

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES
DECEMBER 5, 2024 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
HIGH TECH HIGH**

Date: December 5, 2024

Time: 5:00 p.m.

Place: The Forum, HTH Graduate School of Education, 2150 Cushing Road, San Diego 92106
Village-based Zoom accessibility:
High Tech High Mesa, Conference Room 904, 5331 Mt Alifan Dr, San Diego, CA 92111
Conference Room, High Tech Middle North County, 1460 W San Marcos Blvd, San Marcos, CA 92078
Conference Room, High Tech High Chula Vista, 1945 Discovery Falls Dr, Chula Vista, CA 91915

Zoom(Video):

<https://hightechhigh-org.zoom.us/j/87543566158?pwd=AVV2RKg7HsYwllu8QMUHmA7bU3szBV.1>

Trustees present: Gary Jacobs, Chairman; Christine McComish, Secretary; Lida Rafia, Trustee; Albert Lin, Trustee

Board Member	Present
Gary Jacobs, Chairperson	X
Lida Rafia, Secretary	X
Albert Lin, Trustee	X
Christine McComish, Trustee	X
Randolph Ward, Trustee	

Staff Present: Diana Cornejo-Sanchez, Interim CEO; Isaac Jones, COO; Bobbi Norris, CFO; Patrick Frost, GC; Janie Griswold, CLO; Elizabeth Martinez, Executive Assistant to the Officers

Others present: Lily Michel, interpreter
Josefina Riggins, interpreter
High Tech High staff
Members of HTH community

CALL TO ORDER at 5:09 p.m. by Gary Jacobs, Chairman. A roll call of trustees confirmed a quorum.

1.0 BOARD CONSENT ITEMS

1.1 Approve the October 30, 2024 Regular Meeting Minutes

1.1.1 Discussion: Staff members provided the Board an opportunity to review and discuss the Board consent agenda items.

1.1.2 Motion: There being no further discussion upon motion duly made by Albert Lin and seconded by Lida Rafia, a roll call was taken to approve the motion.

Board Member	Ayes	Nos	Abstain	Absent
Gary Jacobs, Chairperson	X			
Christine McComish, Secretary				X
Albert Lin, Trustee	X			
Lida Rafia, Trustee	X			
Randolph Ward, Trustee				X

2.0 INFORMATION ITEMS

2.1 Report of the Officers

Officer comments included the following:

- Athletic Director (Point Loma Campus) Michal Lynn Okelley introduced two students from the Leadership Athlete Team who spoke about the athletic program at the Point Loma campus. The first student, Oliver Ridge, is Captain of the Water Polo and Surf/Swim team. He shared that the Water Polo team made the finals for the first time in the 2024 CIF runner-up and broke history. The team also went to division two and received 9th place, which is a huge achievement for HTH sports. They were also the first-ever freshman team to make it to state and be ranked in California, and on top of that, they placed 16th in the state as a team, which also made HTH history! Both boys and girls, Water Polo and Swim, have been able to fundraise about \$8000 every season for the last couple of years. The second student who presented to the board was Naia Velez-Straus. Naia is also a part of the Water Polo and Swim teams. Naia shared that incredible sportsmanship was one of the most important things she has experienced since joining HTH sports. When it comes to swim meets, you see people cheering each other on and high-fiving. Board Trustee Albert Lin mentioned that he has noticed with the sports program, you are almost guaranteed a spot on the team if you try out. He asked the students what they thought about that and if they felt like it affected the team. Oliver responded that he believes HTH sports is a contagious culture that makes others who might not be the strongest athletes join. They have students who know they are not necessarily athletes but are part of the journalism club or photography club and are now supporting the sports program in those capacities. Oliver

went on to mention that even his friend who joined the Water Polo team would say he didn't know how to swim but decided to join, and now he knows how to swim. Albert asked the students whether the HTH philosophy of Project Based Learning (PBL) translates into our Sports Program. Nadia responded that she believes it does when it comes to leadership and collaborative work. For the sports she is a part of, the coaches like to take a step back when it comes to planning and communication and let students take the lead.

