailed Agnes Varis' biography to the Board because those were the wishes of George Svokos. He wants Agnes Varis's vision to be made public.

Mr. Leonardos suggested that we should put out her biography in the next press release. This way more people can learn who she was and what she was about. He stated that even after her death she is still helping a lot of children. Mr. Capetanakis thinks that this is a great idea. Mrs. Varis was a remarkable person. Thank you to Grazia and George Svokos for all that they do.

Mrs. Tettonis informed the Board that Grazia Svokos will be celebrating her husband George 60th birthday and the invitation she sent out to her guests stated instead of gifts, to please make a donation to any one of George Svokos' charities, the first one being the Hellenic Classical Charter School.

Mrs. Tettonis wanted to recognize that for the third year in a row Mrs. Lekas continues the tradition in our school where she donates Vasilopites to our entire school on the first day back from the holidays. We thank Mrs. Lekas very much for being a dedicated board member and for starting this wonderful tradition.

Mrs. Tettonis continues to inform the Board about the National History Day Fair and how new to this year we added a Ancient Greek Theater Club. Both groups will be going to Greece in February. Their itinerary is outlined in the Principal's report. This year we are sending extra staff. In addition to Mr. Petro Fourniotis (NHD Coordinator), Ms. Georgia Kopani (AGT Coordinator), Maria Bonakis (8th Grade Teacher) additional staff members attending will be Cathy Kakleas, (Dean of Academics) and Dena Capetanakis (Events Coordinator). We are very excited, she said. The Ancient Greek Theater Group will be having their performance on Sunday, June 3, 2018. It will be open to the community, she stated. Mrs. Tettonis also informed the Board that Dena Capetanakis will be paying for her own ticket to fly to Greece for this trip.

Mr. Leonardos suggested that we ask Kimisis Theotokou (LANDLORD) to send an advertisement for the play with their mailings to their community.

Ms. Maria Bonakis was able to connect with author Lou Ureneck, a Professor from Boston University and author of SMIRNA 1922 which is the book that Mr. Fourniotis is using for his book for research on the National History Day Fair. He will be visiting our school during VIP Reader Week and will have a Q & A with the National History Day students. They have read the book and are very prepared for the interview.

**HCCS Board of Directors
Meeting Minutes**

January 24, 2018

Mrs. Tettonis reported that the Catholic High School admission results are coming in. We have received \$277,000.00 in scholarships. We are thrilled with these results, she stated. She also reported that Round One of the public high school results will not be in until mid-March. Mrs. Tettonis shared her observations that in the last two years more students want to attend Catholic High Schools. It might be due to the scholarships that are given out or they just want a continuation of the family feeling that they get from our school. She is watching this trend very closely. Mr. Capetanakis agreed, private schools have upped their game, he said. Mrs. Tettonis has received calls from admissions offices and has been asked her opinion on our students. This means that they trust us and want our students. With this said, she will be asking our two guidance counselors to become more knowledgeable in the Catholic high school admission process.

Mrs. Tettonis proudly reported that for the fourth year in a row we have been designated a High Performing Reward School. We have also been granted a UPK extension until June 2019.

Mrs. Tettonis reported that we have been having bi-monthly meetings with our consultants Carter and Amy from CEI regarding the Renewal. Our application is due on October 2, 2018. The site visit will probably be scheduled in September 2018.

Mrs. Tettonis then gave an update on replication. She stated that there is a walk through scheduled today for a potential new school site. Joy Petrakos, Dena Capetanakis and Cathy Kakleas have been working with Amy Shore and Carter from CEI. Things are looking good she said. They also began weekly phone calls with the School Empowerment Network and they have really been unbelievable.

Mr. Capetanakis reported that he touched base with David Negrón. Mr. Capetanakis stated that he is starting Friends of Hellenic. This is a way to get a better utilization of the reimbursement rate. It will be the Friends of Hellenic that will enter into a Lease and then sub-lease to the new Charter School. Mr. Capetanakis will be working on this.

DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS

Nik Mathews asked a questions pertaining from row 77 of the financial report, the unemployment expense. His question is why is it such a large increase? Christina Portelos responded that it gets paid out at a certain rate, the first \$8000.00 comes from employee wages. In October she said, we switched over to Oasis as a PEO and since they are really the employer on the taxes, they had to start over again and we had to pay

**HCCS Board of Directors
Meeting Minutes**

January 24, 2018

the unemployment insurance twice. Mrs. Petrakos added that this happened because we changed carriers.

