

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

Sandra Geyer

Chairperson

Monte Joffe, Ed.D.

Vice Chairperson

Everett Boyd

Secretary

Stacey Gauthier

Chester Hicks

Raymond Johnson

Dr. Rachel Mandel

Margaret Martinez-DeLuca

Conor McCoy

Francine Smith

The Renaissance Charter School

Public Meeting of The Board of Trustees

September 29, 2016 – 6:45 p.m.

HONORARY MEMBERS

Hazel DuBois, Ph.D. 1937-2013

Hon. Rudolph Greco, Esq.

Meryl Thompson

AGENDA

- | | |
|--|------------|
| 1) Chairperson's Welcome | 2 minutes |
| 2) Pledge of Allegiance | 1 minute |
| 3) Roll Call | 2 minutes |
| 4) Approval of June 1, 2016 minutes | 5 minutes |
| 5) School Management Team Report | 20 minutes |
| Program Highlights and New Initiatives for 2016 – 2017 | |
| School Year, Current School-wide Demographics, | |
| ACR Report (including board meeting discussion) | |
| 7) Consolidated Application Report | 5 minutes |
| 8) Conversion Charter School Advocacy Update | 10 minutes |
| 9) Dissemination Grant update and Ashoka | 10 minutes |
| 10) Finance and Audit Committee Pre-Audit Call | 10 minutes |
| 11) Pre-K funding and renewal | 15 minutes |
| 12) Board Committee Assignments | 5 minutes |
| 13) Board Members New Business | 5 minutes |
| 14) 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.

15) Adjournment of Public Session

16) Executive Session

“Developing Leaders for the Renaissance of New York”

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September 29, 2016

The Renaissance Charter School

Meeting of the Board of Trustees

HONORARY MEMBERS

Hazel DuBois, Ph.D. 1937-2013

Hon. Rudolph Greco, Esq.

Meryl Thompson

- 1) The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m.
- 2) Chairperson's Welcome – Vice Chairperson Monte Joffe spoke on behalf of Chairperson Sandra Geyer, who could not attend the meeting. Dr. Joffe recalled stories of the beginning history of the school and remarked that, at the time, the founders of the school didn't fully realize the impact TRCS would have on our children. Dr. Joffe further remarked that we are a heroic school and encouraged us to advance with pride, grit, and hope.
- 3) The Pledge of Allegiance was said.
- 4) Roll Call was taken by the Secretary, Everett Boyd.
Board Members Present: Mr. Boyd, Dr. Joffe, Ms. Gauthier, Mr. Hicks, Ms. Smith, Mr. Johnson, Dr. Mandel.
Absent: Ms. Geyer, (ill), Conor McCoy (commuter train derailment), Dr. Maritnez-DelUCA (medical leave)
- 5) Approval of June 1, 2016 Minutes of the Public Meeting of The Board of Trustees – Unanimously approved
- 6) School Management Team Report –
 - Program Highlights and New Initiatives for 2016-2017 – See attachment to board packet.
 - School Year, Current School-wide Demographics – See attachment to board packet. This information is also posted on the TRCS website.

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- ACR Report – Our attorneys sent The Board a letter outlining the issue of the number of meetings we may be required to hold to comply with DOE regulations governing charter school board meetings and our Renewal Report and agreement.

We will need to come to a decision as a board to address the issue. Dr. Joffee suggested that we restructure the letter and address these issues to The NY State Board of Regents. This item is tabled for discussion at the next board meeting in December.

7) Consolidated Application Report –

- a. Title I - \$132,835
Offset Salaries for Reading Teachers
John \$38,607
Daniela \$47,816
Amanda \$46,412
- b. Title IIA - \$35,274
Great Books Foundation PD \$11,250
ANET Coaching & Training \$17,000
Spanish PD (Lori) \$1,024 (partial amount)
Bard PD \$6,000

8) Conversion Charter School Advocacy Update – Ms. Gauthier reported that there has been no movement in the money that The Mayor promised would be set-aside for conversion charter schools, as a result of a bargain made between the State Assembly Speaker and New York City.

9) Dissemination Grant update and Ashoka – See press release attached to board packet.

- The NYSED officially notified TRCS that it has been awarded a second \$500,000 Charter School Dissemination grant to share effective instructional practices with Scholars' Academy, a district-based public school in Rockaway Queens.
- TRCS was awarded an Ashoka Changemaker Schools grant. Ashoka Changemaker Schools are a network of schools that have been identified as leading the way to transforming education.

Ms. Gauthier added that Valentina Roma and Steve Zimmerman visited our school. We also have some private funders who are interested in visiting our school.

