

The Renaissance

35-59 81st Street, Jackson Heights, NY 11372

www.renaissancecharter.org • 718-803-0060 • 718-803-3785 (fax)

Charter School

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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Nancy Condyles

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Justin Ginsburgh

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Helen Zumaeta

AGENDA

October 2, 2013 – 6:45 p.m.

The Renaissance Charter School

Public Meeting of The Board of Trustees

HONORARY MEMBERS

Hazel DuBois, Ph.D. 1937-2013

Hon. Rudolph Greco, Esq.

Meryl Thompson

- | | |
|---|------------|
| 1) Chairperson's Welcome and Message | 2 minutes |
| 2) Pledge of Allegiance | 1 minutes |
| 3) Roll Call | 2 minutes |
| 4) Approval of June 5, 2013 minutes | 10 minutes |
| 5) School Food Service Presentation | 15 minutes |
| Geoffrey Ramsey, School Food Marketing | |
| 6) School Management Team Report | 15 minutes |
| Program Highlights and New Initiatives for
2013-2014 School Year | |
| 7) Consolidated Application Report | 5 minutes |
| 8) Board Committee Reports | 10 minutes |
| 9) Board Members New Business | 5 minutes |
| 10) Board Members' Reappointments | 20 minutes |
| 11) Public Speaking* | TBD |
| 12) Adjournment of Public Session | |
| 13) Executive Session | |

** Public speaking time of three minutes per person will be permitted. All speakers should sign-up with the Secretary prior to the meeting and state the topic they will be speaking on. Speakers may be grouped according to topic.*

"Developing Leaders for the Renaissance of New York"

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Hon. Rudolph Greco, Esq.

Meryl Thompson

Minutes of the Board of Trustees on October 2, 2013

- 1) The meetings was called to order at 6:57 PM with the Chairperson's welcome message.
- 2) Pledge of Allegiance.
- 3) Roll Call was taken:
Everett Boyd – present
Nancy Condyles – absent
Stacey Gauthier – present
Sandy Geyer – present
Justin Ginsburgh – present
Chester Hicks – present
Monte Joffe – present
Margaret Martinez-DeLuca – present
Francine Smith – present
Helen Zumaeta – present

Additional participants: Matthew Delforte, School Counsel and Rebekah Oakes, Director of Development and Partnerships.

- 4) The June 5, 2013 minutes were reviewed and unanimously approved.
- 5) School Food Service Presentation by Geoffrey and Deborah Ramsey, School Food Marketing, consultants who are helping Renaissance with the process of becoming a school food authority. Before we decided to find another food service vendor, breakfast was lower than 20%, lunch only 44% of students eating the DOE food service. We applied and were approved for four food programs (breakfast, lunch, supper and extended day snack, which is new this year.) We received two very good bids after reviewing four of the vendors who replied to our RFP. The committee unanimously approved Butter Beans[®]. This company did not present the lowest bid, but it was the best price for the quality of food and services promised. In addition, the other company bidding used only part-time employees in their bid, so the bid was not considered complete.

In addition to adding the K-4 snack, the school has decided to install vending machines from Healthy Vending[®], filled with nutritionally acceptable snacks. In addition, Butter Beans has contracted with the YAI Network, a non-profit organization that provides jobs to

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developmentally disabled adults, at no cost to Butter Beans or the school, to help in the kitchen. This team of workers will be supervised by Danielle Moore, an alumni of Renaissance.

In response to questions, it was stated that the “grab and go” program will be tried later in the year, and we have been approved to have an herbal tea bar for HS. The older students have been complaining about the portion size, and that is one of the most important things we have been working on with the company.

The contract with Butter Beans[©] is for one year, and there is a 60-day ‘out’ for both sides. The Executive Committee met in September and approved the Butter Beans[©] contract. At this meeting the Board by and through this resolution resolves to approve and ratify the SED required food services management company type two contract with Butter Beans[©], and understands that the awarded contractor, was not the low bid. The resolution was passed.