- Athletic Director (Mesa Campus) Lisa Quintana shared with the board conversations she has had with our Admissions team about how we can bridge the gap for HTH sports programs for students who are current 8th graders transitioning to high school sports in 9th grade. The Mesa campus has a no-cut policy for all students at the middle school level. Because of this, they added 165 students in fall sports. They have also added HTHCV and High Tech Point Loma to the West Code league, allowing them to compete competently. Other sports that have been able to be added to the Mesa Sports program are Boys Volleyball and Cross Country. Because of the tremendous improvement in our program, many students at any athletic level are coming out and want to be a part of the sports community. Not only are students improving athletically, but because of the minimum GPA requirement, they are also improving academically. Students from six teams last school year made all academic, which means they had the highest GPAs in the entire state of CA. On top of that, HTHM brought their first-ever CIF championship banner home. Albert expressed his appreciation for the work Lisa has been doing. He also wondered if there was anything that she would like to see structurally different. Lisa shared that since COVID, athletics have really spiked and improved, but she would like to build a better partnership on the facilities needed to maintain all these sports. She expressed fear that one day, the stipend offered to our coaches will not continue to be enough for all the work coaches put in. Internal and External coaches receive a \$1000 coaching stipend for the season they work. Michal Lynn went on to say that the external coaches receive the \$1000 stipend, but that is through a 1099, which is stripped pretty quickly once taxes are reported. She explained that they were very excited when we were able to offer the \$1000 stipend, but it is also a sacrifice that coaches are making doing this work. Albert asked Michal Lynn, and Lisa if they have worked with the Foundation to retrieve additional funds. Lisa shared that all sports are self-sustained. In the past, they have worked with the Foundation, and they are helping with the larger ticket items like field lighting and scoreboard updating. The athletic director from HTHCV, Shameka Thompson, also provided a brief update on how the athletic program has improved at HTHCV. She shared that they are also working on adding more sports, like golf and flag football. Lastly, the Athletic Director at HTHNC, Trey Lewis, an alumni of HTHNC, shared that it was amazing to come back to the school he graduated from and support the sports program. He also shared that one of the biggest struggles they have faced in the North County campus has been the lack of facility space. Trey went on to highlight some of the success the program has had, including a student named Max Gibbins who is in cross country and is

hitting records in D1 and D2. He shared that academics are also very important to them, and because of this, he does grade checks weekly with the student-athletes. If students are below a 2.5 GPA they have students get support academically before being able to play again. The work they are doing appears to be working because they had a student who was never able to touch the field last school year because his GPA was always under 2.5, and this year, in week two of the school year, he was able to play because he was able to achieve a 2.6 GPA.

- General Counsel Patrick Frost provided the Board with an update on the Charter Renewal, which is set to expire in June 2025. A team of 10-12 people is going to Sacramento next week to present. Upon their approval, it will go to the State Board in January, and we plan to have a team present for this meeting.
- Interim CEO Diana Cornejo-Sanchez, Mike Vasquez, and Kristy Renken have been working on pulling information regarding staff retention over the last couple of years. We are currently in the 80th Percentile for teacher retention, which is something to celebrate. Lida wondered if this information could be separated by schools and if exit interviews were happening for those teachers who did leave. Albert also wondered how compensation increases impacted these numbers. Diana said she would work with Mike and Kristy to get the information the board requested.
- Compliance Officer Colleen Green provided an update on the work being done to have an AI policy completed. A survey was sent out to staff to see how students and staff are currently using AI and to see if anyone wanted to assist in creating the AI policy. Several folks reached out about their interest in participating in this work. The plan is for the AI policy to include student expectations and guidance on how staff can use AI programs. We are still in that process and hoping to have something by the end of the school year to present to the Board. Lida shared that there is a free conference that will be held and open to the public on April 5th-7th related to the AI revolution. Colleen asked if she could share the information with her so that the team could look into it.

