

## **HCS Website –Space Location Update – Link Content**

This page contains an ongoing update of the Hoboken Charter School's progress in securing a location for our K-8 student population for the 2010 school year - as well as a long-term, permanent space solution. The Friends of the HCS/Parents Association and HCS Board of Trustees are committed to partnering with the Hoboken Board of Education and local leaders to find a new location for our school.

### **Background:**

The Hoboken Charter School K-8 population currently resides on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of the Demarest building located between 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Streets on Bloomfield Street. Art and music classes take place on the 4<sup>th</sup> floor, and physical education classes take place at the Boys and Girls' Club or outside in good weather. The Hoboken Charter School high school resides on the 4<sup>th</sup> floor entirely. The school uses the Demarest building auditorium for plays, musical performances, and other major school-wide events. The K-8 population is comprised of 191 students using ~13,000 sqft of classroom and office space. The high school is comprised of 83 students. There are a total of 61 faculty and staff in the building. We have been primarily housed in the Demarest building for the last 11 years and rent the space on a year by year basis from the Hoboken Board of Education.

### **Status Updates:**

In early **November of 2009**, the Hoboken Board of Education officially notified Hoboken Charter School, in writing, of their need for HCS to leave the Demarest building for September of the 2010 school year. Hoboken plans to renovate the Thomas G. Connors facility over the next 2 years and move their K-7 student population into the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of the Demarest building.

On **Sunday, November 29<sup>th</sup>**, *The Hoboken Reporter* ran a front-page article discussing the situation noting that the Hoboken Charter School had no location secured for September 2010.

On **Wednesday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>**, the Hoboken Charter School Board of Trustees conducted a professionally facilitated forum for their parent population to discuss the work they were doing to secure the school a facility for 2010 and beyond. The HCS Board presented several options that were being investigated including modular schools, temporary trailers, and renovating/repurposing available properties in Hoboken.

Following this meeting, parents requested active involvement in helping the HCS Board find a solution. The Friends of the HCS/Parents Association formed three key committees to solicit parental help:

**Fundraising Committee** –led by Scott Halstead –shalstead@bloomberg.net

This committee encompasses all activities associated with raising funds to supplement the Friends of the HCS/Parents Association's revenue. This includes researching grant options,

seeking corporate sponsorship, and looking into non-profit/charter school specific programs that may help us with a long-term facility solution. A letter was sent home to all HCS families requesting significant donations to help fund a solution.

**Community Outreach Committee** –led by parent Lisa McIntyre – lisaandmac@hotmail.com

This committee is responsible for the marketing of our school's service learning contributions and value to the community. This involves the creation of talking points and supplemental materials needed for fundraising, PR efforts necessary for our short and long-term space solutions, and keeping the Hoboken community updated on our progress toward securing space for Fall 2010 and the long term. In addition, this team will keep the entire HCS community of parents, teachers, and administrators updated and informed.

**Political Outreach Committee** –led by parent Laura Keating – keating408@gmail.com

This committee will work to obtain assistance in resolving our short-term and long-term facilities issues from public officials and organizations. This may include attending and/or speaking at Board of Education meetings, crafting and circulating petitions and letters to public officials (as needed), and keeping public officials informed of our progress and needs.

**Facilities Committee**–led by parent Dan Weisz – dkmweisz@yahoo.com

Dan is currently the Friends of HCS/PA designate to the HCS Board of Trustees and a board member. He also serves as co-chair of the board's Facilities Committee. This committee is meeting with realtors, developers, architects, engineers, and landlords to determine space options, budgets, and the feasibility of project timing.

A status for each of the committees will be reported at the Friends of the HCS/Parents Association meetings as well as periodically here. If you are interested in participating in one of the teams, even just to stuff envelopes and make phone calls for a few hours, please contact the chair via email.

The Committee Leaders are seeking some specific skill sets:

- **Web design and development**
- **Graphic artists**
- **Writers/Editors/Filmmakers**
- **PR and marketing**
- **Parents with media careers and media contacts**
- **Grant writers**
- **Fundraisers**

- **Parents who have contact with philanthropists**
- **Parents who can possibly facilitate corporate sponsorships**

Please contact Friends of the HCS/PA President Paul McConnell [pmconn1@gmail.com](mailto:pmconn1@gmail.com) or any committee leader to help out and get involved.

We are confident that, working with our HCS Board of Trustees, we will arrive at both a short and long-term space solution for our amazing school.