- 6) School Management Team Report - Program Highlights and New Initiatives for the 2013-2014 School Year:
- a. **New Program Highlights** – The focus this year is on **literacy**. We have 4 reading teachers on staff now that John Vanek and Elizabeth Huston have joined Leah Shanahan and Amanda Scott as reading specialists serving K-10th grade students. We are in the second year of using the Fountas & Pinnell Leveled Reading system in our K-5 classrooms, and guided reading has been programmed into the K-5 teachers’ schedules. In support of this initiative teacher professional development has included “Custom Guided Reading Workshops” by Alice Sasso, and the extremely successful “Reading in the Content Area” for all non-ELA teachers by Harvey “Smokey” Daniels.
 - b. **Math** – We made a switch in K-2 to Singapore Math, with the intention of moving it up to the upper elementary over the next couple of years. The big focus now is on the new Algebra modules of the Common Core, which are vastly different from Algebra teaching in the past. All 6-12 math teachers participated in “Revisioning Middle/High School Math” workshops by Henri Picciotto, who will continue to work with the teachers throughout the year.
 - c. **Foss Science** is now being taught to grades K through 7.
 - d. **AP Courses** – We added AP US History this year, to bring our total of AP courses to 8: English Literature, Spanish Language, Spanish Literature, Psychology, World History, US History and Human Geography.
 - e. **Developmental Design Advisory** – Grades 7-10 all have an advisory every day taught by a team of teachers under the guidance of Yumeris Morel and the advisory coaches. Goals of for each student in the advisories include i) setting academic goals, ii) social emotional well-being, and iii) choosing a community service project.
 - f. **Executive Function** – Classroom teachers and advisory coaches participated in a workshop presented by Dr. Georgia Bozeday of the Rush Neurobehavior Center, and teachers around the school have been utilizing the strategies to aid students in “planning, organizing, strategizing, paying attention to and remembering details, and managing time and space.”
 - g. **Spanish** is being taught 3-4 times per week in the lower grades in order to increase achievement among non-native speakers. The TRCS Spanish Honor Society chapter is

hoping to culminate this year's activities with a trip abroad.

- h. **College Now ELA Course** is being taught here at Renaissance on Wednesday mornings, for 11th and 12th graders. The course, entitled "Why People Do What They Do" is an intensive writing program.
- i. **Rensizzle/Funsizzle Program** – Rensizzle is happening October 21-25 with 20 or so groups planned. This year we are collaborating with Renaissance Charter High School for Innovation on three of the groups: Latin Culinary Arts, Recording Studio, and Geology/Astronomy. TRCS and Innovation students will visit each others' school and neighborhoods as part of the NY themed activities.
- j. **82nd Street Academics** – has revamped its 5th-10th grade programming to incentivize student attendance and participation in the program. They have used a new "Mountain Metaphor" to inspire students to set goals for future success in school, college and life. Already we see improvement in 5th-8th grade participation, and they are working hard to promote the program in the high school.
- k. **NYS and Federal Grants** – We were awarded a \$500,000 NYS Best Practice Dissemination Grant to share our Humanities and Global Lab programs with Truman High School, collaborating with CEI-PEA. In addition we were informed this past week that we were awarded \$471,986 from the Federal Carol M. White PEP Grant on behalf of the consortium of schools we are leading: OWN, Innovation and Wildcat.

Organizational Highlights:

- l. **ABM Building Management** – the transition to ABM from the DOE Custodial services is complete. Josh is our new building manager, and Raheem and Gio are staying on as full-time cleaners.
 - m. **DataCation[®]** - Renaissance has contracted with DataCation[®] to integrate and streamline all our data needs. Students, Parents, Teachers and Administrators will all have access to real-time individual student data including period attendance, homework completion, test scores, grade averages and much more. Teachers are getting used to it slowly, and as soon as we have a majority of teachers using it consistently we will send parents information on how to access their child's portal. DataCation[®] was chosen on the strength of principal recommendation (it is in over 400 NYC schools) and because it is one of the three approved vendors for the NYS data dashboard.
 - n. **SMT duties** - Yumeris Morel has requested and been approved for an 8-month childcare leave starting after the Winter break. The remaining SMT members will be absorbing her responsibilities.
- 7) Consolidated Application Report – The Federal Title One money is allocated as follows: \$87,315 used to offset the salaries of reading teachers Leah and Amanda. \$35,690 is used to offset the cost of professional learning community coaches and PLC teacher meetings. It was noted that due to reallocation of the federal Title One funding stream, this is a major reduction in funding from previous years.
 - 8) Board Committee Reports - No committee reports at this point. Both Education Support and Finance committees are scheduling meetings for later in the month.
 - 9) Board Members New Business – Nancy Condyles emailed a letter of resignation from the

board, with the request that it be read into the minutes. Monte Joffe read the letter aloud.

10) Public Speaking – There was no public speaking.

11) Adjournment of Public Session – Ms. Geyer moved that the board move into executive session for the purpose of discussing the board member reappointments and other matters. The Public Meeting was adjourned at 8:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Everett Boyd

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AGENDA

December 4, 2013 – 6:45 p.m.

The Renaissance Charter School

Public Meeting of the Board of Trustees

HONORARY MEMBERS

Hazel DuBois, Ph.D. 1937-2013

Hon. Rudolph Greco, Esq.

Meryl Thompson

- | | |
|---|------------|
| 1) Chairperson's Welcome | 2 minutes |
| 2) Pledge of Allegiance | 1 minutes |
| 3) Roll Call | 2 minutes |
| 4) Approval of October 2, 2013 minutes | 10 minutes |
| 5) School Food Service Report - Geoff Ramsey | 15 minutes |
| 6) FY 2013 Certified Financial Report, Approval of Revised FY 14 Revised Working Budget - Dennis Stamm, CPA, Denise Hur, Director of Operations | 30 minutes |
| 7) School Management Team Report/Annual Report Progress Toward Goals | 20 minutes |
| 8) Board Committee Reports | 5 minutes |
| 9) Board Members New Business | 5 minutes |
| 10) Public Speaking | TBD |

Public speaking time of three minutes per person will be permitted. All speakers should sign-up with the Secretary prior to the meeting and state the topic they will be speaking on. Speakers may be grouped according to topic.

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----|
| 11) Adjournment of Public Session | |
| 12) Executive Session | TBD |

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Hon. Rudolph Greco, Esq.

Meryl Thompson

Minutes of the Board of Trustees on December 4, 2013

- 1) The Vice-Chairman called the meeting to order at 6:51 PM.
- 2) Pledge of Allegiance.
- 3) Roll Call was taken:
Everett Boyd – present
Stacey Gauthier – present
Sandy Geyer – absent
Justin Ginsburgh – absent
Chester Hicks – present
Monte Joffee – present
Margaret Martinez-DeLuca – late
Francine Smith – present
Helen Zumaeta – present

Additional participants: Matthew Delforte, School Counsel, Dennis Stamm, CPA, Denise Hur, Director of Operations and Finance, and Emily Byrum, SMT.

- 4) The October 2, 2013 minutes were reviewed and unanimously approved with the correction of the attendance of Helen Zumaeta, who was incorrectly recorded as absent, but was, in fact, present at the meeting.
- 5) School Food Service Presentation by Geoffrey and Deborah Ramsey, School Food Marketing. Follow-up to October Board Meeting report: the Ramseys and our SMT have had several meetings with Butter Beans and the NYSED food authority to advocate that portions and menu options be increased per student surveys and NYSED Food Authority recommendations. This has been met with resistance from Butter Beans. An audit by NYSED revealed numerous deficiencies occasioned by Butter Beans, which required corrective actions. As a result of our less than satisfactory experience with Butter Beans, it is recommended that we sever our agreement with the food service.

The following resolution was recommended by our attorney, Mr. Delforte: The Board resolves to terminate its food service agreement with Butter Beans as soon as practicable. A motion was made to adopt the resolution as stated. The resolution was seconded and passed unanimously.

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The following resolution was recommended by our attorney, Mr. Delforte: The Board resolves to authorize the SMT to immediately issue an RFP to procure a replacement for Butter Beans as soon as possible. A motion was made to adopt the resolution as stated. The resolution was seconded and passed unanimously.

- 6) The FY 2013 Financial Report was delivered by Mr. Dennis Stamm, CPA: The following resolution was recommended by our attorney, Mr. Delforte: The Board resolves to approve the recommendations of the Finance and Audit committee and our CPA, based on the FY 2013 Financial Report. A motion was made to adopt the resolution as stated. The resolution was seconded and passed unanimously.

