

The Public Board of Trustees meeting of the Howard Gardner Multiple Intelligence Charter School was held on Tuesday, May 19, 2026 at 6:00 pm.

Dr. Catherine Richmond-Cullen, Board President, called the meeting to order at 6:01 PM.

The group joined in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call

Sam Ceccacci, President	Absent	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	Present	Dr. Fran Langan	Absent
Suzanne Ambrogio-Jaffe	Present	Judy Price	Present
Laurie Cadden	Present		

Nine (9) Trustees present, two (2) absent.

May 2026 Public Board of Trustees Meeting Agenda:

Public Comment on Agenda Items Only

Visitors may provide comment on items listed on the agenda, Names and School District of residence will be recorded before remarks are made.

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|-------------|---|----------------------|
| I. | Approval of April 21, 2026 Minutes | Sam Ceccacci |
| II. | President's Report | Sam Ceccacci |
| III. | Finance/Facilities Committee | Mike Barbetti |
| | 1. April 2026 Financial Report | |
| | 2. hc Architecture Agreement | |
| | 3. NEIU 19 Intergovernmental Agreement for 2026-2027 School Year | |
| IV. | Personnel Committee | Dino Galli |
| | 1. Sick Leave/Donation Policy | |
| V. | School Matters | Joe Ross |
| | 1. Administrative Updates | |
| VI. | New Business | Sam Ceccacci |
| | Adjournment | |

Public Participation:

Dr. Richmond-Cullen asked if anyone wanted to address the Board. There were no comments.

Approval of Minutes:

Motion: *Approve minutes from the April 21, 2026 HGMICS Board Meeting*

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

All Trustees voted yes with 9 Trustees present.

President's Report:

Dr. Catherine Richmond-Cullen delivered the President's report on behalf of Sam Ceccacci:

The May Meeting of the Board of Directors of Howard Gardner Multiple Intelligence Charter School finds us nearing the end of the 2025-2026 Academic Year. Graduation is set for Thursday June 4, 2026 at 9:30 am. Later that same day, the Employee Recognition/End of Year Celebration will be held at Waldorf Park. We extend Graduating Students our congratulations and the best of luck with their future academic endeavors and thank the staff for another outstanding year filled with success stories.

With regard to Personnel Committee Matters, Board Members will note a couple of positions that need to be filled for the upcoming school year and will review a proposed new position relative to an Executive Director of Integrated School Operations. A Draft Sick Leave/Donation Policy Approval is on the Board Agenda.

With regard to Academics, the 2026 PSSA administration has been successfully completed and end of year benchmarking assessments are currently underway. An NEIU Intergovernmental Agreement for Special Education Services for the 2026-2027 school year is on the agenda tonight for board approval.

The upcoming summer break will allow for some building upgrades so review and approval is needed regarding architectural services for the elementary school building roof and boiler replacement is scheduled to begin.

Since this is the last meeting before the school year ends, we extend best wishes to children and staff for a happy, safe and healthy summer respite.

Finance Facilities Committee:

April 2026 Financial Report

Motion: *Approve the Financial Report through April 30, 2026.*

The motion was made by Mary Beth D'Andrea and seconded by Al Dorunda.
All Trustees voted yes with 9 Trustees Present.

hc Architects proposal for professional services on Elementary roof replacement:

Motion: *Authorization to enter into an agreement with hc architects to provide professional services in the amount of \$29,550.*

The motion was made by Laurie Cadden and seconded by Al Dorunda.
All Trustees voted yes with 9 Trustees present.

NEIU 19 Intergovernmental Agreement for Special Education Services:

Motion: *Authorization to enter into an agreement with NEIU 19 to provide special education services for the 2026-2027 School Year*

The motion was made by Dino Galli and seconded by Wayne Evans.

Personnel Committee:

Motion: *Approved the Sick Leave/Donation Policy as submitted.*

The motion was made by Laurie Cadden and seconded by Judy Price.
All Trustees voted yes with 9 Trustees present.

School Matters:

HGMICS Administrative Updates- May 2026

CEO UPDATE- Joe Ross

Title Funding Adjustment- We have received our reallocation of funding for Title I services. The result of the reallocation was an adjustment that raised the total allocation to \$217, 547. Principal McEnery, John Marsico, and myself me to make the necessary budget adjustments and submit to PDE for approval. One item of note in this process, we are entitled to submit 10% of the cost for the Federal Programs Coordinator, which is TreeAnne McEnery. Additionally, we will begin to purchase 2026-2027 instructional and intervention supplies that are covered by this funding.