- 10) Finance and Audit Committee Pre-Audit Call – The Finance Committee met in a conference call to our accountants to discuss preliminary details of our upcoming audit.
- 11) Pre-K funding and renewal – TRCS is in its third year of hosting a universal pre-K program, which is costing more money than we are taking in. With an allocation of \$189,000 from The NYC DOE and an expenditure of \$200, 000 by TRCS, we are losing money to sustain the program. Ms. Gauthier stated that she is continuing to negotiate with the DOE for additional funding to fill the shortfall.

Dr. Joffee asked if eliminating Pre-K, and adding a 4th grade class would increase our per-pupil allocation, thus our income. Ms. Gauthier responded that this would positively impact our funding, but that there is no guarantee that it would be approved.

- 12) Board Committee Assignments – Ms. Gauthier reminded The Board that several members serve on the Education Review Committee.
- 13) Board Members New Business –

- LGBTQ Orientation for Students:

Mr. Hicks raised the objections of two parents to LGBTQ training offered to students at the beginning of the school year, including a flyer that was entitled “GenderBread”. Mr. Hicks said that two parents objected to the flyer and the training due to the family’s religious and moral beliefs.

Ms. Gauthier explained that the LGBTQ training was part of the Middle School and High School orientation during the first week of school, and that each cluster had requested the training initially for staff and subsequently for students to address issues and concerns that we experience at TRCS due to our significant LGBTQ population. Ms. Gauthier was made aware of some of the issues that these parents raised when she received and responded to an email which contained a number of objections to the training and the materials that were distributed to their child.

Mr. Hicks also raised the issue that one of our transgender students had been using the bathroom of her chosen gender and that some students had reported feeling uncomfortable with this activity.

Ms. Gauthier reiterated that one of her roles as a school leader is to ensure the safety and security of each child, regardless of sexual or gender preference, and that these issues present ongoing challenges that the school has been addressing and will continue to address.

- 14) Public Speaking – None
- 15) Adjournment of Public Session – 8:24PM
- 16) Executive Session – The Executive Session was called to order at 8:35PM.

The Renaissance Charter School

Public Meeting of The Board of Trustees

December 7, 2016 – 6:45 p.m.

AGENDA

- | | |
|---|------------|
| 1) Chairperson's Welcome | 2 minutes |
| 2) Pledge of Allegiance | 1 minute |
| 3) Roll Call | 2 minutes |
| 4) Approval of September 29, 2016 minutes | 10 minutes |
| 5) Review and Approval of Certified Financial Reports | 30 minutes |
| 6) Report on Executive Compensation | 10 minutes |
| 7) School Management Team Report | 30 minutes |
| Progress Towards Goals, Accountability Metrics | |
| 8) Board Members' New Business | 10 minutes |
| 9) 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.

- 10) Adjournment of Public Session
- 11) Executive Session

*Happy Holidays!
May 2017 bring you much joy!*

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December 7, 2016

The Renaissance Charter School

Meeting of the Board of Trustees

HONORARY MEMBERS

Hazel DuBois, Ph.D. 1937-2013

Hon. Rudolph Greco, Esq.

Meryl Thompson

Meeting convened at 6:50 PM

1. Chairperson's Welcome: Mr. Boyd, Board Secretary, welcomed Board Members and Public attendees, on behalf of Ms. Geyer, Board Chair.
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Roll Call: all board members present except Dr. Monte Joffe and Margaret Martinez-DeLuca, – absent; Sandra Geyer – late. Also present: Denise Hur, Director of Operations and Finance and Joe Albano, representing Schall & Ashenfarb, CPA
4. Minutes of September 29, 2016 meeting were approved with the addition of Title I funding description (sent in separate doc.)
5. The Certified Financial Reports – The Audited Financial Statements for The Renaissance Charter School were presented by Denise Hur, Director of Operations and Finance and Joe Albano, representing Schall & Ashenfarb, CPA. The Board reviewed and approved the report.
6. Report on Executive Compensation – Ms. Gauthier presented the report on Executive Compensation. Her statement was as follows –

Each year, we report to the Board on the compensation of members of the School Management Team (SMT). As a unionized charter school, all of our management team members are part of the Council of Supervisors and Administrators (CSA). In the contract negotiated between the Board and the CSA, our compensation is based on the

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DOE salary schedules for Principals, Assistant Principals and Educational Administrators which in addition to position takes into account years of service in determining an annual rate of pay. Additionally, members of the SMT are eligible for performance bonuses based on the contractually negotiated process for earning these which is measured on charter goal achievement.