The following resolution was recommended by our attorney, Mr. Delforte: The Board resolves to approve and adopt the Revised Working Budget for Fiscal Year 2014. A motion was made to adopt the resolution as stated. The resolution was seconded and passed unanimously.

- 7) Stacey Gauthier, Principal, delivered the School Management Team report on the Annual Progress Report and progress Toward Goals (see attached.) The SMT is addressing the areas of concern surrounding the issue of “progress”. Reading and literacy are areas of concern as well as implementing the common Core Curriculum across all subject areas and grades. Metrics for testing at the national and state level have changed the standards by which our performance at TRCS is being evaluated. Ms. Gauthier recommends that the board’s Educational Support Committee become a proactive partner in our progress by taking a closer look at our initiatives toward meeting benchmarks.

Mr. Joffe suggested that we take a look at the hard work that teachers and students are doing and find ways to reward this by showing our appreciation on a consistent basis.

- 8) Board Committee Reports - No committee reports.
- 9) Board Members New Business.
- 10) Public Speaking – There was no public speaking.
- 11) Adjournment of Public Session – Mr. Joffe moved that the board move into executive session. The Public Meeting was adjourned at 8:27 PM.
- 12) The Executive Session was convened at 8:28 PM, with the reading and approval of the minutes from the 10-03-2013. The Executive Session was tabled until the next meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Everett Boyd

SMT Report to the Board of Trustees – December 4, 2013

Steps that have been taken to improve ELA proficiency in grades 3-6

- 1) Two reading specialists working with our lowest students. (K-6, 6-10)
- 2) Dedicated 90 minute literacy block every morning.
- 3) F&P Benchmarking. (charter goal revisions)
- 4) Guided Reading Groups in every class. (consultant supported)
- 5) JGB (shared inquiry) for one week a month.
- 6) Writing – Lucy Caulkins Units of Study. (one day professional development)
- 7) Foundations in lower grades.
- 8) Handwriting without Tears curriculum. (consultant supported)
- 9) More focus on non-fiction texts.
- 10) Staffing Changes in 4th and 5th grade.

Steps that have been taken to improve Math proficiency in grades 3-6

- 1) One math specialist working with 4th and 5th grade.
- 2) Introduction of Singapore Math in grades K-2. (consultant supported)
- 3) Mock Math Exam and Data-driven review and implementation.
- 4) 6th grade adopted the Common Core Module Curriculum.
- 5) 6th grade math skills' class in addition to Math Program.
- 6) 6th grade professional development with Math consultant (7-12).
- 7) Staffing Changes in 4th and 5th grade.

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AGENDA

February 12, 2014 – 6:45 p.m.

Meeting rescheduled from February 5

for inclement weather

HONORARY MEMBERS

Hazel DuBois, Ph.D. 1937-2013

Hon. Rudolph Greco, Esq.

Meryl Thompson

Public Meeting of The Board of Trustees

- 1) Chairperson's Welcome 2 minutes
- 2) Pledge of Allegiance 1 minute
- 3) Roll Call 2 minutes
- 4) Approval of December 4, 2013 minutes 10 minutes
- 5) Discussion and Vote to Approve New School Food Service Provider
- 6) Mid-Year Financial Report 10 minutes
- 7) Mid-Year Development Report 10 minutes
- 8) School Management Team Report 10 minutes
 - Mid-Year Academic Report
- 9) Discussion and Vote on School Discipline Disclosure Policy
- 10) Board Committee Reports 10 minutes
- 11) Board Members New Business 5 minutes
- 12) Public Speaking TBD

Public speaking time of three minutes per person will be permitted. All speakers should sign up with the Secretary prior to the meeting and state the topic they will be speaking on. Speakers may be grouped according to topic.
- 13) Adjournment of Public Session -
- 14) Executive Session

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Francine Smith

Helen Zumaeta

Minutes of the Board of Trustees on February 12, 2014

- 1) The Vice-Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.
- 2) Pledge of Allegiance.
- 3) Roll Call was taken:
 - Everett Boyd – present
 - Stacey Gauthier – present
 - Sandy Geyer – absent
 - Justin Ginsburgh – present
 - Chester Hicks – present
 - Monte Joffe – present
 - Margaret Martinez-DeLuca – present
 - Francine Smith – present
 - Helen Zumaeta – present

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Hon. Rudolph Greco, Esq.

