

---

HARLEM VILLAGE ACADEMY WEST CHARTER SCHOOL  
HARLEM VILLAGE ACADEMY EAST CHARTER SCHOOL

# Minutes

---

*Meeting of the Board of Trustees  
April 27, 2022*

A meeting of the Board of Trustees of Harlem Village Academy West Charter School and Harlem Village Academy East Charter School was held on April 27, 2022. In attendance were board members Aria Gee, Dr. Deborah Kenny, Ronald Sernau and David Zwiebel. Hannah Johns, Joe Keeney, Chuck Klein and Bob Ollwerther from Harlem Village Academies were also in attendance.

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Zwiebel who confirmed that the meetings of both charters would run concurrently.

The minutes from the November 11, 2021 board meeting were distributed and Mr. Sernau made a motion to approve the minutes, which was seconded by Ms. Gee, and approved unanimously.

Mr. Klein discussed the schools combined results for the nine months ended March 31, 2022. Revenues of \$26.6 million were unfavorable to budget by \$.9 million due to lower enrollment and special education funding. Operating expenses of \$25.9 million were favorable to budget by \$.5 million. The surplus for the nine months year to date of \$.2 million, was unfavorable to budget by \$.3 million.

Mr. Klein then reviewed the financials by school and by charter entity for the nine months year to date. West Elementary operating deficit of \$.1MM was unfavorable to budget by \$.6MM primarily due to net rental expense. West Middle and East Elementary operating surpluses were

unfavorable to budget by \$.2MM and \$.3MM, respectively. East Middle operating surplus was favorable to budget by \$.2MM. The High School operating deficit was \$.6MM favorable to budget. By charter, HVA West operating deficit was unfavorable to budget by \$.5MM and HVA East operating surplus was favorable to budget by \$.1MM.

HVA West had cash of \$2.9MM, a current ratio of .8 and a total retained surplus of \$1.3MM and HVA East had cash of \$3.3MM, a current ratio of 1.6 and a total retained surplus of \$2.7MM. Note that this data is on an operating basis and does not include the impact of the Federal PPP program.

Dr. Kenny next discussed the progress on several academic initiatives.

The Montessori PreK startup launched this year. In the West Charter, this included renovating the West 124<sup>th</sup> Street Elementary building to enable accommodation of preschool students. HVA is partnering with a leading Montessori education program in New York to ensure that the program is world class. The Montessori method has been very successfully implemented. Montessori can be felt in the physical space as all the PreK classrooms use Montessori materials, furniture, and supplies in the classrooms. For example, PreK classrooms are designed purposefully to support student independence, with lots of stations for small groups which require students at a young age to take the initiative to make choices, and with purposefully designed learning materials and a schedule that is designed to foster intellectual curiosity and persistence. Dr. Kenny noted that the Harlem community response to the PreK has been overwhelming.

Dr. Kenny then discussed the Accelerated Math Initiative for Grades 6-12. This new program consists of three components, first and foremost, curriculum development, as well as related assessments, second, the summer learning program, and third, an elite math team, which

is already underway. The entire project is designed to culminate in an increase in STEM majors at colleges.

Dr. Kenny then discussed the International Baccalaureate (“IB”) Program. HVA is currently the only school in Harlem to offer the IB for All. HVA just received its formal five-year IB renewal from the IB Organization, with commendations. HVA High will be expanding the IB Program “To All” students from its current function as an Honors program. In addition, the IB organization recently asked HVA to present its work to schools around the world as the IB organization is looking to expand beyond elite schools to more urban schools.

Mr. Zwiebel provided an update on construction work to be accomplished during the next year in the West Elementary Building and noted that the Greater Refuge Building has a little over two years to run in its lease.

Mr. Keeney discussed safety and security in the neighborhood surrounding the 124<sup>th</sup> locations. Crime is up by 47% over the previous year per NYPD statistics. HVA has engaged consultants to review the physical security and building security entry protocols. HVA continues to engage with the local community association, neighbors, and NYPD regarding the safety of our students and staff.

Mr. Ollwerther referred to the previously approved officer slate for 2022-22 including Mr. Zwiebel as Chairman, Dr. August as Vice Chairman, Mr. Pianko as Treasurer and Ms. Newman as Secretary. Mr. Zwiebel made a motion to approve the officers noted above in addition to Ms. Gee, Dr. Kenny and Mr. Sernau as board members for one-year terms ending July 31. Mr. Sernau seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

The Board discussed the expansion of the PreK programs including adding one class on the East campus and one class on the West campus in the 2022-2023 school year. Mr. Zwiebel

made a motion to approve the expansion of the PreK in both charters which was seconded by Ms. Gee and approved unanimously.

Mr. Zwiebel requested that Mr. Pianko, who was unable to make the meeting, review the financials included in the package and apprise the Board of his review.

Mr. Zwiebel made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Mr. Sernau seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned.