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April 2, 2025

The Renaissance Charter School 2

Meeting of the Board of Trustees

Meeting convened at: 10:03 AM

1. Chairperson's Message – 3 minutes
  - a. Hearty thanks to everyone who was involved in renewal, coming to an end very soon. The school is on the April agenda (next Monday).
2. Roll Call – 2 minutes
  - a. Board Members present: Monte Joffe, Victor Motta, Liz Perez, Leopolda Silvera, Chester Hicks
  - b. Board Members absent: Rachel Mandel
  - c. Others present: Stacey Gauthier, Everett Boyd, Meredith Hinshaw-Chaney
3. Approval of Last Month's Minutes – 5 minutes
  - a. Approved unanimously
4. Standing Committee Reports (if applicable) – 10 minutes
  - a. None--there will be another finance committee meeting coming up, need more numbers to have that meeting.
  - b. Will be talking to board about lease and restructuring about that.
5. School Management Team Report – 10 minutes
  - a. Everett: looking forward to news about renewal. Thank you to the entire school community for their incredible support throughout the process. Almost at the finish line! We had a very successful visit from Dr. Lisa Long last Friday; great conversation, she toured the school and met staff; she seemed impressed and is looking forward to being able to present our case to the Board of Regents. Stacey, Dan, and Everett will be present at that meeting.
  - b. Demographic overview was sent to the board today; that was presented to Dr. Long during her visit. She commented that our enrollment looks great, and statistically we are in a great category. Over the last five years, we have increased our ELL population, which we have discussed at length with our authorizers. 31% is significant. Students with IEPs are a significant number as well, along with the proportion of economically

disadvantaged students. Dr. Long said we are doing great work in this regard.

- c. Working on staffing for next year. We have some challenges. The DOE is hiring 7000 teachers in order to meet the class size reduction requirements, so we are looking at some competition.
  - d. Lottery: April 7, same as Board of Regents meeting. Looking forward to meeting our new enrollees; registration will begin after the lottery. We will be inviting prospective enrollees to some school events.
  - e. Everett mentioned recent art and music shows. Parents were here for those, and we want new families to attend some of those types of events in the coming week. Mentioned Rensizzle week and presentations coming up.
  - f. State exams after spring recess. Our traditional preparation over the past few years has involved practice and mock exams, we then do a big rally beforehand to celebrate the anticipated successes.
  - g. Stacey: ELL students--both schools have really been taking a close look at the programming so that we can make sure that it's highly effective and differentiated per different levels. Laurie, our world language consultant, ran an English language program, and she has a lot of contacts. This is good, because we are looking at bringing on 8 ELL teachers to reflect the over 300 ELL students we anticipate coming to Ren2. We are hoping to align programming at both schools. Several students will be taken out of Mandarin and/or Spanish for direct instruction, and we have to determine what that looks like. Especially for beginner learners, direct instruction is beneficial.
  - h. Discussion of recruiting teachers. We've been trying at Ren2 with a partnership with NYU and also Everett has been looking into Teach for America; we've also connected with the Charter Center to work on teacher certification for teaching assistants, etc. We are also looking at the compensation package to make it more competitive. Healthcare costs are going up 31%. Dan has been in conversations with TriNet about why the increase. one answer is that some people have not signed up for the medical program, which is impacting the cost. Trying to get more details about that. Our staff tends to be younger and doesn't sign up for 401K for example, or maybe they are still on their parents' plans. There should be no reason that someone is not signing up. Taryn our HR Assistant has been working on some of this. There are 33 open positions assuming grade expansion is approved next week. Monte: suggestion that people from Federal Department of Education may be looking for work. We have been getting a lot of resumes, but we need to figure out which ones are relevant.
  - i. Monte: We could create a hiring fair with food, signing bonuses for current staff members, etc.
  - j. Looking at possibly giving staff renewal bonus.
  - k. If our expansion is approved, the school would be eligible for \$2 million federal CSP grant (if current events don't change that).
  - l. A lot of unknowns about upcoming funding.
6. Board Members' New Business – 10 minutes
    - a. Monte: would like to have some type of presentation from the whole SMT at some point; perhaps 10 or 15 minutes at the May meeting.
    - b. Thank you to Meredith for working with the staff at both schools to put together the demographic report. She is also working on a development report, and they are working with her on CSG topics. More on that at the next meeting.

7. Public Speaking – None

8. Adjournment of Public Meeting: 10:34 a.m.