Meryl Thompson

Additional participants: Matthew Delforte, School Counsel, Dennis Stamm, CPA, Denise Hur, Director of Operations and Finance, and Emily Byrum, SMT, Geoffrey and Deborah Ramsey, Strategic Marketing Services, LLC.

- 4) The Dec 4, 2013 minutes were reviewed and unanimously approved.
- 5) School Food Service Update presented by Geoffrey and Deborah Ramsey, Strategic Marketing Services, LLC. After our agreement with Butter Beans was terminated, the transition to our new food service contractor has been very successful. We have substantially increased the numbers of participants who are served breakfast and lunch among students and even staff members. The increase in the popularity of our food service program can be attributed to the ability of our new food service provider to anticipate and meet the needs and desires of our students. Menu choices have been well-received, and special menus have been prepared for events like the Super Bowl, Chinese New Year, and Valentine's Day. Strategic Marketing Services, LLC, plans to start a food committee to survey interest in new food items and events for the purpose of continuing to successfully serve our population.

“Developing Leaders for the Renaissance of New York”

Mr. Delforte read the following resolution with regard to the termination of our contract with Butter Beans and our new agreement with Strategic Marketing Services, LLC:

WHEREAS, TRCS terminated its food services agreement with Butter Beans by letter dated December 6, 2013 and thereafter notified New York State Education Department's Food Services Office of same, and sought bids for a new food services provider;

WHEREAS, TRCS received a single bid in response to its RFP, which was from Strategic Marketing Services, LLC ;

WHEREAS, TRCS accepted Strategic Marketing Services, LLC's sole bid; sought and received NYSED's approval to enter into an agreement based on the NYSED Type II Prototype Contract with Strategic Marketing Services, LLC, and thereafter entered into the same and is seeking NY State approval for their services; sought and received NYSED's approval to enter into the based on the NYSED Type II Prototype Contract with Strategic Marketing Services, LLC, and thereafter entered into same and is seeking NY State approval for their services;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of TRCS hereby ratifies the NYSED Type II Prototype Contract for food services with Strategic Marketing Services, LLC.

The resolution was unanimously approved.

- 6) Mid-Year Financial Report – Mr. Stamm, our CPA, submitted the Mid-Year Financial Report to the Board with the explanation that all of the financial numbers were not included (specifically pertaining to the school food service and certain other grants) because they were not quantifiable at this time or they were not known quantities due to the nature of our funding. We expect to have adequate school food projections in the near future and these will be reviewed with the Finance and Audit Committee. Mr. Stamm stated that our financial status is good.
- 7) Mid-Year Development Report – Ms. Gauthier presented the Mid-Year Development Report, which included an update of our participation in the PEP Grant, including a flash mob at City Hall, attending a Broadway Show, nutrition, healthy living, and SPARK PD for staff.

Mr. Delforte recommended that the Board write a letter to Michelle Obama highlighting our participation in PEP Grant activities, which support Ms. Obama's nutrition, exercise, and physical fitness initiatives.

Mr. Boyd gave a brief update on CSG, which met as a whole group on Feb. 11. Sixteen participants attended, representing the SMT, staff, parents, and students, as well as all 3 school clusters. The CSG identified the following issues that it would like to address throughout the remainder of this year: increasing parent involvement, technology/data, academic success, and at-risk students. The CSG made a determination to meet again on March 11, again as a whole group.

- 8) School Management Team Report – Mid-Year Academic Report – Ms. Gauthier reported that the students did not take the January ELA Regents. They will wait until June to better prepare students to get college-ready grades. TRCS has been selected to have our Regents Exams audited this year. To increase test preparation, TRCS has engaged in administering interim prep exams for Grades 3-8, HS ELA , and HS Global. Ms. Gauthier reported that one of our high school teachers, Mr. Jason George, has become an expert in looking at and interpreting datapertaining to our high school Global Studies Program. This has promoted substantial growth in our success with students taking and passing the Global Regents Exam. Ms. Gauthier also reported on our participation in the Global Humanities Dissemination Grant.