Mrs. Petrakos stated that the three percent raise that is given to our teachers every year, even though it is much deserved, is catching up to us because we are giving out more than we are bringing in. Mrs. Petrakos also stressed the fact that we need more money for Operations. Mr. Leonardos said once we turn over the key money there will be a rent concession. That will be approximately \$7,000 extra a month. This will help. Mrs. Petrakos would still like to create an urgency. This will help but it will not be enough. Mrs. Petrakos explained that everything is increasing but the revenue is not increasing enough. Mr. Leonardos suggested increasing enrollment. Mrs. Petrakos responded that we are at capacity. She also reported that she will be looking into the State Stimulus Fund. In the past few years we have not been eligible because we were SSF recipients in 2008 but we might be eligible now. She said she will call NYSED to obtain further information.

Mr. Leonardos informed the Board that the Church (LANDLORD) is under contract to purchase the house in the back (19th street) by the ramp. They are waiting for approval from the Archdiocese to move forward. Their plan is to demolish the existing building, build an underground parking lot, a community facility on the ground floor and potentially additional space on the upper floors. But of course, they are still in the planning phases he said.

Mr. Mathews asked how are we meeting the deficit right now? Mr. Leonardos answered that have a credit line in use.

Mrs. Petrakos reported that we had a DOB inspection last week. We were hoping for a approval she said, but unfortunately it did not happen. Code, who are our expeditors, failed to upload a required document needed for a place of assembly inspection. Therefore the inspector had to abort and reschedule. She stated that this was very upsetting but luckily the inspector was able to get us another inspection for this Friday. Mrs. Petrakos reported that the building is ready and all the required documents have been submitted. Mrs. Petrakos is optimistic that this inspection will be the final one. The DOB now has everything that they need.

Mr. Capetanakis asked what is our obligation to the bank? Mr. Leonardos replied \$400,000. That is upon obtaining the TCO.

Mrs. Petrakos reported that we have approximately \$25,000.00 in fines still outstanding.

Mrs. Petrakos asked the Board to send in writing an approval for Grazia Svokos to join the school Board.

**HCCS Board of Directors
Meeting Minutes**

January 24, 2018

Mrs. Petrakos reported that the enrollment chart for replication must be decided on and completed. In order to move on with the budget we must provide an enrollment chart. Mr. Leonardos asked if we can do more than 54 students per grade? Mrs. Petrakos responded that we should not do more than 27 students per class.

Mrs. Petrakos is proposing to start the replication school with Kindergarten, First and Second Grades with two classes each. Mrs. Tettonis added it might be best to start with Kindergarten and First grades with three classes each. Mr. Leonardos agreed.

Mr. Newman responded that historically the schools that were driven by the economic need rather than making periodical sense have lived to regret the decision of taking second graders. So while he understands the economic need he would discourage beginning with a Kindergarten, First and Second grade. What he would rather see is a larger number of Kindergarteners and First graders in the first year. Mr. Leonardos agreed with Mr. Newman. Mr. Newman recommends that we do not take second graders.

Ms. Caban suggests that we have Kindergarten to Fifth Grade with three classes each. No middle school. Mr. Newman added that in the future if we wanted to add a middle school we can always do so. Mrs. Petrakos agreed.

Mr. Newman stated that what we have to do is find what the potential pool is and get a sense of what the community is. We can say that we want three classes but we may not be able to fulfill this commitment. Mrs. Petrakos agreed with Mr. Newman. Ms. Caban remarked that District 20 is very overcrowded and are shipping children into other districts. There is potential in this area.

Mrs. Petrakos summarizes that they will be looking at a new space and they will be inquiring into District 20 to see if there is a need. Mrs. Tettonis stated that District 20 does not have a Charter School at this time.

Mrs. Tettonis proposed to amend our Mission Statement. She asked approval from the Board to make revisions because she feels that it is outdated. She will send the old Mission Statement along with the new one in an email to the Board.

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 10:15 a.m.

Harvey Newman
Harvey Newman, Secretary