3.0 COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

3.1 Members of the public were provided time to address the board.

4.0 BOARD ELECTION

4.1 Consideration and Potential Appointment of Harrison Oh as HTH Student Board Member

4.1.1 Discussion: The Board announced their decision to appoint Harrison Oh as the first ever student board member trustee. Harrison shared that as a junior from HTHNC, he is excited to be the first student ever to be on the HTH Board. He hopes to be the bridge of student voice on the board. He also shared a fun fact

about himself: he likes to play basketball and golf. The board thanked and congratulated Harrison and shared their appreciation for his willingness to join the HTH Board.

4.1.2 Motion: There being no further discussion upon motion duly made by Albert Lin and seconded by Lida Rafia, a roll call was taken to approve the motion.

Board Member	Ayes	Nos	Abstain	Absent
Gary Jacobs, Chairperson	X			
Christine McComish, Secretary				X
Albert Lin, Trustee	X			
Lida Rafia, Trustee	X			
Randolph Ward, Trustee				X

5.0 BOARD REPORT AND COMMENTS

5.1 Chairman's Report

5.2 Board Member Comment

Chairman and Board Member comments included the following:

- The Board brought up their concern about misinformation being shared with staff about the reauthorization/assignment of SBC Schools (Mesa, Chila Vista & North County Campuses) process and wondered if there were some things we were doing to continue to work collaboratively to ensure the correct information is shared. Patrick responded that Interim CEO Diana Cornejo-Sanchez can speak about the multiple conversations she has had with HTEC leadership, asking for a seat at their table to explain why being assigned to the county is the best decision for HTH. Unfortunately, she was not given that opportunity. Diana echoed Patrick's comment and shared that she had requested several times to have a seat at the table to share our why, but that had not been accepted. Lida wanted to confirm if what she was hearing was that Diana asked to be a part of the conversation, and that has been declined. Diana confirmed that that was correct and reiterated that she reached out to HTEC leadership and shared that our team would be happy to explain why they believe this is the best decision for HTH, but she did not receive a response from them. Albert wondered what could be done to change the cultural mindset on both sides. Lida also expressed that what has been happening is that there is miscommunication and different narratives put out there, which can bring confusion and fear to people. She wondered what we could do to work on making sure the correct narrative and information are provided to staff. Patrick explained that back in the Spring, we started this conversation regarding how we can better work together but are limited in how much we can do. Diana expressed that she believes there are different ways to approach this and be able to work together as thought partners.

6.0 PUBLIC HEARING ITEMS

None.

7.0 CEO CONSENT ITEMS

- 7.1 Approve the Student Teaching Agreement between the University of California, San Diego and High Tech High

7.1.1 Discussion: Staff members provided the Board an opportunity to review and discuss the CEO consent agenda items.

7.1.2 Motion: There being no further discussion upon motion duly made by Lida Rafia and seconded by Albert Lin, a roll call was taken to approve the motion.

Board Member	Ayes	Nos	Abstain	Absent
Gary Jacobs, Chairperson	X			
Christine McComish, Secretary				X
Albert Lin, Trustee	X			
Lida Rafia, Trustee	X			
Randolph Ward, Trustee				X
Harrison Oh, Student Trustee	X			

8.0 ACTION ITEMS

- 8.1 Approve the Reclassification of the Occupational Therapists I, II, and III

8.1.1 Discussion: Staff recommends the Board approve the Reclassification of the Occupational Therapists I, II, and III. Amy Briggs explained that Occupational Therapists have had the same job description for the last few years and to honor the work they are doing we would like to update their job descriptions.

8.1.2 Motion: There being no further discussion upon motion duly made by Albert Lin and seconded by Lida Rafia, a roll call was taken to approve the motion.

Board Member	Ayes	Nos	Abstain	Absent
Gary Jacobs, Chairperson	X			
Christine McComish, Secretary	X			
Albert Lin, Trustee	X			
Lida Rafia, Trustee	X			
Randolph Ward, Trustee				X
Harrison Oh, Student Trustee	X			

8.2 Approve the Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Charter School First Interim Financial Reports to the Authorizers.

