

HARLEM VILLAGE ACADEMIES CHARTER SCHOOLS

Minutes

*Meeting of the Board of Trustees
Via Zoom
June 23, 2025*

A meeting of the Board of Trustees of Harlem Village Academies Charter Schools was held on June 23, 2025. In attendance were board members Dr. Andrew August, Aria Gee, Dr. Deborah Kenny, Erica Newman, Daniel Pianko, and David Zweibel. Joe Keeney, Chuck Klein, Carrie Mauer and Bob Ollwerther from Harlem Village Academies were also in attendance.

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Zwiebel.

The minutes from the November 19, 2024 board meeting were distributed and Dr. August made a motion to approve the minutes, which was seconded by Ms. Newman, and approved unanimously.

Mr. Zwiebel invited Dr. Kenny to make the CEO report. Dr. Kenny presented on HVA's long-term strategic vision to lead the state in test scores and to be a best-in-class model for deeper learning. She recapped the key accomplishments for the first five years of the plan, including: HVA ranks in the top 3% of all charter schools and top 4% of all NY state public schools; 93% proficiency in 8th grade math and ELA compared to 41% and 52% for New York state, 100% high school senior matriculation to increasingly selective four-year colleges; charter and IB renewals with accolades; the Accelerated Math program; a neuroscience-based mindfulness program; embarking on the Montessori accreditation process; library upgrades; expanded arts and field-trip programs; expanded summer college and summer school; and creation of an instructional guide for HVA teachers based on her new book.

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Dr. Kenny then outlined the key priorities for the next phase of implementing her vision. These priorities include integrating Montessori practices into all kindergarten classrooms; designing a Montessori-informed curriculum for grades 1-4; expanding the IB into middle school; redesigning HVA's teachers college and upgrading course syllabi consistent with these initiatives; and restructuring responsibilities of the leadership team.

Dr. Kenny also reported on the completion of several substantial fundraising commitments. Dr. Kenny thanked the entire board for their support, especially David Zweibel, for their commitment and contributions to HVA.

Dr. Kenny then announced the promotion of Carrie Mauer to Executive Director. Ms. Mauer introduced herself and described her operational priorities for the upcoming year. Dr. Kenny acknowledged Ms. Mauer's contributions to date and expressed confidence in her positive impact on HVA.

Mr. Klein then reviewed the financials by school and by charter entity for the ten months ending April 30, 2025. Mr. Klein reminded the board that the balance sheet is combined as a result of the charter merger that was effective July 1, 2024.

The ten-month revenues from public sources were \$25.2MM, which is favorable to budget by \$404K. The full year forecast is \$29.5MM which is unfavorable to budget by \$203K. The ten-month operating expenses were \$28.1MM which is unfavorable to budget \$4.1MM. The full year expense forecast is \$33.2MM which is unfavorable to budget by \$3.9MM.

The ten-month operating deficit was \$3.2MM and the full year forecasted net operating deficit is \$4.1MM, before any network grants. The shortfall will be funded by a Network grant which is not recorded until the end of the fiscal year. This variance reflects our continuing need to invest in educational expenses for our students.

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Several board queries on the ten-month results were discussed and answers were provided.

Mr. Klein reviewed the 2025-2026 school budget proposal. The full year budgeted revenue is \$30.1M an increase of \$339K versus the 2024 budget. This includes \$1.9MM for our Pre - K program. The revenue reflects a 4.5% increase in base per pupil funding from NY State (\$19,903 vs \$19,044). The full year budgeted expenses are \$30.1M an increase of \$339K versus the 2024 budget. This is due primarily to an increase in salaries. The total budget is flat for the year.

Dr. August made a motion to approve the budget for School Year 2025-2026, which was seconded by Ms. Gee and approved unanimously.

Mr. Zwiebel referred to the Slate of Officers, which was included in the Board Package. The proposed officers for 2025-26 are Mr. Zwiebel, Chairman, Dr. August, Vice Chair of Education, Ms. Newman, Vice Chair of Operations and Community and Mr. Pianko, Treasurer. In addition, Carrie Maurer was proposed as a new board member and Executive Director. Ms. Gee, and Dr. Kenny will continue as board members. Dr. August made a motion to approve the Officer Slate and board nominees for 2025-2026 which was seconded by Ms. Gee and approved unanimously.

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