



# The Renaissance

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## Charter School 2

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December 4, 2024

The Renaissance Charter School 2

Meeting of the Board of Trustees

Meeting convened at: 10:01 a.m.

1. Chairperson's Message – 3 minutes
2. Roll Call – 2 minutes
  - a. Board Members present: Victor Motta, Liz Perez, Chester Hicks, Leopolda Silvera, Monte Joffe
  - b. Board members absent: Rachel Mandel
  - c. Others present: Matthew Delforte, Daniel Fanelli, Stacey Gauthier, Meredith Hinshaw
3. Approval of Last Month's Minutes – 5 minutes
  - a. Approved by acclamation
4. School Management Team Report – 10 minutes
  - a. Everett - thanks to everyone for support around renewal visit; discussed next steps (awaiting from authorizing team).
  - b. Glows: staff was engaged with instruction; strong management team; impressed with the feel of the school. More to come on that.
  - c. Annual report submitted November 1. We met 76% of applicable goals (19/25). Goals we could not meet were those for ELLs; we are in discussion with authorizers because our metrics are different from those of the state. Also working on meeting Regents goals in HS.
  - d. Just finished first round of PT conferences; well-attended. Noted that MS parents (first year) were engaged.
  - e. Promotion in Doubt family conferences focused on meeting with families of struggling students. Those conferences are in progress now. The intent is to meet the challenge early on.
  - f. Alternative instruction for suspensions; hourly increase. Needs to be instruction offered by a teacher, can be in-person or remote.
  - g. Stacey: Introduced self and other personnel. Thanks to everyone for great public hearing and visit and letting SED know that we support the school and want to be renewed. Had focus groups with staff, leadership, parents and students to get perspective of all

- stakeholders. Monte and Stacey created a principal review summary and a cumulative report including strengths, challenges, next steps and action plan. This is an ongoing dialogue and self-reflection on the part of the principal. Our process is in our charter.
- h. Going to look more closely at annual report data and creating targeted plans.
  - i. Measures of success for Everett and leadership team:
    - i. Navigated creation of school in incubation space (Maspeth).
    - ii. Guided school through COVID pandemic with hybrid program.
    - iii. Mission-driven school, open-door policy
  - j. Areas of growth (upon which Everett has reflected; he contributed much of the below):
    - i. Improve staff retention
    - ii. Encourage teacher certification (Contract with Charter Center for certification support)
    - iii. Continue to build on PA and CSG; valuable forums that we are committed to supporting. Places where initiatives are created and nurtured. Example of world languages and Mandarin.
    - iv. School viewed as unified K-12 building, students of all grades interacting with each other and building a culture of support around that
    - v. Encouraging a leadership pipeline
    - vi. Move towards full Restorative Practice discipline program. Allows for a lot of different issues where students can reflect and make amends to move forward from conflicts and other situations and not be excluded from the learning environment.
    - vii. Developing and growing School Management Team, particularly new members.
    - viii. Everett needs to step back and let others take on some of his duties. This year he is having meetings with APs to make sure they are successful.
    - ix. HS and MS--use data effectively to be ahead of the curve in terms of programming needed to be successful, graduate , and have a strong transition to college and career.
  - k. Vincent Garelick - new member of Executive Leadership team (comprised of Stacey, Dan, and Vinny). Number of staff members (Meredith, Dawn C.) who support both schools.
  - l. Leopolda - site visit with board members
  - m. Matthew - law firm counsel to Renaissance for 24 years; Ren2 since inception. Exciting to see what a special place it has become in such a short time. Leadership and SMT have come to Matthew with questions about what SED has raised.
    - i. Policies aren't "one size fits all;" there can be reasons to have dialogue around expectations. Charter schools in New York were meant to innovate and should be called upon to be creative and different.
    - ii. Highlights of policy questions thus far:
      - 1. Board member absences: e.g., mentioned Monte's trips overseas and wanted us to create contingency plans to address that. We felt it was unnecessary because video participation is allowed by law and is therefore not an issue.
      - 2. Conflicts of interest:
        - a. Employees from Ren1 on Ren2 board; concerns them because Ren2 board members are supervised and evaluated by Stacey at Ren1. The Ren2 board members employed by Ren1 can recuse themselves, for example, when discussing Executive Director salary.
      - 3. Complaint policy: there should be no time limit to bring a complaint or appeal a decision. We disagree, there need to be restrictions for a number of reasons so that uncertainty around an event doesn't linger for months or years.

4. New policies would go into effect for next charter--conflict of interest, bylaws for board, admissions policy (needs update because of new information and changes as the school has moved and grown), discipline policy (additional level with deans as school has expanded).
5. Next steps: SED is writing a report that goes through various levels, including Charter School Office, legal counsel, etc. Once they are satisfied with the report--and they can come back to us with more questions--then the report will be synthesized into a shorter report regarding meeting of benchmarks. We believe there should be more information than that in the report to explain situations and how issues are being addressed.

5. Board Members' New Business – 10 minutes

- a. Want to change board meeting date to January 22. Stacey might not be able to attend.
- b. Executive Committee - formalize
  - i. Resolution: Pursuant to Education Law, the board resolves to create an executive committee that includes not less than five members.
    1. Approved by acclamation
  - ii. Resolution: Board appoints the following members to the Executive Committee: Monte Joffee, Victor Motta, Liz Perez, Chester Hicks, Leopolda Silvera
    1. Approved by acclamation
  - iii.

6. Public Speaking – Discussed translation at this meeting going forward. We will be able to translate the transcript for our website.

- a. Thanks from Ben for sharing behind the scenes regarding planning and the renewal process.

7. Adjournment of Public Meeting 10:59 a.m.

8. Executive Session