



The Renaissance

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Charter School 2

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May 7, 2025

The Renaissance Charter School 2

Meeting of the Board of Trustees

Meeting convened at: 10:03

1. Chairperson's Message – 3 minutes – Everett has submitted his resignation, and Monte reflected on his career at Renaissance. Thank you and job well done, Everett!
 - a. Everett: has known Monte for almost 40 years, and he described starting as a music teacher and the fact that some of his students have moved on to work for the school as well. Stacey asked him to take on another mission to become an administrator. Had to ask himself if he wanted to do this--originally came to New York to be a musician! It has been a learning process throughout. Important to live a life of service. Has learned as a school leader that one cannot do this by oneself; it's a team effort. Thank you to everyone in the school community; everyone here is a partner. It's been an experience of a lifetime! Not really retiring, basically "retreading" in order to take on a new mission. The future is bright for Renaissance, and he look forward to being a part of that growth.
2. Roll Call – 2 minutes
 - a. Board members present: Monte Joffee, Liz Perez, Victor Motta, Chester Hicks, Leopolda Silvera
 - b. Board members absent: Rachel Mandel
 - c. Others present: Meredith Hinshaw, Stacey Gauthier, Daniel Fanelli, Everett Boyd, Raymond Johnson.
3. Approval of Last Month's Minutes – 5 minutes
 - a. Approved by acclamation
4. School Management Team Report – 10 minutes
 - a. Everett: with great effort and support throughout the initial charter, the Board of Regents officially voted in their April meeting to grant Ren2 a 5-year charter and an enrollment expansion to make it a full K-12 school with over 1,000 students.

- b. On the same day that the Board of Regents voted, we held our lottery. We were able to announce to the new applicants that there will be a 6th and 7th grade next year. We are going through registration process right now; there is a tour of accepted students going on at this very moment.
- c. In testing season. Two new APs, Sarah and Tsien, working with Shannon to organize with guidance of Victor regarding computer-based testing, etc. Doing a great job to understand the nuances of what needs to be done. Testing has changed in so many ways. Everett has tried to pass on his institutional knowledge to his APs; they have weekly meetings to discuss the “nitty-gritty” of what it takes to run a school.
- d. Just celebrated second HS Rensizzle. Amazing success! Trips and experiences were a cut above last year. Our AP for HS, Z, really took this under his wing, and there was a fair at the end; Meredith was there taking pictures, and HS students presented their experiences to the entire school.
- e. Announcement: some changes that we are expecting for next year. Have been talking about scheduling. We love our extended day--some feedback from the community has been to have more consistency with schedule, and needing to promote students who need extra help. Next year will have a 5-day schedule with teachers from 8-4, with students dismissed at 3:10. There will be mandated tutoring, staff meetings, and enrichment (e.g., clubs for arts and STEM) 5 days per week. Vision is to grow our school to be competitive retain current students and attract more. Also free afterschool, which parents have requested. More to come on that!
- f. Stacey: reflected on co-teaching Anthropology class with Everett years ago.
- g. More than ever committed to the success of Renaissance--mandate for educators. How are we positioning ourselves for the future?
 - i. Some conversations have been happening around who is to be the new principal to support these next steps. The executive leadership will be in close contact with the Board about visioning this planning and what we see for the school in one, two, five years.
 - ii. Stacey will be spending more time at Ren2, cross-school staff will be there for support. We have some ideas about nextgen, especially in HS with new graduation requirements, but would like some feedback. Thank you, Everett, and everyone for your support!

5. Development Report – Meredith

- a. A lot of turbulence regarding Mental Health Grant - among many schools that have received notice from the Federal Department of Education letting us know the grant has been discontinued. Multipronged response that includes appeal.
- b. Mental Health Service Professional Demonstration Grant (MHSPD) - part of a consortium of charter schools
 - i. Evidence-based interventions to achieve goals
 - ii. Expanding pipeline of providers
 - iii. Expanding access to mental health services
 - iv. Work with Hunter and other schools to have access to students
 - v. Training in evidence-based practices: play therapy, trauma-based therapy, etc.
 - vi. Increased salaries in year 1, have strong retention rates. Successful partnership with Hunter.
 - vii. Expanding program into the summer months
 - viii. Program has been successful in student reports of decreased suicidal ideation.
- c. Project Prevent - decrease violent, aggressive, and disruptive behaviors in schools
 - i. Increase mental health services
 - ii. Fire Safety, teen mental health, active shooting protocols, parent awareness.
 - iii. Worked with service providers including Living Redemption.
 - iv. Seeing a decrease in the number of students who are reporting suicidal ideation,

- use of substances, reporting feeling sad or hopeless.
 - d. Innovative Approaches to Literacy Grant
 - i. Partner in consortium
 - ii. Various literacy interventions and celebrations, book giveaways, basic literacy supports through staffing.
 - e. Partnerships
 - i. Audubon Society - weeklong residency in Living Environment
 - f. STOP Grants (also safety grant)
 - i. 2019 grant closing
 - ii. 2021 grant not affected by federal changes; DOJ grant
 - iii. Active shooter training, Incident Command Training system.
- Thank you, Meredith, for all the work you do!

6. Adjournment of Public Meeting: 11:00 a.m.