Ms. Byrum gave an update on Fountas & Pinell Benchmark Assessments for K-5th grade. (See attached)

- 9) Discussion and vote on School Discipline Policy – Ms. Gauthier reported that our College-Bound Program Coordinator, Anna Falla-Riff, has advised us to review our School Discipline Policy because college applications are requesting the disclosure of information about students and their discipline history.

Mr. Delforte read the following resolution with regard to our school discipline policy and the disclosure of student discipline records:

WHEREAS, it is the policy of TRCS not to report or disclose student discipline records to colleges, universities, or other postsecondary institutions of higher learning, unless required to do so by law;

WHEREAS, TRCS expects its students to answer honestly and fully on applications to any institution of higher learning, and a student’s failure to do so may result in discipline by TRCS and/or reporting such failure, proactively or upon request, to any such institution of higher learning;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that said policy is effective immediately, and be it further resolved that the Board of Trustees hereby authorizes and directs the Principal or her designee to develop a further written policy for inclusion in TRCS’s school policies, in consultation with school counsel, and such further written policy shall be presented to the Board of Trustees for ratification at its next meeting.

The resolution was unanimously approved.

10) Board Committee Reports –

Educational Support/Review Committee Report – Ms. Martiniez-DeLuca presented the Educational Support/Review Committee Report, which focused on a meeting the Committee held with Ms. Gauthier and Ms. Byrum to discuss educational initiatives and issues in TRCS K-5 Cluster. Ms. DeLuca reported that several educational initiatives were successful, including Singapore Math. Intensive professional development for guided reading, FOSS Science and Singapore Math has been given to Cluster 1 teachers, and the committee feels these are a welcome addition to teachers’ professional growth. There is a continued need for more targeted professional development to meet the needs of the teachers, on which Ms. Gauthier and Ms. Byrum are actively working.

11) Board Members New Business – Ms. Gauthier reported her participation in the following activities:

- Speaking to new Cahn Fellows on a Panel that discusses the Cahn Projects.
- Speaking at the Charter Center's Meeting with Chancellor Farina on our District 75 Collaboration.
- Joining the planning team of the Progressive Charter Caucus that drafted a Framework on how to work with the new administration.
- Reviewing our renewal procedures and guiding questions with the staff at a full faculty meeting.
- Submitting the school's self-evaluation for the Annual Compliance Review.

Additional New Business reported by Ms. Gauthier:

- Renaissance will be participating in an ELL Immigrant Forum with Central Queens Academy, Queens Legal Services, a district school specializing in ELLs and the NYC Charter Center to discuss ways schools can support ELL students and families.
- Renaissance, CQA and Queens Legal Services submitted a grant application to support parental involvement of ELL students.
- We had a visit from the Singapore American School. They praised the school for the climate we promote. They also were very appreciative of Stacey's candidness in discussing with them the school's challenges and successes.

“Developing Leaders for the Renaissance of New York”

- The Office of Portfolio Development has been reorganized. The Charter School Office now comes under Kathleen Grimm. Sonia Park has resigned as the office's ED and Laurie Price is the Interim-Acting ED.
- The Renaissance Charter High School for Innovation founders, Nick and Rita Tishuk, have resigned. Ms. Gauthier has accepted a position on their board to help support the school during its renewal and beyond.

12) Public Speaking – None

13) Adjournment of Public Session – 8:45

Respectfully submitted,

Everett Boyd

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AGENDA

May 7, 2014, 6:45 PM

Public Meeting of The Board of Trustees

HONORARY MEMBERS

Hazel DuBois, Ph.D. 1937-2013

Hon. Rudolph Greco, Esq.

