



The Renaissance

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Charter School 2

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APPROVED

January 10, 2024

The Renaissance Charter School 2

Meeting of the Board of Trustees

Meeting convened at: 11:02 a.m.

1. Chairperson's Message – 3 minutes
 - a. Liz filling in for Monte, who is overseas
2. Roll Call – 2 minutes
 - a. Members present: Liz Perez, Chester Hicks, Victor Motta, Leopolda Silvera
3. Approval of Last Month's Minutes – 5 minutes
 - a. Approved by acclamation
4. School Management Team Report – 10 minutes
 - a. Everett: at 98% of approved enrolment. 582 students. Attendance rate per PowerSchool at 94% since beginning of school year. Second semester of school has started; grades went out January 5. We will be planning a full summer school shortly.
 - b. Recruitment effort has started for Fall 2024. 328 applications for next year (April lottery). There will be a 6th grade next year, and applications are now at 57, and 9th grade applicants are now at 49 (those two grades are our entry points).
 - c. Two more open houses are scheduled. Last night's open house needed to be postponed because of the storm.
 - d. Staffing: just before the December break, our 4th grade ICT teacher resigned. We have a promising candidate and are looking to fill the position as soon as possible. Actively recruiting for an ELL teacher and a Mandarin teacher.
 - e. Renewal process has begun in earnest, collecting data and other information to tell our story as a successful charter school. We are planning for a full five years!
 - f. Stacey: Ren1 is coming toward the end of our renewal process. Very detailed, starts with data collection--not just test scores. Stacey and Dan will support the SMT through the process. Stacey went over the details of the process: data collection, possible school visit in spring, fall visit with walkthroughs and debrief with both SMT and board. There will also be a public hearing.
 - g. Dan and Stacey are supporting the school with financial management. We will be seeing a notice from Dan shortly regarding a finance committee meeting.

- h. Ren2 has worked hard to make sure salaries are competitive with the DOE (teachers, admins, etc.). Contracts of all major unions have been recently re-negotiated. We have made adjustments, which will be reflected in new offer letters starting in June.
- i. Performance bonus for SMT members based on completion of annual report goals. That hasn't been implemented since this year because we haven't had test scores prior to now. Each year, there will be more goals that the SMT is accountable for. Will talk about this in more detail at the finance committee meeting. Since we try to align our salaries between the schools by mirroring the union salaries, this is part of that effort.
- j. Both schools were provided with resources via a grant by the Audubon Society. Queens Botanical Garden has been in touch with us about a possible grant for high school students (farming food-to-table, working with younger students, etc.)

5. Board Members' New Business – 10 minutes

6. Public Speaking – TBD

- a. Chat comment: one of the important points for parents are the Mandarin classes where there is no (additional) teacher and while it was previously offered every day, it is now only offered one day.
 - i. Everett: there is a shortage of qualified Mandarin teachers. Our highly capable consultant (head of world languages at the Dalton School), and our coordinating teacher have been supporting our search. We have conducted several interviews, but none of the candidates were suitable. We have a long-term sub in the room. We continue to look
 - ii. K parent (Katie) Pleased with the teachers, school, and her daughter's growth in the literacy program.
 - iii. Stacey mentioned that Ren2 along with Ren1 and several other charter schools won an Innovative Approaches to Literacy grant. Will bring funding for a literacy coordinator. We will be sending books home to families of students between the ages of 3 and 7 (three-year-olds can be siblings of current students). We have money for PD and for a high school reading buddies program (students paid for it).
 - iv. Another parent said that the teachers are empathetic, and they have had good teachers.

7. Adjournment of Public Meeting