

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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June 12, 2024

The Renaissance Charter School 2

Meeting of the Board of Trustees

Meeting convened at: 11:00 a.m.

1. Chairperson's Message – 2 minutes
2. Roll Call – 1 minute
 - a. Board Members Present: Monte Joffe, Liz Perez, Chester Hicks, Victor Motta, Leopolda Silvera
 - b. Board Members Absent: Rachel Mandel
 - c. Others present: Stacey Gauthier, Daniel Fanelli, Everett Boyd, Matthew Delforte, Kathleen (parent, via Zoom)
3. Approval of Last Month's Minutes – 5 minutes
 - a. Approved by acclamation
4. Review and Approval of DEI Policy – 5 minutes
 - a. Discussion of sharing of document and the commitment to this policy. Going forward, how do we live Diversity, Equity, and Inclusivity:
 - b. On June 12, 2024, at a duly constituted meeting of the Board of Trustees ("Board") of The Renaissance Charter School 2 ("TRCS2"), the following resolution was put forth and adopted:

WHEREAS, TRCS2 is committed to creating and maintaining a positive and inclusive learning environment where all students, especially those currently and historically marginalized, feel safe, included, welcomed, and accepted, and experience a sense of belonging and academic success. The Board believes doing so is fundamental to our education program and to the social development and well-being of our students. Toward this end, the school has prepared a Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Policy that endeavors to provide equitable, inclusive, and diverse opportunities for all students so that they may reach their highest potential.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that in meeting with the school's commitment to creating and maintaining a positive and inclusive learning environment for all students, and preparing and empowering all students to reach their highest potential, the Board adopts the DEI Policy presented by the School Management Team and further directs the principal to implement and enforce this policy, and create regulations and practices necessary to do so.

(Approved unanimously)

5. Resolution to Request a Material Revision for Grades 7 & 8 expansion – 5 minutes
 - a. Everett - Vision to be a K-12 school; the authorizers are aware that this has been our intention all along. Next year will be our first year of middle school. For the renewal, we should request a charter revision.
 - b. Stacey - Grade expansions and enrollment expansions need to be approved by the Regents. Normally these revision requests go in by early December, but because we are in renewal, they need to be submitted by August 31.
 - c. Resolved: as part of the renewal application of Renaissance 2, that the Board adopts the addition of an enrollment increase request of 216 students, bringing enrollment to 1053 students, and further resolves to expand Renaissance 2's grades to include grade 7 and 8, thereby completing the school's grades from kindergarten to grade 12, to go into effect beginning in the 2025-2026 school year.

(Approved unanimously)

6. Review and Approval of a Material Revision to revise the Student Support and Discipline Plan – 5 minutes
 - a. Stacey - want to modify plan to have a dean, so that the principal becomes the party who receives appeals.
 - b. Resolved: as part of the renewal application of Renaissance 2, that the Board gives authority to school counsel and the School Management Team to adapt the Student Support and Discipline Plan to designate a Dean of Students as a decision maker during the initial stages of due process hearings.

(Approved unanimously)

7. Review and Approval of Personnel and Family/Student Handbooks – 5 minutes
 - a. Stacey: noted that there were lots of people involved in both handbooks, including school counsel. We believe that the handbooks are legally compliant; both are living documents and as current as we can make them right now (particularly for the personnel handbook). Brandy Marshall has stressed the importance of having this information consistent across all communications and media.
 - b. Resolved: that the Board adopt the Personnel Handbook as amended and further directs the School Management Team to submit the Personnel Handbook to the State Education Department in connection with its renewal application.

(Approved unanimously)

- c. Resolved: that the Board approves the Family/Student Handbook and further directs the School Management Team in consultation with counsel to complete any sections of the Handbook that need finalization, and any substantial changes shall be returned to the Board for approval prior to submission to the State Education Department as part of the Renewal application.

(Approved unanimously)

Question about NYS law regarding the flag and the Pledge of Allegiance. Question about applicability to charter schools. Discussion about deferring to SMT in consultation with legal counsel and to add to the July meeting agenda.

8. Review and Approval of 2024-25 Board Meeting Calendar – 5 minutes
 - a. Proposing to keep the meetings on Wednesdays but move them earlier. TRCS2 meeting at 10 a.m.
 - b. First Wednesday of the month except for the summer
 - i. July 24, 2024
 - ii. August 14, 2024
 - iii. September 4, 2024
 - iv. October 2, 2024
 - v. November 6, 2024
 - vi. December 4, 2024
 - vii. January 8, 2025
 - viii. February 5, 2025
 - ix. March 5, 2025
 - x. April 2, 2025
 - xi. May 7, 2025
 - xii. June 4, 2025
 - c. Calendar and change in time approved unanimously.

9. Appointment of a Vice Chairperson – 2 minutes
 - a. Victor has offered to serve as Vice Chairperson (Approved unanimously)
 - b. This makes Monte, Victor, and Liz the Executive Committee

10. Appointment of an Audit and Finance Committee Chair – 2 minutes
 - a. Leopolda has offered to serve as the Audit and Finance Committee Chair (Approved unanimously)

11. Board Committee Reports – 5 minutes
 - a. Audit and Finance
 - i. Dan: The Renaissance 2 BOT Working Budget Finance Committee Meeting discussed committee roles, budget overview, projections, facilities and lease adjustments, future planning, revenue opportunities, and recommendations. Projected budget for next year with a per pupil rate increase to a total of \$19,044/student, significant increases in staff compensation and benefits, adjustments for facilities and lease obligations, and recommendations to the full board for budget approval.
 - ii. Specific discussion around the new accounting standard and how that impacts our lease obligations. We pay rent, but we are also obligated to show a “right of use” of the building, which is projected over the full lease. Initially, that number is very high, which puts us in a deficit, but this is not representative of actual dollars currently spent on the building, and the number will decrease over time.
 - iii. Finance committee approved the budget.
 - iv. Ratification of Finance Committee budget approved unanimously.
 - b. Educational Support
 - i. Education Committee will be meeting with Everett and Stacey in order to

present to the full board in September.

12. CSG Report – 5 minutes

- a. Meredith: Priority was culture-building; two big initiatives.
 - i. Mural project - make sure students' voices are heard.
 - ii. Multicultural Day happening on June 18 - first celebration; parents and families will be showcasing their heritage. All stakeholders involved!
 - iii. Living the DEI policy!

13. School Management Team Report and Renewal Update – 10 minutes

- a. SMT member update:
 - i. Assistant Principal for Lower School: Sara Napolitano (Hughes)
 - ii. Assistant Principal for Middle School: Sien Li
 - iii. Assistant Principal for High School: Zhen Gao
 - iv. Assistant Principal for Special Populations: Shannon Wallace
 - v. Assistant Principal of Operations and Finance: Jessica Kim
- b. The rest of the report was tabled for lack of time, will be submitted in writing.

14. Board Members' New Business – 2 minutes

15. Public Speaking – TBD

16. Adjournment of Public Meeting 12:00 p.m.