Grant Funding- We have been officially notified that we have received the \$70,000 award from the Pa. Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD). This allocation will be used to improve physical security and mental health at the school.

The Parent Forum recently conducted the 2026 walk-a-thon at St. Stanislaus youth center. This highly successful event raises money to support student activities and events. The Parent Forum presented the school with a 25% contribution of \$2,625 to the school. Principal McEnery accepted on behalf of the school.

Graduation- Our annual graduation ceremony is fast approaching. The event is scheduled for Thursday, June 4, 2026, at 9:30 a.m.

Employee Recognition/End of Year Celebration- The end of the year celebration will be held on June 4th coinciding with the last day of the school year. Once again, the event will be held at the Waldorf Park Social club. This year we will honor four staff members for five years of service.

Personnel- As we head into the end of the school year, we continue to advertise for some open positions that we have been posting. Instructional positions include; middle school math teacher, special education teacher, instructional assistant, and kitchen assistant. At the last personnel committee meeting, we proposed a new position of Executive Director of Integrated School Operations to provide senior leadership. This position is included in the 2026-2027 budget by reallocating the salary of assistant to the CEO. Lastly, we continue to advertise for a Certified

School Nurse. Despite advertising for this position, our preferred course of action would be to enter another contract with our current CSN for the 2026-2027 school year. Discussion has been initiated and I am optimistic we can continue this arrangement.

Extra-curricular activities- This week marks the end of the after-school enrichment and tutoring programs which have served over 50% of our students in various programs. The devised theater program is planning a performance for parents. The band program is thriving and continue to perform at community events and nursing homes in the community. Our athletic programs had a successful season on many fronts. The relationship with St. Stanislaus Youth Center provided an opportunity for our basketball and cheer squads to call a place home. We seek various ways to provide experiential learning opportunities for our students.

Community Partnership- As part of Investing in You-Building Together, we are excited to announce a new partnership with NET Credit Union that will allow staff and families the opportunity to become members and access a variety of financial services and resources. There is no commitment from the school to offer this partnership.

Principal- TreeAnne McEnery

Assessments and Benchmarking

- The 2026 PSSA administration has been successfully completed.
- Early reporting data for the 2026 PSSAs is anticipated to be released by June 12. Results and preliminary analysis will be presented at the June Board Meeting.
- End-of-year benchmarking assessments are currently underway. Benchmark data will be utilized to culminate annual student achievement data and assist in identifying students who may require Tier 3 MTSS services at the start of the 2026–2027 school year.

Federal Programs

- The Annual Federal Programs Conference is scheduled for May 17–20, and I will be in attendance.
- Final adjustments to 2025–2026 federal funding allocations are nearing completion.
- Input from the Academic Committee and Department Chairs supported the continuation and expansion of the Schoolwide Title I Comprehensive Plan goals for the 2026–2027 school year.
- The Annual Professional Development Survey has been released to staff. Survey results and identified professional development priorities will be included in the June Board Report.

Curriculum & Instruction

- Departments are currently finalizing the standards-aligned curriculum documentation in preparation for the Charter Renewal Application process.
- Due to the implementation of several new curricular programs since the previous charter cycle, staff are engaged in developing evidence documents demonstrating Pennsylvania state standards alignment, as well as identifying aligned formative and summative assessments within each curricular area.

School Operations Events

- Spring field trips were well organized, coordinated successfully, and demonstrated strong student participation and engagement.
- Graduation planning activities continue to progress for all end-of-year ceremonies and events.
- The 2026–2027 schoolwide master schedule and preliminary class lists have been completed.

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

Student Support Services Update – Cathy Ophisnksy

As we approach the close of another successful school year, preparations are well underway for our upcoming Extended School Year (ESY) program for students receiving special education services. This year’s ESY program is scheduled to begin on June 8th and has been thoughtfully planned to support students in maintaining academic, communication, behavioral, and functional skills over the summer months.

The program will provide individualized instruction and related services aligned with students’ IEP goals and identified areas of need. Staffing has been secured across instructional, nursing, and support service areas, and collaborative planning has taken place to ensure continuity for students and families.

