Philadelphia Hebrew Public (PHPCS) Board of Trustees Meeting

March 16, 2026

5:30 pm

Location: Zoom

Minutes

Trustees Present	Trustees Not Present
Hedra Packman	
Klissa Thomas	
Katy Tipson	
Keli McLoyd	
Maya Mapp	

Also Present

Elyssa Yuen, PHPCS, Head of School

Emily Hurst, Chief Strategy & Talent Officer, Hebrew Public

Lauren Murphy, Director of External Relations, Hebrew Public

Emily Fernandez, Chief Schools Officer, Hebrew Public

Valerie Joell, Sr. Partner & Fellowship Director, Jounce Partners

Lisa Lurie, CFO, Hebrew Public

I. Welcome and Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes (Schedule A)

- Klissa Thomas called the meeting to order at 5:34 pm. Keli McLoyd made a motion to approve the agenda for today's meeting minutes. Hedra Packman seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.
- Klissa made a motion to approve the January 2026 meeting minutes. Keli seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.
- Valerie Joell introduced herself to the board, she's been working closely with Elyssa Yuen and Philadelphia Hebrew Public.

II. Leadership & Board Reports (in presentation)

- Board Dashboard

- Attendance Update: Emily Hurst shared that attendance remains an area of concern and continued focus, with interventions in place and additional operational supports planned.
  - Personnel Update: Emily Hurst reported ongoing staffing challenges, including vacancies in operations and a 4th-grade ELA role, with active recruitment underway and an anticipated hire for Director of Operations.
  - Discipline Update: Elyssa Yuen shared that suspension rates have increased this year, particularly with the expansion of the middle school, and leadership is closely monitoring trends and implementing culture and staffing supports.
  - Enrollment Update & Strategy (SY26): Enrollment has stabilized above earlier projections and is currently at 601. The school team is continuing targeted outreach efforts, including family engagement events, personalized phone calls, and marketing strategies to support strong application and enrollment numbers for next year.
  - State of Learning: Elyssa Yuen and Valerie Joell from Jounce Partners provided an academic overview and reviewed MAP data, noting that while overall achievement remains below desired levels, the school's focus on strengthening Tier 1 instruction through a knowledge-building approach is driving improved student growth. Winter results showed over half of students meeting growth targets in both ELA and math, with additional gains in early literacy, including improved reading proficiency in grades implementing a new foundational program.
- Potential Partnership with Child Mind Institute: Emily Fernandez shared that the Child Mind Institute is exploring expansion into Philadelphia and is pursuing grant funding that would allow them to support the school at a reduced cost. The proposed partnership would focus on trauma-informed student intervention groups, staff-wide professional development on trauma and its impact, and the implementation of a social-emotional learning curriculum.
- Proposed SY27 Salary Scale with sample SuRGE calculations: Emily Hurst presented an in-depth look at a new salary scale that would provide PHPCS teachers with a competitive salary scale that would increase transparency and

clarity, allowing PHPCS to be closer in alignment with the district's pay scale. The scale would be built into the budget that will be presented to the board in June.

III. Board Reports & Actions

- Approval Finance Report & Revised FY26 Budget (Schedule B)
  - Lisa Lurie provided a high-level overview of the financial report and revised FY26 budget. The Finance Committee met two weeks ago to review both items in greater detail. The school remains in a strong financial position.
  - Keli McLoyd made a motion to approve the Finance Report & Revised FY26 Budget (Schedule B). Maya Mapp seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.
- Approval of Amendment to Credit Card Policy within the Financial Policies & Procedures (Schedule C)
  - Hedra Packman made a motion to approve the Amendment to Credit Card Policy within the Financial Policies & Procedures (Schedule C). Katy Tipson seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.
- Approval of SY27 Calendar (Schedule D)
  - The board discussed the calendar and provided feedback. The board declined to approve the calendar today after providing feedback on the schedule of conferences. It will be added to next month's agenda after the board comments are addressed.
  - Hedra Packman motioned to approve the first day of school on August 24, 2026. Maya Mapp seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.
- Approval of Cardinal Point Contract Addendum (Schedule E)
  - The board discussed the addendum and declined to approve the contract today. It will be added to next month's agenda after the board comments are addressed.

IV. Public Comment

None.

V. Closing and Adjournment

Klissa Thomas asked for a motion to adjourn at 7:45 pm. Katy Tipson made the motion, Hedra Packman seconded, and the motion passed.