



**HCCPS Board of Trustees**

**Meeting Agenda**

**Wednesday April 8th, 2026 6:30pm**

HCCPS, 1 Industrial Pkwy, Easthampton, MA 01027

Or Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84948181413?pwd=OO475dU8403OfbwMCEdidBM7z2IU9D.1>

*The Hilltown Cooperative Charter Public School was founded in 1995 as a Massachusetts Public Charter School. Our mission is:*

- *To engage students in a school that uses experiential, hands-on activities, the arts, and interdisciplinary studies to foster critical thinking skills and a joy of learning.*
- *To sustain a cooperative, intimate community of students, staff, families and local community members, which guides and supports the school and its educational program.*
- *To cultivate children’s individual voices and a shared respect for each other, our community, and the world around us.*

**Facilitator: Lily Newman**

Topic	Who	Action	Est. Start Time
<b>Welcoming (read mission statement):</b> (5 min) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Announcements, appreciations, acknowledgements</li> <li>● Agenda Check: Appoint timekeeper, list keeper, norm observer</li> <li>● BOT visibility this month</li> <li>● Approve minutes from Mar BoT mtg</li> </ul>	Lily Newman	Decision	6:30 pm
<b>Public Comment</b> (5 min)	Lily Newman		6:35
<b>School Leader Updates</b> (10 min) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Staffing</li> <li>● Initiatives and Events</li> <li>● Other</li> </ul>	Chris Kusek, Rebecca Belcher-Timme, Meghan Carroll	Discussion	6:40
<b>Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS) Overview</b> (15 min) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● What it is; how we do it</li> <li>● How it supports Hilltown’s range of learners</li> <li>● Progress and next steps</li> </ul>	Chris Kusek Meghan Carroll Rebecca Belcher-Timme	Discussion	6:50
<b>Climate Survey Follow Up</b> (5)	Meghan Carroll Rebecca Belcher-Timme	Discussion	7:05



<b>Annual Meeting Recap &amp; Next Steps (10 min)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Event summary</li> <li>● Input and vision ideas shared</li> <li>● Draw names for Board Awards</li> <li>● LRP next steps</li> <li>● Next Steps for Meetings of the Cooperative</li> </ul>	Lily Newman, Chris Kusek	Discussion	7:10
<b>BOT Retreat Updates and Input (10 min)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Date: June 10th, 5:30-8:00 pm at HCCPS</li> <li>● Purpose and goals</li> <li>● Agenda draft and input</li> </ul>	Lily Newman	Discussion	7:20
<b>Equity Team (5 min)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● General updates and next steps</li> </ul>	Kathleen Hulton	Discussion	7:30
<b>Facilities (5 min)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Updates</li> <li>● Contract update and vote</li> </ul>	Chris Kusek	Discussion & Decision	7:35
<b>Finance (10 min)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Updates on ongoing FY27 budget development</li> <li>● Anticipated salary adjustment impacts</li> </ul>	Chris Kusek	Discussion	7:40
<b>Personnel (10 min)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Update from faculty presentation</li> <li>● Longevity bonus proposal and vote</li> </ul>	Chris Kusek Tala Elia	Discussion  Decision	7:50
<b>L.I.P (5 mins)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Updates and next steps</li> </ul>	Adam Szymkowicz	Discussion	8:00
<b>Wrap Up (5 mins)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Norm review</li> <li>● Action items review</li> <li>● Minutes finalization, Newsletter blurb</li> <li>● Next steps/May meeting agenda items</li> <li>● Snacks and drinks for May</li> </ul>	Lily Newman	Decision	8:05
<b>Adjournment</b>	Lily Newman	Decision	8:10



## **Board Collaboration Norms - Working Draft**

### **1. Assume Positive Intent and Honor Impact**

We approach one another with trust, curiosity, and generosity. We acknowledge that our words and decisions have real impact and take responsibility for listening, clarifying, and adjusting when needed.

### **2. Shared Voice and Attentive Listening**

We ensure one speaker at a time, with full presence and attention. We contribute thoughtfully, make space for all voices, and work to elevate perspectives from across our community.

### **3. Focus on Our Role and Work**

We remain grounded in our role as a Board of Trustees: we hold the charter, the legal agreement with the state and are responsible for the oversight that ensures fidelity to our mission, organizational viability and student results. We support, collaborate with and ensure leadership has the resources and strategies to advance this work.

### **4. Commitment to Preparation, Process and Due Diligence**

We honor the importance of our work and our limited time by consistently meeting our commitments, running efficient meetings, and coming prepared with materials reviewed and key questions considered in advance. We engage deeply to ensure sound, mission-centered decision-making. We follow OML and all BOT policies and bylaws in our processes.

### **5. Consensus Decision-Making**

We commit to making all decisions by consensus, as is outlined in our bylaws.

### **6. Rigorous Dialogue with Respect and Care**

We welcome healthy debate and examine ideas fully and collaboratively. We work diligently while maintaining respect and care for one another. Disagreement is a contribution, not a conflict.

### **7. Collective Well-Being and Sustainable Participation**

We take care of ourselves and others. We acknowledge professional and personal demands—including the need for virtual participation at times—while committing to consistent engagement, follow-through, and presence.

