

The Renaissance

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Charter School

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Hazel DuBois, Ph.D. 1937-2013

Hon. Rudolph Greco, Esq.

Meryl Thompson

Minutes of the Board of Trustees on June 5, 2013

- 1) The meeting was called to order at 6:51 p.m. with the chairperson's welcome, with thanks to all for their service this past year, and a message and a moment of silence in memory of Dr. Hazel DuBois.
- 2) Pledge of Allegiance.
- 3) Roll call was taken.
Everett Boyd – present
Nancy Condyles – present
Stacey Gauthier – present
Sandy Geyer – present
Justin Ginsburgh – present
Chester Hicks – present
Monte Joffe – absent
Margaret Martinez-DeLuca – late
Francine Smith – present
Helen Zumaeta – absent

Additional participants: Rebekah Oakes, Director of Development and Partnerships.

- 4) The May 1, 2013 minutes were unanimously approved with the following edits: change the date from February 6 to May 1, 2013.
- 5) End-of-Year Development and Partnership Report was delivered by Rebekah Oakes, and is attached.
- 6) School Management Team Report/End of Year Academic Report is in the board packet; documents 5-9, which are metrics related to our initiative in the HS to provide more rigor in academic programming. Board reviewed the College Bound Report, Internship Report, National Honor Society and Spanish Honor Society Report, College Now Class Performance Report, Advanced Placement Class Performance Report (Seniors). It is important that Renaissance makes every effort to help our students be competitive, since City Colleges are becoming much more competitive, and cannot necessarily be depended on as "safety" schools. Our internship program will help our students get resumes that broaden their appeal, and offering more AP classes will show evidence of rigor and college readiness. AP US History and AP Psychology are the newest additions for next

"Developing Leaders for the Renaissance of New York"

year. Next initiative will be a STEM program focus that will feature a sequence of courses in Math and Science coupled with appropriate internships.

Other reports in the packet:

Admissions – Lottery yielded 2,351 applicants, with 66 available seats. An additional 125 applications received after the lottery, have been added to the Wait List.

Parent and Family Workshops - In addition to the College Bound Parent meetings (4), we offered “Helping Your Child with Math”, “Financial Planning”, three Family Reading Nights (supported by a grant from Target), and a Bullying Prevention Workshop.

Odyssey Initiative – visited our school and posted interviews with 3 of our teachers, and posted an article about Rebekah Slotnick’s Creative Movement class.

Funsizzle (Spring Rensizzle) – June 24 will feature 21 small groups of students doing various athletic activities (see attached), and June 25 will be a Field Day at Flushing Meadow Park for 7th-12th graders.

Verbal Reports:

Our provisional custodian is being removed with no advanced notice. Stacey is in conversation with ABM, a private custodial management firm. If we enter into a contract with them, the people currently on our crew can stay, they can apply to be the building manager, and can elect to stay in their union. Stacey can also sit on the hiring committee for building manager.

We are now undergoing a DOE audit, as part of the Office of Portfolio Development city audit. The purpose of the audit is to assess the effectiveness of their internal processes to monitor SPED billing, teacher certification and procurements. The audit team arrived this week.

Important Dates: Dan and Stacey deliver their final project for the Teacher’s College Cahn Fellowship on 6/7, Charter School Advocacy “Meet the Candidates” event on 6/11, and HS Graduation is 6/20.

We hired a new math teacher (Tara Gangarossa) to replace ET while he is on his sabbatical, but she started at the school this week on a per-session basis. 4th and 5th grade hiring committee has so far interviewed 3 candidates in a total of 6 to be seen.

We have been approved as a School Food Authority, which opens the way to hiring our own catering company to provide the school with a better variety, and tastier choices. We are working with a consultant to help vet the catering companies and go through the formal bidding process, to help us make the most economical choice. Our research shows that we should be able to at least break even on the costs, and eventually make some profit for the school. The Board gave Stacey and the School Management Team the authority to choose the vendor best suited to the needs of the school.

- 7) Vote on Charter Goal Revisions – These proposals constitute changes to our charter (proposed goal changes are attached.) The Board voted to change: 1) Current Goal 26, regarding the CSG meeting calendar. This year the CSG was restructured to form

- smaller committee meetings throughout the year instead of 9 meetings with the full group. We propose giving the committee the option to meet in committees or as a full group – unanimously passed. 2) For early grades literacy (Charter Goals 5, 6, 7 and 10), beginning in 2013-14 we propose to change the measurement tool from ECLAS to Fountas & Pinnell. The 3 absolute goals and 1 value-added goal were unanimously approved. 3) Board was asked to give Stacey Gauthier, Principal the authority to submit our charter revision requests to the DOE – unanimously approved.
- 8) Report on Expenditures over \$10,000 during 2012-2013 is attached. There was a question about why retainers are not listed, and it was explained that the financial policy does not indicate the need for this report to include retainers since they are approved as part of the Financial Audit Committee and full board work. A suggestion was made that the policy be revisited and updated as needed.
 - 9) Proposed Meeting Dates: the first Wednesday of October, December, February, May and June. Maggie’s schedule has changed and she will be late on Wednesdays, but only by about 15 minutes. The proposed dates (10/2, 12/4, 2/5, 5/7, 6/4) were unanimously approved.
 - 10) 2012-13 Board Member Financial Disclosure Forms were distributed for the 2012-2013 Annual Report, and board members present signed and dated them.
 - 11) Board Committee Reports – None. Suggested Data Dashboard Reports to the TRCS BOT List is attached, and proposed the same dashboard for next year. The list of standing committees and committee members is attached.
 - 12) New Business – Accolades to Nancy Condyles on her retirement. We believe board membership status changes with retirement. Nancy wishes to remain on the board. Our lawyer will be asked to give his opinion on this matter.
 - 13) No Public Speaking.
 - 14) Adjournment of Public Session – Motion to adjourn the public session, seconded and approved, at 8:16 PM.