



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

[September 11, 2024]

The Renaissance Charter School 2

Meeting of the Board of Trustees

Meeting convened at: 10:00 a.m.

1. Chairperson's Message – 3 minutes
 - a. Remembering 9/11/2001
2. Roll Call – 2 minutes
 - a. Board members present: Monte Joffee, Victor Motta, Liz Perez, Chester Hicks, Leopolda Silvera
 - b. Board members absent: Rachel Mandel
 - c. Others present: Stacey Gauthier, Everett Boyd, Matthew Delforte, Dan Fanelli
3. Approval of Last Month's Minutes – 5 minutes
 - a. Approved unanimously
4. Review and Approval of Retainer – 10 minutes
 - a. Matthew Delforte: Reduced rate for billable hours. The firm requested to change the retainer so that the yearly fee is not divided by 12 due to variability of monthly hours. Have upped the anticipated amount for Ren2 to mirror Renaissance due to renewal year and increased need for legal work. 55K worth of work for 50K. Reduced rate for senior counsel.
 - b. Monte commented about how much we have enjoyed working with the firm over many years; the feeling is mutual. Stacey: we've had great support from Matthew, Jake, and Fred. New attorney Mary has been working with us on Workplace Violence.
 - c. Approved unanimously
5. School Management Team Report – 10 minutes
 - a. Everett: great beginning to the school year, first day we welcomed students back was last Tuesday, September 3. Thank you to Leopolda and Ben and all the supports parents have given us, especially on that first day with 100% enrollment (837 students!) Teachers are very happy to be with students, after having gone through a full week of staff development and two weeks for new teachers. The school looks great, most of the furniture is in place in the new classroom, students look happy and teachers are thrilled

to be here.

- b. Renewal application has been submitted. 45 densely-packed pages, being reviewed by SED as we speak. Everett was just on an email about scheduling the renewal visit. Will be a two-day visit the week of November 12. Submitted charter revision requests along with application, both material and non-material revisions, including discipline policy and enrollment increases.
- c. Kudos to staff for outreach to families and continuing to keep enrollment high.
- d. More than 300 students riding buses contracted through OPT. Two buses are overcrowded. We have submitted a report to OPT that we do need additional buses, they are looking to get us more buses. Have reached out to the parent community to ask them to consider alternative means of transportation. Thank you to parents who have been flexible about this. Stacey: similar situation at Renaissance; this is a citywide issue because there is a severe shortage of drivers. One bus is picking up from three schools, some routes are as long as two hours, which is illegal. Matthew: for the past several years, there have been significant problems with busing for students with disabilities; he has had to threaten legal action against the Chancellor and Mayor on behalf of schools that he represents. He would be happy to continue the discussion about expressing concerns.
- e. Safety plans--approaching October 1 date of submission. Have received no public comments, can we move forward with submitting.
- f. Resolved: that the safety plan, having come through the public comment period and there having been no comments, that the Board adopt the safety plan for submission. Approved unanimously.
- g. Close to sending an offer letter for a middle school science teacher. Still have open positions for ELL and 10th ELA, and are very close to offer for Reading Interventionist, position shared between Ren1 and Ren2. This is a 12-month position mostly funded by a federal grant, which has complicated finalization of the offer. Still looking for a social worker. Current social worker Kat has accepted a 12-month position to direct mental health services for entire school.
- h. Weekly SMT meetings, but with new APs this year, a separate one-on-one meeting between Everett and APs is taking place 1x/week to reflect on mission and goals.
- i. Everett will be meeting with the Communications Team tomorrow for visioning now and into the future to discuss mission statement and key design elements to spread awareness throughout the school to help the community embrace these things as elements of our school's culture.
- j. Stacey: Communications Team has grown to three people this year. Ren2 was selected to be part of a program through the NYC Charter Association, which involves free marketing services through an outside firm, which will give more hands on deck to reach more people and consistently meet enrollment goals. A charter school that didn't meet its 85% enrollment goal was told by auditors that they had to apply for a waiver. Our population is increasingly mobile, so outreach and recruitment is really important.
- k. Daily Digest program at Ren1 is a centralized communication tool with updated events and links to important information, and that will be starting soon at Ren2.
- l. Discussion of possible joint CSG between both schools.
- m. Executive Leadership: Vinny will be at Ren2 to work on student safety in light of recent violent acts to make sure we are doing everything we can to make sure our students are safe. Stacey and Dan will be there working with Achievement Network. Also meeting with a potential consultant to support additional work and will report on that afterward.
- n. Renewal application huge team effort: Everett, Meredith, Dan, Stacey, and consultants Wayne and Frank. This process began last November. We are very proud of the application and excited that Wayne got letters from our local politicians. He was unable to get a letter from Senator Gianaris, and we would like parents to mobilize and go to Gianaris's office to let him know who we are.

- o. Report back from committee meeting last week. (See language below) Approved by full board unanimously.
6. Board Members' New Business – 10 minutes
7. Public Speaking – None
8. Adjournment of Public Meeting
9. Executive Session (if applicable)

On September 3, 2024, at a duly constituted meeting of the Board of Trustees (“Board”) of The Renaissance Charter School 2 (“TRCS 2”), the following resolutions were put forth and adopted:

WHEREAS, in connection with TRCS 2’s charter renewal application, TRCS 2 has made a revision to its formal complaint policy required by the New York State Education Department that adds express language allowing complainants to make complaints directly to the Board rather than first making such complaints at the school level and clarifying that there is no filing deadline for filing such complaints.

WHEREAS, in connection with TRCS 2’s charter renewal application, TRCS 2 desires to amend its student discipline policy to add an additional layer of review that includes the Dean of Student Support.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board hereby revises its formal complaint policy to add express language allowing complainants to make formal complaints pursuant to N.Y. Education Law 2855 directly to the Board rather than first making such complaints at the school level and clarifying that there is no filing deadline for filing complaints; and be it further

RESOLVED, in connection with TRCS 2’s charter renewal application, TRCS 2 amends its student discipline policy.