



# The Renaissance

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Charter School 2

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## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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October 11, 2023

The Renaissance Charter School 2

Meeting of the Board of Trustees

Meeting convened at: 11:03 a.m.

1. Chairperson's Message – 3 minutes
2. Roll Call – 2 minutes
  - a. Members present: Monte Joffe, Liz Perez, Chester Hicks, Victor Motta, Leopolda Silvera.
  - b. Members absent: Rachel Mandel.
  - c. Others present: Luisa Reyes, Daniel Fanelli, Stacey Gauthier, Everett Boyd, Taryn Hyson, Karsang, Iovanna Gutierrez, Paola Arancibia.
3. Approval of Last Month's Minutes – 5 minutes
  - a. Approved by acclamation
4. Budget Approval – 10 minutes
  - a. Changed a little in terms of enrollment--590 vs. 594.
  - b. Went over various funding streams--projected revenue about \$15M
  - c. Personnel numbers went up significantly because of expansion of school.
  - d. Safe harbor plan (401K) numbers may be adjusted depending on how many people contribute to their plan because we are matching up to 4%.
  - e. Technology is another high cost, e.g., chromebooks and smartboards.
  - f. Additional cost for facility maintenance.
  - g. Rent--receive additional facility funding, those numbers are offset.
  - h. Net income of \$154K projected. Money needs to go into the reserve, currently we have almost a million dollars, but want to build it higher. The current amount is enough to keep the school running for about four months without funding in an economic downturn. Our experiences with Ren1 have taught us the importance of having a substantial amount set aside. One of the charter goals is financial sustainability.
  - i. School currently undergoing a certified financial audit with its accountants. Rigorous process. Submitted along with the school's annual report on November 1.

- j. School spends the majority of its money on direct services to children, usually 80% or higher.
  - k. Discussion of possible impact of newcomers.
  - l. Budget approved by acclamation
5. School Management Team Report – 10 minutes
- a. Everett--in a good place with enrollment.
  - b. High school is off to a great start. Club program began last week. Fully-engaged students, staying after the end of the school day to take advantage of leadership opportunities and clubs. Everett started a music club! First HS social event was last Friday--Hispanic Heritage Day Dance. About 90% attendance. (Parent question in chat about why there aren't clubs for the younger students.)
  - c. PA executive board--Everett discussing bringing 9th grade parents into the fold. The PA is meeting tonight, and Everett and Meredith Hinshaw will be attending in support of the PA and discussing moving forward with the events this year. They will be explaining the CSG (first meeting coming up).
  - d. Everett met with a group of 9th graders and got feedback. Discussed student representation on the CSG.
  - e. Last week the school community was informed about an incident that happened with a HS student outside of the school. Everett reported it to Monte. The student has not returned to the school and is under medical care. Everett doesn't have any additional information from the NYPD or any other agency about the investigation.
  - f. Embargo on state test scores has been lifted. Dan shared available data.
    - i. For ELA in grade three, we were essentially even with the district (-0.17%). We exceeded the district in both the ELL and SPED categories.
    - ii. In 3rd math, we exceeded the district by 21.59 percent overall, and also exceeded the district in the ELL and SPED population breakdowns.
    - iii. Kudos to everyone on the hard work toward testing. The interim testing and follow-up with data analysis and classroom instruction seem to make a big difference.
    - iv. Stacey says that students who are "high 2" need support to get to 3 (grade level). There will be targeted tutoring for those students.
    - v. Mention of additional grant awarded that will be a funding source for literacy support and what that might fund.
    - vi. Working with NYU on teacher pipeline program--really hard to hire teachers right now. Will be update on hiring at the next board meeting. Some interviews and demos coming up toward that.
6. Board Members' New Business – 10 minutes
- a. Monte--Principal Review, progress is slow and sure. Stacey noted that the principal review has always been tied to the annual report, which is not completed yet. Everett is a Cahn Fellow with a mentor principal, and it is a holistic review. Everett--Cahn coach is also a guitar player.
7. Public Speaking
- a. From chat (Iovanna Gutierrez): Due to the increase in Spanish-speaking parents, we could support parents if the space and the guidelines of the program are accepted by you, allowing it with classes for parents in English, there are non-profit foundations that present good projects. Maybe the parents' association can support them.
  - b. Leopolda: indicated resources from Queens Library including [free online tutoring](#).
  - c. Various workshops for parents coming up on many topics--in-person and virtual. We ensure that these are translated into Spanish.
  - d. Paola Arancibia: school is great, but homeless people and cars are a problem (parking

on the sidewalk, she was attacked verbally). Believes there should be more policing.

- i. Everett said they are working with multiple agencies letting them know that more of a police presence is needed. The signs are a problem and DOT has said that they can't change any of the signs. Our advocate has elevated this to the next level, but there are still challenges.
- ii. Monte: we need to build a culture where the person on the receiving end files a report with the local precinct.
- iii. Stacey: an assembly member will be visiting the school in early November, and we should share that information with them. We can also invite our advocate to a meeting.

8. Suspension of Public Meeting 11:56 a.m.

9. Reconvent of Public Meeting 12:49 p.m.

- a. No further actions taken during executive session, board to be updated at future meeting.
- b. Public meeting adjourned at 12:50 p.m.