



# The Renaissance

45-20 83rd Street, Elmhurst, NY 11373  
www.renaissancecharter.org • 917-242-3505 • info@rencharter2.org

Charter School 2

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**APPROVED**

August 9, 2023

The Renaissance Charter School 2

Meeting of the Board of Trustees

Meeting convened at: 11:05 a.m.

1. Chairperson's Message – 3 minutes
2. Roll Call – 2 minutes
  - a. Members present: Monte Joffe, Liz Perez, Leopolda Silvera
  - b. Members absent: Chester Hicks, Rachel Mandel, Victor Motta
  - c. Non-members present: Taryn Hyson, Luisa Reyes, Maria Gutierrez
3. Approval of Last Month's Minutes – 5 minutes
  - a. Vote postponed for quorum
4. School Management Team Report – 10 minutes
  - a. Everett: Summer school is in its final week. Very successful program! Recently had a visit from the Summer Boost grantors, great observations of lessons and discussion with the management team. Children were engaged in learning and the review was quite positive.
  - b. Enrollment update: Current enrollment is 574. 21 seats open. 4 K classes (83), 4 1st (105), 3 2nd (81). 5 3rd (129), 3 4th (79), 4 9th (97). Reaching out to lottery winners daily so that offered seats can be accepted and we can be fully enrolled.
  - c. Hiring: high school hiring almost complete. One or two positions are still open, but key positions have been filled. Shout out to AP Zhen Gao ("Z") for his hard work. Now fully staffed for elementary. Flo and the team have been working hard.
  - d. New calendar--mentioned last meeting, has been sent out to families with all changes. Changes made to accommodate the DOE's new school year calendar with busing and extra days.
    - i. Weekly calendar--Fridays 1:30 dismissal. Trying to be aligned with Renaissance and its early Monday dismissal in order to use the time for professional development. There has been some feedback from families, and families should know that there has been a lot of thought put into this.
  - e. Recent happenings from after school partners.

- f. New guidelines about fingerprinting from NYSED. Every staff member should be fingerprinted through TEACH, as well as all consultants. Anyone working with children in the building. Other fingerprint systems do not count. We will be audited on this. All employees have always been cleared through TEACH, this is more about cleaning staff, security, etc. Biggest issue with cleaning company is about turnover, so we need to keep making sure new people are fingerprinted.
  - g. Stacey: 21st Century grant. Multiple meetings regarding this. This was awarded to the 82nd Street Academics program. They were unable to provide the program via the grant because of licensing issues (SAC).
    - i. We had to fund the program (\$180,000) last year because of this. The issues preventing use of the funding has been resolved.
    - ii. The grant has some constraints--it only pays for 120 days (out of 180 in the school year). Supposed to give priority to at-risk students, meaning ELL, students with housing insecurity for the purpose of the grant. This year there were more than double the applicants. The SMT and program manager are looking at and prioritizing the at-risk students. We were looking at focusing on certain grades, and we can't do that without making a modification. This is not a regular aftercare program, but one that is meant to support a relatively small number of students (120 students) that are at-risk, for part of the year, and part of the time. September-April only, will end early on Fridays. Academic program, K-5.
    - iii. We don't have the budget for a full aftercare program. We have spoken to our after-school partner to see whether they could provide a tuition-based program to include more students. It becomes difficult to hire staff for a portion of the school year. 3 p.m. to 6 M-Th, and 1:30 - 6 on Fridays. The plan is to circulate this to families to gauge interest. We are also going to continue to seek out other grant opportunities. Both academic and childcare.
    - iv. Questions about structure of programs, last year and this year. Need a minimum of 60 students to make the tuition-based program viable. Parents would also need to commit to full-time care for a minimum number of days.
    - v. Everett and Stacey would be happy to have a separate meeting to discuss this, and it would be great to have our parent coordinator involved. Questions about discounts for more than one child, and how it would work for students enrolled in the 21st Century program when that time runs out. Maria will gather the various questions and issues so they can be discussed with 82nd Street Academics. Monte suggested holding this meeting as soon as possible.
  - h. Commissioner's Decision regarding rent relief--all grade bands K-6 and 9-12 will have rent covered when they are in the building.
5. Board Members' New Business – 10 minutes
- a. Monte: Spoke to Stacey, both schools making progress with annual principal review. Stacey: a strong part of the review is performance on annual report. Ren2 has submitted the first part of that report (basic data). Next group of data will go in September 15, and after that it will be finalized in November. That's a big factor in how the management team and Everett will be evaluated. Renewal will be a big part of that going forward as well. The renewal process examines performance over five years quite closely.
6. Public Speaking
- a. Homeless situation, crossing guards. Question about fundraising to help support this.
    - i. Stacey: crossing guards provided by the police department. Because Ren2 is in private space, we are not entitled to a safety agent. Charter school advocates have been lobbying for this for years. For next year, our budget provides for two

safety agents, with two overlapping safety personnel. Stacey thinks that for a crossing guard, parents should be lobbying and speaking to the police precinct. Homeless situation--some parents and the management team have been involved with this.

- ii. Everett--have been engaged all year long. Less of a problem than when we first occupied the building. There have been a few encounters per week still. We are continuing to reach out to the precinct and Common Ground for homeless support to encourage them to use the local shelter. Staff members have had conversations with the individuals who gather near our entrance. Parent advocacy is important with this as well. Leopolda has been helping with this, and Maria will continue to work on it.

7. Adjournment of Public Meeting 11:54 a.m.