



The Renaissance

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Charter School 2

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January 7, 2026

The Renaissance Charter School 2

Meeting of the Board of Trustees

Meeting convened at:

1. Chairperson's Message – 3 minutes
2. Roll Call – 2 minutes
 - a. Board members present: Monte Joffe, Victor Motta, Liz Perez, Chester Hicks, Leopolda Rivera
 - b. Board member absent: Rachel Mandel
 - c. Others present: Rashid Johnson, Stacey Gauthier, Daniel Fanelli, Anahi Rafael
3. Approval of Last Month's Minutes
 - a. Approved by acclamation.
4. Standing Committee Reports
 - a. Preview: calling together finance and audit committee for mid-year update on expenses and to discuss the financial implications of bond transactions. Be on the lookout for an upcoming meeting date for this and the educational support committee to discuss how the school is working to meet the goals that were not addressed in the last ACR.
5. School Management Team Report – 10 minutes
 - a. Rashid
 - b. Ren2 January 2026 Demographics Data
 - c. Appreciation of Stacey's pushes of thinking about goals and support of the rest of the team
 - d. Tightly aligned across both schools; challenges have been beautiful!
 - e. This week: planned out behavior and academic restart. Full day of doubling down on behavior and academic expectations: procedures and routines, communication, getting students invested in schoolwide goals. Taking place this entire week.
 - f. For the past few months, we have been working on one seventh grade class. Rather than punishing and pushing out black and brown boys, we have been discussing how we help these students. Proud to see these students working together and following rules. Stacey has been supportive with the efforts around this. Thanks to Stacey, Dan, Sien, deans,

- families, etc.
- g. Enrollment - see dashboard above. 926 students enrolled. Still have available seats in 1, 2, 5 and high school.
 - h. Vacant positions: HS Leadership, Mandarin, Art, History, ELL, Special Education, Interventionist.
 - i. Teaching and Learning: Ended 2025 year completing 237 observations. 51 more since last board meeting. Research tells us that this changes teacher practice and therefore student outcomes.
 - j. Two days of walkthroughs with Math coaches from Eureka Squared--teaching math curriculum with higher fidelity. Chance to debrief with math teachers to reflect and discuss next steps.
 - k. Next week ANet interim assessments
 - l. January Regents scheduled at the end of the month for some students.
 - m. Scheduled to observe K-8 ELA classrooms with Lavinia tomorrow.
 - n. Stacey asked Rashid to discuss Z and Sara. Sara Hughes was elementary AP, supposed to return before the break, and she decided to resign instead. Kaitlyn will continue to lead in the interim in Sara's absence and the hiring process will start in the spring. A few elementary teachers have expressed interest in the AP role. Z will be on parental leave until mid-February or the first week of March. We are making sure the work gets done in his absence.
 - o. Stacey: Meredith, our director of marketing/communications, has resigned. Anahi has worked on that and we are looking at her role.
 - p. Rob, director of safety and security has been terminated.
 - q. Staffing--mixed bag of not having resumes, or we have resumes and people are uncertified. Mandarin positions are critical, and Leadership Coordinator is important as well. We have a sub for ICT social studies, so we are in compliance, but we need to fill the position with a full-time teacher. We have subs for art, but we could bring in art residency people so the students can create art.
 - r. Getting program and scheduling ready for next school year so we can start interviewing for those positions ASAP.
 - s. Monte: allowed to offer hiring bonuses? Stacey: we are looking at incentives with benefits, etc. Ren2 staff received holiday bonus. The SMT and Leadership Team will discuss ways to attract people to come in and stay and (e.g. teaching assistants) move to teaching positions.
 - t. Working on Variety lease for potential move of HS.
 - u. We now officially own our building! Huge shout-out to the team, who really became real estate experts. We will have specific numbers to report back to the board. The process is mostly over, but there are still ongoing details. Another shout-out to Friends Of, including Dan and Rebekah. It was a huge amount of work but will benefit the school in the long run. There is also some press around this.
 - v. PR - early planning stages of "Community Cares" day that will take place at Ren2. Great day for the whole community, not just Renaissance: workshop, giveaways, Youth Mental Health, Family Safety, lots of things going on. This is funded by one of our mental health grants. Youth Mental Health is an initiative of Governor Hochul. Possibly get the BioBus to swing by. Grow New York food market--coupons for fresh vegetables, etc. Charter Center have provided their support. Ideas are welcome!
 - w. Mental Health Grant is now back; we won in court. We thought we would not be included in the lawsuit, but judge included all impacted by it. We may be able to fund a counselor again at Ren1. Grant might be able to offset some costs. Thank you to the judge!

6. Board Members' New Business - N/A

7. Public Speaking - N/A

8. Adjournment of Public Meeting: 10:32 a.m.