

The Public Board of Trustees meeting of the Howard Gardner Multiple Intelligence Charter School was held on Tuesday, August 19, 2025, at 6:00 p.m.

Mr. Ceccacci welcomed visitors.

The group joined in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call:

Sam Ceccacci, President	Present	Mary Beth D’Andrea	Present
Dr. Catherine Richmond-Cullen, Vice President	Present	Al Dorunda	Present
Dino Galli, Secretary	Present	Wayne Evans	Present
Michael Barbetti, Treasurer	Absent	Dr. Fran Langan	Present
Suzanne Ambrogio-Jaffe	Present	Judy Price	Present
Laurie Cadden	Present		
<u>Staff</u>	<u>Non-Voting:</u>		
Joe Ross, CEO	Present		
TreeAnne McEnery, Principal	Present		
John Marsico, Business Manager	Present		
Deana Bonacci, Asst. to the CEO	Present		

Ten (10) Trustees present, one (1) Trustee absent.

Public Participation:

Mr. Ceccacci if anyone from the audience wanted to address the Board. There were zero comments made.

Approval of Minutes:

Motion: Approve minutes from the June 17, 2025, HGMICS Board Meeting.

The motion was made by Suzanne Ambrogio-Jaffe and seconded by Wayne Evans.

All Trustees voted Yes with 10 Trustees present and 1 Trustee absent.

President’s Report:

With tonight's meeting, we mark the beginning of another school year for the Board of Director's of Howard Gardner Multiple Intelligence Charter School. With that, we thank now former Board Member Susan Hennemuth for her dedication and expertise during her years of service to HGMICS and we welcome Attorney Judith Price as a new member of the Board of Trustees.

Administrative Staff, in preparation for the new academic year, were busy over the summer with renovations to school property and Board Members will notice changes to the multi-purpose room, elementary school hallway, STEAM room, social studies classroom, administrative annex, sidewalks, employee parking lot, access road to lower lot, and, fencing along the outdoor educational area on the lower lot.

The new year for staff began on August 15th with pre-service activities and orientation for new faculty

and staff.

The new school year for students will begin on August 28th with 392 students ready to learn and 74 full-time staff ready to teach and instruct.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, we wish everyone at HGMICS a year full of health, happiness, and a successful school year filled with great educational experiences.

Finance/Facilities Committee – Chair: Michael Barbetti
June 2025 Financial Report - John Marsico

Revenue & Expense Notes

1. Fiscal year to date revenues for the period ending 06/30/2025 were \$7,016,701 as compared to \$6,423,408 for the period ending 06/30/2024. Fiscal year to date revenues for the period ending 06/30/2025 of \$7,061,701 fell short to the budgeted amount of \$7,167, 897 by \$151,196, or 2.11%. As has been mentioned several times prior, this was the result of the reduction in the ADM cost per student reflected on the Scranton School District revised PDE-363 form completed during the fiscal year.
2. Fiscal year to date expenses for the period ending 06/30/2025 were \$7,092,982 as compared to \$5,703,445 for the period ending 06/30/2024. Fiscal year to date expenses for the period ending 06/30/2025 of \$7,092,982 were slightly higher than the budgeted amount of \$6,965,981 (\$127,000 or 1.82%). This is primarily due to the purchase of the new ELA curriculum purchased in 2024-2025 for the 2025-2026 academic year.
3. The fiscal year to date Net Operating (Loss) for the period ending 06/30/2025 was (\$76,281), as compared to Net Operating Income of \$719,964 for the period ending 06/30/2024. The fiscal year to date Net Operating (Loss) for the period ending 06/30/2025 of (\$76,281) was less than the budgeted Net Operating Income of \$201,916 by \$278,196 or 137.78%. This is primarily due to the various cash basis to accrual basis adjustments made at 6/30/25 in anticipation of our annual audit. These adjustments will be reversed with an effective date of 7/1/25 and will impact the July 2025 Financial Report accordingly.
4. Revenue and expenditure increases are due to the expanded enrollment and additional staff.

Balance Sheet Notes

1. The school had \$1,244,739 in cash as of 06/30/25 as compared to \$1,159,005 as of 06/30/2024.
2. Our People’s Security outstanding loan balance on June 30, 2025, consists of the current portion of \$182,107 plus the long-term portion of \$3,860,879, or \$4,042,986 total.

Motion: Approve the Financial Report through June 30, 2025, as reported and submitted.

The motion was made by Laurie Cadden and seconded by Dr. Fran Langan.

All Trustees voted Yes with 10 Trustees present and 1 Trustee absent.