8.2.1 Discussion: Staff recommends the Board Approve the Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Charter School First Interim Financial Reports to the Authorizers. Chief Financial Officer Bobbi Norris explained a little about what the reports were reflecting. Albert asked how we were planning on factoring in the changes coming. Bobbi responded that she is in the process of projecting two years for our Point Loma Campus Schools. She also explained that we have stuck with a conservative model because Charters can't go over the budget. We heard yesterday that budgets in other schools have been cut in half, which is not happening here. We are focusing on how to get more students here to bring in that extra funding. Chrissy asked if every school seemed to be on track with their budgets. Bobbi confirmed that every school is on track so far. There are some cases where directors ask to hire staff, and we look at that case by case so that we can see where to offset this expense and make it work for their budget. Lida reminded the Board that in the past, there had been conversations about looking for more grants and wondered if anything was being done regarding this work. Gary explained that because we had such success at the GALA for High Tech High Foundation, they are working on hiring grant writers who can help look for funding.

8.2.2 Motion: There being no further discussion upon motion duly made by Albert Lin and seconded by Lida Rafia, a roll call was taken to approve the motion.

Board Member	Ayes	Nos	Abstain	Absent
Gary Jacobs, Chairperson	X			
Christine McComish, Secretary	X			
Albert Lin, Trustee	X			
Lida Rafia, Trustee	X			
Randolph Ward, Trustee				X
Harrison Oh, Student Trustee	X			

8.3 Approve the First Interim Budget Revisions

8.3.1 Discussion: Staff recommends the Board Approve the First Interim Budget Revisions. Bobbi explained that work was done with both TK schools to revise their budgets according to their revenue.

8.3.2 Motion: There being no further discussion upon motion duly made by Christine McComish and seconded by Lida Rafia, a roll call was taken to approve the motion.

Board Member	Ayes	Nos	Abstain	Absent
Gary Jacobs, Chairperson	X			
Christine McComish, Secretary	X			
Albert Lin, Trustee	X			
Lida Rafia, Trustee	X			
Randolph Ward, Trustee				X
Harrison Oh, Student Trustee	X			

- 8.4 Approve the Open Purchase Order of Food Services Vendors Hollandia Dairy and Goldstar Foods

8.4.1 Discussion: Staff recommends the Board approve the Open Purchase Order of Food Services Vendors Hollandia Dairy and Goldstar Foods.

8.4.2 Motion: There being no further discussion upon motion duly made by Christine McComish and seconded by Lida Rafia, a roll call was taken to approve the motion.

Board Member	Ayes	Nos	Abstain	Absent
Gary Jacobs, Chairperson	X			
Christine McComish, Secretary	X			
Albert Lin, Trustee	X			
Lida Rafia, Trustee	X			
Randolph Ward, Trustee				X
Harrison Oh, Student Trustee	X			

Open session was suspended at 6:31 p.m. Closed session convened at 6:41 p.m. and adjourned at 7:43 p.m. Open session re-convened at 7:44 p.m. A roll call was taken at this time to re-confirm a quorum.

Board Member	Present
Gary Jacobs, Chairperson	X
Lida Rafia, Secretary	X
Albert Lin, Trustee	X
Christine McComish, Trustee	X
Randolph Ward, Trustee	
Harrison Oh, Student Trustee	X

8.0 CLOSED SESSION ITEMS

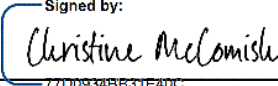
- 8.1 No action taken.

9.0 ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to be brought before the Board, it was the consensus of the Board to adjourn the meeting at 7:44 p.m.

Next Scheduled Meetings:

- Wednesday, January 29, 2025 at 5:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, February 26, 2025 at 5:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, March 12, 2025 at 5:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, May 21, 2025 at 5:00 p.m.
- Monday, June 23, 2025 at 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:  Signed by:

Christine McComish, Secretary, High Tech High Board