



**Public Participation:**

Sam Ceccacci asked if anyone from the audience wanted to address the Board. There were zero comments.

**Approval of Minutes:**

*Motion: Approve the minutes from the January 20, 2026, HGMICS Board Meeting.*

The motion was made by Michael Barbetti and seconded by Dino Galli.

All Trustees voted Yes with 8 Trustees present.

**President's Report:**

Sam Ceccacci delivered the following President's report:

Let me start by saying I was remiss in the January Board Meetings President's Report for not recognizing the superb Holiday Cards that were forwarded to Board Members that recognized the winners from the Howard Gardner Postcard Competition for International Exchange. Some of our students certainly have a bright future in the art realm as displayed by their work on the postcards. Congratulations to the winners from every pod and thank you for the excellent guidance to the faculty members who oversaw the project.

Board Committee Meetings were held during the month including the Personnel Committee, the Academic Committee, the Finance/Facilities Committee and the Nominating Committee.

The Personnel Committee discussed the possible need for a couple of new positions for the 2026-2027 school year as well as some contracts due for renewal.

Academic matters included discussion of benchmark data involving reading and math scores.

The Finance/Facilities Committee discussed the profit/loss statement, balance sheet and the process to begin developing the 2026/2027 school year budget. Also discussed was the need for roof and heating system replacement in the near future.

The Nominating Committee discussed future Board of Director membership including the need for having diversity representation to reflect the diversity numbers of the student body.

The Board of Directors looks forward to meeting the challenges of meeting the needs of our students, staff and parents in both the short and long term ahead.

**Finance Facilities Committee:**

**January 2026 Financial Report**

*Motion: Approve the Financial Report through January 31, 2026, as reported and submitted.*

The motion was made by Judy Price and seconded by Dr. Fran Langan.  
All Trustees voted Yes with 8 Trustees present.

**HGMICS Personnel Committee:**

Dino Galli, Chair, stated that the Personnel Committee met on February 3, 2026, and discussed the renewal of contracts for the School Principal, Ms. TreeAnne McEnery, and Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Joseph Ross. Contracts will be reviewed and updated in the coming weeks, and if completed, brought to the full Board of Trustees as motions for approval at the March Board meeting. There was no new activity for the February Personnel Activity Report. However, a motion to approve this month's report will be presented at tonight's meeting due to a clerical error in the January Personnel report, which lists the current school year as 2024-2025. The correct school year, 2025-2026, has been updated and is reflected in the February report under resignations.

*Motion: Approve the February 2026 Personnel Activity Report as submitted.*

The motion was made by Laurie Cadden and seconded by Michael Barbetti.  
All Trustees voted Yes with 8 Trustees present.

**HGMICS Academic Committee:**

Dr. Catherine Richmond-Cullen, Chair, stated that the Academic Committee met on February 3, 2026, and discussed the middle-of-the-year Amplify review and Acadience Benchmark Data.

**School Matters:**

**Administrative Updates**

*The following Administrative Updates were submitted for February 2026:*

**CEO – Joe Ross**

As we pass the 100<sup>th</sup> day of the 2025-20256 school year, HGMICS continues to thrive. We offer our students a wide range of curricular and extracurricular activities that cover a vast range of interests. These offerings are consistent with the multiple intelligence philosophies, which remain integral to our mission and charter.

Despite prodigious external threats, most notably the Pennsylvania budget impasse, the school is in a strong, solvent position. Sending school districts are mostly current with their per-pupil tuition reimbursement, and the February student billing will reflect the adjusted rates for the

remainder of the fiscal year. The Finance Committee has resumed discussion of establishing an investment committee to capitalize on the school's strong cash position.

Preparations continue for the 2026-2027 lottery, which will be conducted on March 11, 2026. Applications submitted are at a level consistent with past years. This is year 3 of the student expansion, and the 6th-grade class will increase from 36 students to 48 students. As previously discussed, the increase occurs organically as they matriculate. A review of the submitted applications indicates that most applications are for kindergarten and the lower grades, and the number of applicants decreases by grade level.

Our annual open house has been rescheduled for February 19, 2026. This was rescheduled due to inclement weather.

The school participated in a webinar hosted by the Pa. Department of Education on the 2025 Pa. School Code. This webinar provided valuable information on code updates and changes. The CEO and Business Manager attended the Leadership Summit for the Pennsylvania Association of Public Charter Schools in Philadelphia on Friday, 2/13/26. This was an opportunity to stay current on emerging trends and network with charter school leaders across the region and state.

### **Principal – TreeAnne McEnery**

As we move through the middle of the school year, we have reviewed mid-year assessment data and are using the results to inform instructional planning and supports. Trimester II will conclude on March 9, at which time teachers will finalize grades and prepare for Spring Teacher Conferences.

**Curriculum & Professional Development:** Our February 13 In-Service will include time for departments to focus on updating the curriculum framework in preparation for ongoing program alignment and the upcoming Charter Renewal.

