



The Renaissance

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Charter School 2

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APPROVED

July 2, 2025

The Renaissance Charter School 2

Meeting of the Board of Trustees

Meeting convened at: 10:02

1. Chairperson's Message – 3 minutes
2. Roll Call – 2 minutes
 - a. Board Members Present: Monte Joffe, Victor Motta, Liz Perez, Chester Hicks, Leopolda Silvera
 - b. Board Members Absent: Rachel Mandel
 - c. Others present: Stacey Gauthier, Daniel Fanelli, Matthew Delforte
3. Approval of Last Month's Minutes – 5 minutes
 - a. Approved unanimously
4. Standing Committee Reports (if applicable) – 10 minutes
 - a. Finance Committee--committee met and recommended approval of the budget unanimously.
 - b. Board approved the budget unanimously
5. School Management Team Report – 10 minutes
 - a. Stacey: working hard on transition. Everett's last day was June 30. Many meetings between executive leadership, school management, and Rashid. His first day will be August 11.
 - b. Still some hiring to be done. Yesterday two APs went to Teach for America conference to recruit.
 - c. Enrollment is full.
 - d. Stacey had follow-up call with Dr. Lisa Long at NYSED, and she is supportive about high school with Variety Boys' and Girls' Club. Grant for artificial ice rink on roof and helicopter landing pad at Variety!
 - e. Good news: AG has decided to sue Trump Admin about the mental health grant. AG in California sent letters saying that people in California have to withdraw their request for reconsideration because of the lawsuit. Stacey Newton following up on this, NY has not done the same.

- f. Bad news: Administration has decided to stop federal funding to schools, including 21st Century Grant. Still unknown how this is going to affect the 82nd Street program.
- g. Student was apprehended by ICE while at a court case with father and brother; student is now in Ecuador. Traumatic for school community We had to fill out paperwork around this; we have the responsibility for knowing where our students are. On a practical level, if students are taken by ICT, we can't remove them from our roster without knowing where they are.
- h. There was a situation with a detective saying he had the right to apprehend a student; paperwork was not sufficient. This can only be done with a judicial warrant, and only after our lawyer reviews it. We want to follow the law in these situation.
- i. Rashid will join the next board meeting.
- j. Dan--summer school
 - i. Comprehensive program K-12 for both schools
 - 1. K-8 at Ren2 425 students 7/7 - 8/8. Scripted curriculum using Lavinia, focus on priority standards for the next grade. Also enrichment classes, including Mandarin and arts classes. Partnering with 82nd Street Academics to select an elective class 145 students until 6 p.m. M-Th, and a full day of enrichment (300 students) on Fridays.
 - 2. 9-12 at Ren1 170 students - targeted program to identify key standards and using scripted curriculum. Supporting network-wide goals of student discussion and voice. Progress monitoring students throughout a lesson. Admin will provide support to staff.
 - 3. Liz and Shannon have been working to give information to staff about student accommodations and needs for SWDs and ELLs.
 - 4. Thank you to 82nd Street and Dawn Cahill for all of the planning!
 - 5. Students taking pre- and post-test in K-8, and we will have that data and Regents data to share in September.
 - 6. College Bound staff on site, counselors present.
 - 7. A lot of Ren2 staff members stepped up to teach in the summer, thank you!
- k. Matthew--highlights of changes in policy
 - i. Disagree with most of what is being requested, but picking our battles.
 - ii. Doesn't believe a school should have to provide notice to revise a charter every time they want to change a policy.
 - iii. Changes:
 - 1. Complaint policy: SED suggests that we formalize our informal process. We feel that could give rise to confusion about what is formal and informal--what can be handled at the school level? We have memorialized what we do already by saying that we try to resolve them at the school level by directing them to the staff member involved, by trying to solve the issue with dialogue before going through formal channels.
 - 2. Will seek to request a revision within 30 days of receiving a complaint--difficult because complaints are driven by the facts and circumstances of each situation. Sometimes it's complicated, and we can't always convene the board for a decision.
 - 3. Issues with student code of conduct, which had previously been approved by the state and by the DOE (at Ren1). Gun-free policy comes right out of the statute. Wanted us to add language that would allow the student to apply for a modification of suspension or expulsion, which the law does not require. We feel that it's important to maintain discretion and not be forced to reconsider a penalty if a child brings a gun into school.

4. Have a list of examples of inappropriate conduct which is used as a guide for school and families; adapted from DOE policy from years ago. Wanted us to tie the penalty directly to each example. This goes against our need to weigh the consequences against the totality of each situation--there should be a range of consequences. We don't want to tie our hands with a mandated penalty. Discussion of who investigates and does follow-up. Typically the Dean, followed by Executive Director, Board of Trustees, and authorizer (SED).
5. They didn't want limitations on the appeal process, so theoretically a decision could be appealed a year later, which doesn't make sense, and we've pushed back on that.
6. Long-term suspension, they wanted the person presiding over the hearing to be different from the person investigating (Dean), so we changed that to Executive Director.
7. Changed 5 calendar days to 14 calendar days (amount of time to make appeal to board).
8. Wanted language about suspension teacher ensuring that assignments are completed; we want to stay with language that assignments are reviewed by suspension teacher, because they can't necessarily ensure their completion.
9. Admissions policy: SED pulled out policies from our original charter, but a lot of that isn't relevant anymore (e.g. enrollment numbers). We replaced that with the updated policy.
10. Brief overview of admissions policy.
11. BOT Bylaws:
 - a. Issue with parent members, some confusion around why parent elected board member has 3-year term and community member has 5-year term. Asked whether community members require special expertise (no). This is adapted from Ren1.
 - b. They also said that additional language regarding public notice to news media about meetings should be added to bylaws, we wanted to add "to the extent practicable" because issues can arise that prevent this degree of notice.
 - c. Executive committees need to have at least 5 members--we have revised this language.
 - d. Non-profits can vote in writing without having a meeting, and we wanted to have a process by which we can make changes with unanimous consent. We are deleting that, as it is inconsistent with Open Meetings law.
 - e. Bylaws have to include that we can't have a Charter Management Organization. Our Charter already says this, but we can include it.
 - f. Financial Interest Disclosure--wanted us to put that in the Bylaws; we are already required to do this in the Charter.
 - g. Code of Ethics--includes TRCS 2 Board members who work at TRCS, and whether they have to recuse themselves if there are overlapping situation. This speaks for itself.
12. The Board voted unanimously to accept the changes in policy as described by Matthew Delforte
13. The Board voted unanimously to accept the changes to the Bylaws as described by Matthew Delforte

7. Public Speaking – N/A

8. Adjournment of Public Meeting at 11:06 a.m.