Meryl Thompson

- | | |
|--|------------|
| 1) Chairperson's Welcome | 2 minutes |
| 2) Pledge of Allegiance | 1 minute |
| 3) Roll Call | 2 minutes |
| 4) Approval of February 12, 2014 minutes | 10 minutes |
| 5) Discussion and Vote on FY 2015 Working Budget | 20 minutes |
| 6) Report on Collaborative School Governance Committee
Priorities and Goals | 15 minutes |
| 7) School Management Team Report | 15 minutes |
| • Charter School Advocacy | |
| • 2014-2015 Staff Assignments | |
| 8) Board Committee Reports | 10 minutes |
| 9) Board Members New Business | 5 minutes |
| 10) Public Speaking | TBD |
| <i>Public speaking time of three minutes per person will be permitted. All speakers should sign up with the Secretary prior to the meeting and state the topic they will be speaking on. Speakers may be grouped according to topic.</i> | |
| 11) Adjournment of Public Session - | |
| 12) Executive Session | |

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Hon. Rudolph Greco, Esq.

Meryl Thompson

Public Meeting of The Board of Trustees on May 7, 2014

- 1) The Chairperson called the meeting to order with a welcome message at 6:52 PM
- 2) Pledge of Allegiance
- 3) Roll Call was taken:
 - Everett Boyd – present
 - Stacey Gauthier – present
 - Sandy Geyer – present
 - Justin Ginsburgh – present
 - Chester Hicks – present
 - Monte Joffee – present
 - Margaret Martinez-DeLuca –absent
 - Francine Smith – absent
 - Helen Zumaeta – present

Also present: Dennis Stamm, CPA; Denise Hur, Director of Operations and Finance; Matthew Delforte, School Counsel

- 4) The Minutes of the February 12, 2014 were approved with one amendment (see Feb. Minutes)
- 5) The FY 2015 Working Budget was approved.
The following details were discussed:
 - The budget includes a 4% raise for the fiscal year
 - Special Ed funding still needs to meet our pupil count and services
 - The building rent will not be increased
 - Pension funds are included
- 6) The Report on Collaborative School Governance Committee Priorities and Goals were reported by Everett Boyd, The CSG Chair. (report attached)
The following topics were discussed:

“Developing Leaders for the Renaissance of New York”

7) The School Management Team Report was delivered by Stacey Gauthier (See Packet)

- Charter School Advocacy: Coalition of Community Schools (see attached)
- 2014-2015 Staff Assignments
- Confirmation that The Chancellor has officially eliminated School Report Card Grades
- The Chancellor will be visiting our school on May 20, 2014
- The Chancellor has outlined the initiative to become a Learning Path School
- We will be publishing our Global Lab Curriculum
- Stacey present at Councilman Dromm's Panel on Education
- We have been asked by the DOE to apply to host a Universal Pre-Kindergarten program (UPK), which works on a negotiated budget based on the host school's design (PowerPoint provided)
- We have been asked by the DOE to apply to host a Universal Pre-Kindergarten program (UPK), which works on a negotiated budget based on the host school's design (PowerPoint provided)
- Space has been allocated to accommodate a pre-K, moving several classrooms and programs.
- Question: will a UPK program at TRCS qualify those students for entrance as TRCS Kindergarten? Answer: Not necessarily, if precedence in other pre-K programs in elementary schools is followed. That question will be posed by the SMT in their application process.

The following resolution was proposed in support of our application to host a UPK:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The Board of Trustees of The Renaissance Charter School authorizes the Principal and her designees to explore and apply for a UPK program subject to the final approval of The Board of Trustees of The Renaissance Charter School.

8) Board Committee Reports

The Education Committee wants to align its goals with our renewal process. The committee wants to meet with Stacey to discuss goals and concerns for next year. The committee also wants to meet with the PLC coaches to discuss how best to align the activities of the coaches with the vision and mission of the school as we move from this year to next.

- 9) Board Members New Business (None)
- 10) Public Speaking (None)
- 11) Adjournment of Public Session: 8:49PM

The Renaissance

35-59 81st Street, Jackson Heights, NY 11372

www.renaissancecharter.org • 718-803-0060 • 718-803-3785 (fax)

Charter School

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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Justin Ginsburgh

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Francine Smith

Helen Zumaeta

AGENDA

June 4, 6:45 PM

Public Meeting of The Board of Trustees

HONORARY MEMBERS

Hazel DuBois, Ph.D. 1937-2013

Hon. Rudolph Greco, Esq.