We are especially appreciative of the dedicated staff members who stepped forward to support some of our most vulnerable learners this summer. Their commitment helps create a structured, supportive, and encouraging environment where students can continue to grow while minimizing regression during extended breaks.

We look forward to a very successful first ESY session and appreciate the Board’s continued support of programs that help meet the diverse needs of our students.

Human Resources

Employee Recognition & Luncheon

Our annual Employee Recognition and End-of-Year Luncheon is scheduled for the last day of school, June 4, at the Waldorf. This year, we are proud to recognize five employees celebrating five years of service with the school.

2026–27 Employee Handbook Updates Several updates will be incorporated into the 2026–27 Employee Handbook, including:

- **Sick Time Donation Policy** – A formal board-approved policy will be added to the handbook outlining the process and guidelines for donated sick time.
- **Rolling FMLA** – The handbook will clarify the use of rolling FMLA, which is commonly utilized in school districts due to the nature of the academic calendar. While this practice has already been in place, we believe it is important to formally include it in the handbook for clarity and consistency.

Operations – Patty Mickavicz

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

April: Staff Bowling Outing

The staff bowling outing was held on April 23rd at Idle Hours North and included staff members and significant others. The event was well attended and provided an enjoyable opportunity for staff to socialize outside of the workday. Participants expressed interest in making this an annual event.

May: Canvas Paint Night

A staff paint night is scheduled for May 22nd at St. Stanislaus. Mary Wood, owner of Nibble and Paint, will serve as the instructor for the evening.

PIMS

With the school year winding down, PIMS reporting requirements will soon be increasing with several end-of-year submissions. This year includes a new Unlawful Absence Reporting collection. The purpose of the Unlawful Absence Data Set is to report the total number of unlawful absence days for each student identified as having unlawful absences.

School District Billing:

The Subsidy Redirection Requests for Dunmore SD, Mid Valley SD, North Pocono SD, Old Forge SD, Scranton SD, and Wyoming Valley West will not be submitted in June. These requests will instead be included in the July Reconciliation process once PIMS Child Accounting has been submitted.

May 2026 Enrollment by District

<u>School District</u>	<u>Regular</u>	<u>SPED</u>	<u>Enrollment</u>	<u>SD %</u>
Abington Heights	11	7	18	4.62%
Carbondale*	1	0	1	0.26%
Dunmore*	6	4	10	2.56%
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	1.28%
Scranton*	253	78	331	84.87%
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	297	93	391	100%

*Redirection

2025-26 rates based on PDE-363s received by PDE

School District	2025-26 Nonspecial Education Expenditure per ADM For all charter schools	2025-26 Special Education Expenditure per ADM For all brick and mortar CSs	Month Posted
Abington Heights SD	\$12,631.33	\$26,240.99	March 2026
Carbondale Area SD	\$10,694.17	\$39,012.09	December 2025
Dunmore SD	\$13,367.43	\$31,547.92	March 2026
Lackawanna Trail SD	\$17,555.85	\$43,719.16	January 2026
Lakeland SD	\$13,118.64	\$35,555.97	March 2026
Mid Valley SD	\$11,849.65	\$32,695.07	February 2026
North Pocono SD	\$15,997.72	\$33,959.57	March 2026
Old Forge SD	\$12,657.16	\$35,675.70	February 2026
Pittston Area SD	\$12,325.50	\$29,967.02	April 2026
Riverside SD	\$12,613.45	\$30,409.95	April 2026
Scranton SD	\$13,817.71	\$37,303.78	March 2026
Tuckhannock Area SD	\$17,662.08	\$43,843.29	February 2026

Valley View SD	\$13,174.47	\$33,122.15	January 2026
Wyoming Area SD	\$14,210.26	\$36,869.48	April 2026
Wyoming Valley West SD	\$10,194.92	\$31,752.69	February 2026

Submission of form PDE-363, Funding for Charter Schools, is now annually required by all school districts. Pursuant to section 1725-A(a)(7), each school district must submit a PDE-363 for the current school year to PDE by November 1.

New Business:

Laurie Cadden expressed condolences to President Sam Ceccacci on the recent passing of his mother.

Adjournment:

Meeting adjourned at 6:31 pm

Next Meeting Date: Tuesday June 16,2026 @ 6:00 PM