**School Events:** We continue to provide opportunities for student engagement and family involvement:

- Black History Month presenters (Grades K–8)
- Rescheduled Open House: February 19
- Annual Parent Forum Scholastic Book Fair: Week of March 2
- Night of the Arts: Thursday, March 5

**Student Programs & Competitions:** Students are actively participating in academic competitions that highlight applied learning and problem-solving:

- *Future City Competition:* Students won two awards and will present at the BoT February 17 meeting.
- *STEM Design Challenge* Johnson College – RESCHEDULED
- *Keystone Hack-a-Thon Competition* Two teams participating (Upper School and Seniors)
- *Pennsylvania Junior Academy of Science (PJAS)* 19 students participating

**Community Partnerships:** We are pleased to continue our collaboration with Marywood University. This semester, 30 sophomore practicum students are placed across grades K–4, providing additional classroom support while strengthening our teacher preparation partnerships.

**Health & Wellness:** To support student wellness, Sprout Dental will conduct classroom visits for Grades K–4 focusing on dental hygiene education.

**Spring Enrichment & Tutoring:** Spring programming will run February 23 – May 12, offering students additional enrichment and support opportunities. Sample offerings include:

- Art and theatre
- Chess
- Dungeons & Dragons
- Debate
- Math games

**State Assessments (PSSA):** State testing is scheduled as follows:

- **ELA:** April 20, 21, 22
- **Math:** April 23, 24
- **Science:** April 27, 28

I appreciate the Board’s continued support as we move into a busy spring season of instruction, assessment, and student programming.

**Director of Student Services – Cathy Opshinsky**

**HGS Student Council Random Acts of Kindness Week Summary (February 17–20)**

Our Student Council is leading a schoolwide Random Acts of Kindness Week from February 17–20 to promote empathy, positive relationships, and a strong sense of community among students and staff. Each day will feature kindness-themed activities designed to encourage students to recognize the impact of their actions and practice caring behaviors. Highlights include a Random Acts of Kindness BINGO challenge to inspire daily acts of generosity, a Community Care Day where students write thank-you notes to local helpers and community members, and a wooden rose sale during lunches, with all proceeds benefiting the Children’s Advocacy Center.

This student-led initiative supports our school’s commitment to social-emotional learning and helps foster a culture of respect, compassion, and service.

**Director of Operations – Patty Mickavicz**

**Wellness: Investing on You; Building Together – Staff Engagement Initiatives**

As part of our ongoing Investing on You; Building Together initiative, administration has planned a series of staff engagement events designed to support wellness, morale, and team cohesion:

March: Fabricate Your Own Unique Nature

A six-week, all-levels mindfulness and movement program focused on reducing stress while improving strength, balance, and everyday function. Utilizing foundational yoga techniques from the LYT Method, staff participants will learn proper alignment, increase body awareness, and develop healthier movement patterns. The program emphasizes accessibility and adaptability to individual needs. Each session concludes with guided relaxation and optional Reiki energy healing.

April: Staff Bowling Outing

A team-building event designed to foster connection, boost morale, and encourage camaraderie in a relaxed, social environment. This informal gathering provides staff with the opportunity to strengthen relationships outside of the workplace and promote a positive culture.

May: Canvas Paint Night

Returning by popular demand following last year’s positive feedback, this creative engagement event encourages stress relief, team bonding, and creativity in a supportive setting.

## 2025 - 2026 Academic Calendar Update

Administration has confirmed that, in accordance with Pennsylvania Charter School Law and guidance from PDE, the school is not required to revise the 2025-2026 academic calendar to make up additional closure days beyond those already built into the approved calendar. Based on current calculations, the school calendar remains in compliance with the statutory instructional hour requirements. Accordingly, no calendar adjustments are necessary at this time. Communication to families regarding this update will be distributed.

## PIMS - ESSER Reporting: Final Submission

The school is preparing for the upcoming 2024-2025 ESSER data collection submission in PIMS. This required reporting documents ESSER-funded expenditures, program implementation, and compliance with state and federal guidelines. This submission represents the final reporting cycle for ESSER funds. All required data will be submitted by March 6th.

## February 2026 Enrollment by District

School District	Regular	SPED	Enrollment	SD %
Abington Heights	12	6	18	4.63%
Carbondale*	1	0	1	0.26%
Dunmore*	6	4	10	2.57%
Lackawanna Trail	1	0	1	0.26%
Lakeland	1	0	1	0.26%
Mid Valley*	6	0	6	1.54%
North Pocono*	3	1	4	1.03%
Old Forge*	2	1	3	0.77%
Pittston Area	2	1	3	0.77%
Riverside	4	1	5	1.29%
Scranton*	257	73	330	84.83%
Tunkhannock	1	0	1	0.26%

Valley View	4	0	4	1.03%
Wyoming Area	1	0	1	0.26%
Wyoming Valley West*	1	0	1	0.26%
Total	302	87	389	100%

*\*Redirection*

**Director of Human Resources and Enrollment – Renee Dougherty**

**Enrollment**

Current enrollment remains stable. Any changes in student enrollment will continue to be communicated as they occur.

**2026–2027 Enrollment Lottery**

As of February 11, 2026, there are 178 submitted applications for the upcoming lottery, with an additional 60 applications in progress that have not yet been submitted. Kindergarten accounts for 81 of the 178 submitted applications.

The school’s annual public enrollment lottery is scheduled for March 11, 2026, at 9:00 a.m.

**New Business:**

There was no New Business at this time.

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 6:44 p.m.

***Next Meeting Date: March 17, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.***