Meryl Thompson

- | | |
|--|------------|
| 1. Chairperson's Welcome | 3 minutes |
| 2. Pledge of Allegiance | 2 minutes |
| 3. Roll Call | 2 minutes |
| 4. Approval of May 7, 2014 minutes | 10 minutes |
| 5. School Management Team Report | 20 minutes |
| • College Bound Statistics | |
| • Leadership/Internship Statistics | |
| • Admissions Statistics | |
| • Summary of School Partnerships | |
| • Final Development Report | |
| • Staffing Update for 2014-2015 | |
| • Update on Chancellor's and Pre-K site visit | |
| 6. Board Committee Reports | 10 minutes |
| 7. Board Members New Business | 5 minutes |
| 8. Public Speaking | TBD |
| <i>Public speaking time of three minutes per person will be permitted. All speakers should sign up with the Secretary prior to the meeting and state the topic they will be speaking on. Speakers may be grouped according to topic.</i> | |
| 9. Adjournment of Public Session – | |
| 10. Executive Session | |

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Public Meeting of The Board of Trustees

June 4, 2014

6:45 PM

HONORARY MEMBERS

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Hon. Rudolph Greco, Esq.

Meryl Thompson

1. The Chairperson called the meeting to order with a welcome message at 7PM
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Roll Call was taken (See Attendance)
Everett Boyd – present
Stacey Gauthier – present
Sandy Geyer – present
Justin Ginsburgh – present
Chester Hicks – present
Monte Joffe – present
Margare Martinez- DeLuca – absent
Francine Smith – present
Helen Zumaeta – present

Also present: Denise Hur, Director of Operations and Finance; Julia Cohen, School Counsel, and public attendees: Lilian Chen, Pierina Arias, and Marlen Castro.

4. The Minutes of the May 7, 2014 meeting were approved.
5. The School Management Team Report was delivered by Stacey Gauthier. (See attachments found in the Board Packet for this meeting.)
 - College Bound Statistics
 - Leadership/Internship Statistics
 - Admissions Statistics
 - Summary of School Partnerships

“Developing Leaders for the Renaissance of New York”

- Final Development Report

In addition to the attached report, we have received an update on our E-Rate for the year 2014-2015, which will allow us to increase our internet service for the school. We have also been notified that we have received a Primary Project grant, which allows us to thoroughly screen and develop our youngest students (K-2) for 'school readiness.'

Staffing Update for 2014-2015

- Allison Peacock has taken a math administrative position at another school, and has resigned her position of 5th grade teacher at TRCS.
- Lelia Rivera will be retiring effective June 30, 2014. These two developments leave two positions open, In addition to previously reported staffing updates. Candidates are being interviewed to fill these positions as soon as possible.

Update on Chancellor's visit: Chancellor Carmen Farina visited our school on May 20, 2014. The Chancellor gave us glowing reviews, for our child-centered approach to education, our successful professional collaboration, and especially for our budgetary resourcefulness.

Our Pre-K site visit was very successful. We have been invited to the second round of the application process.

Graduation will be June 24, 2014, 1PM @ Louis Armstrong Middle School. CSA President Ernest Logan will be the keynote speaker.

6. Board Committee Reports

The Finance Committee will need to meet in the Fall of 2014

7. Board Members New Business –

CSG Chair, Everett Boyd reported that the last CSG meeting for this year was held on June 2, 2014. The meeting was held jointly with the PTA in response to questions and concerns that the PTA had with regard to several matters of school performance and governance. All members of the SMT were present to address any and all issues during a very successful meeting.

8. Public Speaking –

Pierina Arias asked if there will be specific guidelines for a Pre-K lottery at TRCS, pending approval of a Pre-K program. Stacey said that, absent any direction from the DOE, TRCS will follow our policy of accepting sibling applicants from TRCS families as a priority and then open our Pre-K to a lottery based on available open seats.

Pre-K can only be a maximum of 20 children. There will technically be 2 lotteries with 20 seats allotted to Pre-K and 5 to kindergarten for the following year, pending retention of our entering Pre-K into the 2015 school year.

9. The Public Session was adjourned at 7:45 PM.