Personnel Committee – Chair: Dino Galli
August 2025 Personnel Activity Report

Motion: Approve the August 2025 Personnel Activity Report as submitted.

The motion was made by Suzanne Jaffe and seconded by Laurie Cadden.

All Trustees voted Yes with 10 Trustees present and 1 Trustee absent.

School Matters – Joseph Ross, CEO

Administrative Updates:

Welcome Back!!

We are thrilled to welcome back students and staff for what promises to be an exciting school year. Significant upgrades have been made at the school to accommodate our growth. We have a full complement of 394 students and a full-time staff of 74 professionals. The summer flew by as the HGMICS staff were busy preparing the school to welcome our students for the first day of classes on August 25, 2024.

Consistent with our identity of multiple intelligences, we will offer our students a full range of extracurricular activities to allow them to explore their interests. We have added a STEAM room and will begin to immerse STEAM components into the school-wide curriculum. We will continue our drama/theater program through our partnership with Arts in NEPA, and will offer a full array of after-school programs. Most of which will be funded through a grant from the Commonwealth Charitable Foundation.

Staffing Updates

The Leadership team is pleased to report that we are fully staffed in all instructional and administrative positions. As evidenced by the personnel activity report, it has been a busy summer with hiring. While some staff left us to pursue other opportunities, we brought in a talented and energetic staff to infuse enthusiasm in our service delivery to our students.

Kudos to TreeAnne McEnery, Cathy Opshinsky, Renee Dougherty, Alycia Booth and Matt Snyder for their roles in the recruitment and onboarding of new staff!

PDE Reporting

All PDE required annual reporting has been completed efficiently and submitted on time to the Pa Department of Education. This includes the FY 2025-2026 Budget, the Charter School Annual Report, Safe Schools reports, Child Accounting, and Annual Reconciliation reports with sending school districts.

Great job by Patty Mickavicz in guiding this process, and to leadership team for completing the respective reports.

Grants and Awards

We remain grateful for the support of our activities from local foundations and the continuation of the Federal Grants for the 2025-2026 school year. Peoples Security presented a \$5,000 donation to support the community garden.

The Consolidated application for Federla grants (Title I, IIa, Iva) were submitted prior to the June 30th due date enabling us to encumber these funds on July 1st. There has been a delayed release due to the Executive Orders issued by the President. This is being resolved, and we anticipate being able to access this funding. The school also received \$7,359 Ready to Learn grant.

Staff Pre-service

HGMICS will conduct pre-service activities starting August 15, 2025. During this period, an employee orientation for all new hires is scheduled, and verbal de-escalation training for all staff is conducted. Various training courses will take place during this period to enable our staff to prepare for the new year.

HGMICS is hosting its annual back-to-school night, which was historically held in September, to coincide with the parent forum ice cream social. This event is on Thursday, August 21, 2025, from 4:00 – 7:00 p.m. It will allow families to engage with our instructional staff inside the classrooms to learn more about each curriculum. This year we will divide this into two segments: one for families of Kindergarten through 4th grade, and one for families of grades 5th through 8th grade.

Building Updates

Significant renovation was conducted during the summer months, which enables us to provide adequate instructional and administrative space when we reach student capacity in three years.

- The floor was replaced in the multi-purpose room
- The elementary school hallway carpet was removed and replaced by vinyl tiles
- Kindergarten classroom carpet was replaced
- STEAM room renovation was completed
- Administrative annex renovation was completed which created space for all instructional programs in the building proper
- Sidewalk replacement and repair was conducted leading to the playground
- The employee parking lot was expanded, creating 12 additional spaces
- The access road to the lower lot was paved
- Fencing was installed in the outdoor educational area on the lower lot
- Social Studies classroom was renovated.
- Exterior storage shed were installed due to the admin office expansion.

As previously indicated, the school has entered into a rental agreement with St. Stanislaus Youth parish center. We will rent the gymnasium for athletic events, concerts, theatrical performances, and other school events. This facility will allow us to recoup some of the expenses by charging admission and selling concessions.

A huge thank you to Dennis Gavin, Facility Manager, and facility staff for managing these activities.

Trustee Appreciation

I would like to warmly welcome our new Trustee, Attorney Judy Price. We are honored to have Judy join the BOT and are excited about the background and experiences she will bring to HGMICS.

HGMICS hosted our trustee appreciation dinner at Casa Bella to honor our outgoing trustee Susan Henemuth for her dedication and service to the school.

New Business – Sam Ceccacci, President

No New Business.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:33 p.m.

The next Public Board of Trustees Meeting is scheduled for September 16, 2025, at 6:00 p.m.