7. School Management Team Report – Ms. Gauthier presented the School Management Team Report.

Progress Towards Goals and Accountability Metrics –

Renaissance met 92.56% of the applicable goals for the 2015-2016 school year and the first year of our new charter term.

The goals we are working on improving include –

- Grade 3-8 NYS ELA assessments where we met or exceeded the district and city 41.69%
- Grade 1 reading benchmarking goals – The goal was 80% of students reading at grade level, but we were at 76%.
- NYS Science Exam – 8th grade achieved 74.5% proficiency and our goal is 75%.
- At the Educational Support Committee Meeting (minutes which are included in the board packet), we focused on literacy efforts across the grades. This includes – restructuring support to allow for two teachers during literacy blocks in various grades, Orton-Gillingham and Wilson instruction in addition to Leveled Literacy Intervention, a new ELL teacher and a restructuring of how this work is implemented, focus on guided reading groups and text complexity, support from outside literacy consultants / experts and improved data-driven instruction / grouping.

Interim results from ANET assessments reveal that students are improving, but this is balanced against the fact that TRCS did not achieve adequate yearly progress (AYP) in math, due to the number of students who opted out of taking the State Math Exams last year. Some of these students are children of TRCS staff members. Although every parent is entitled to give permission for their child to opt out of these exams, the practice of doing so could have a potentially negative impact on federal funding. Not achieving AYP could impact Title I and II funding in the future, especially if the political landscape shifts unfavorably with regard to federal funding for education. We also did not meet AYP in progress for students with disabilities in ELA and this is being addressed by the numerous interventions listed above.

All accountability data can be found on our website by going to About Renaissance and Accountability.

8. A resolution regarding video conferencing for TRCS Board meetings was presented and discussed (see attachment). The resolution passed unanimously.

9. Board Members' New Business – Ms. Gauthier stated that TRCS is investigating switching charter school authorizers. Additionally, TRCS intends to submit a letter of intent to open a second school under the auspices of The NYS Board of Regents.
10. Public Speaking – None
11. Adjournment of Public Session – 7:48 PM.
12. Executive Session convened – 7:56 PM.

The Renaissance Charter School
Public Meeting of The Board of Trustees

AGENDA

February 1, 2017 – 6:45 p.m.

- 1) Chairperson's Welcome and Message 3 minutes
- 2) Pledge of Allegiance 1 minute
- 3) Roll Call 1 minute
- 4) Public Report on the Incident regarding the Threatened and Averted School Shooting
- 5) Public Speaking regarding the incident above

Public speaking time of three minutes per person will be permitted.

- 6) Approval of December 7, 2016 minutes 30 minutes
- 7) Approval of December 7, 2016 minutes 10 minute
- 7) Mid-Year Development Report 5 minutes
- 8) Mid-Year Financial Report 5 minutes
- 9) Proposed New School Update 10 minutes
- 10) Resolution to Approve Bylaws Revision 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.

- 10) Adjournment of Public Session
- 11) Executive Session

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February 1, 2017

The Renaissance Charter School

Meeting of the Board of Trustees

HONORARY MEMBERS

Hazel DuBois, Ph.D. 1937-2013

Hon. Rudolph Greco, Esq.

Meryl Thompson

The meeting convened at 6:55 PM.

1. Chairperson's Welcome: Mr. Boyd, Board Secretary, welcomed Board Members and Public attendees, on behalf of Ms. Geyer, Board Chair.
2. Pledge of Allegiance.
3. Roll Call: all board members present except Dr. Monte Joffe, Sandra Geyer, Margaret Martinez-DeLuca, and Raymond Johnson – absent. Also present: Rebekah Oakes, Director of Development and Partnerships; Dan Fanelli, Administrator for STEM Education and Middle School; Suzanne Arnold, Administrator for School Culture and Student Support; Matthew DeForte, Attorney with Shebitz, Berman, Cohen and DeForte.
4. Public Report on the Incident regarding the Threatened and Averted School Shooting
Mrs. Gauthier verbally delivered the following report:

Report on the incident regarding the threatened and averted school shooting –

On Sunday, January 22nd in the late afternoon, I received information that a high school student was purportedly planning a school shooting at Renaissance on Monday. This information was reported by students and parents. We also learned from students that the information pertaining to the threat was shared on social media.

I immediately went to the 115th Police Precinct and spent almost four hours there with a detective. The outcome of this meeting was that the student would not come to school the next day and that a police presence would be provided the following morning. A decision was made by the police to apprehend the student that evening. Based on the information we

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had at the time, the police and I were confident that the threat was from a sole student. Since the threat was uncovered and removed prior to the beginning of the school day on Monday, we decided to keep school open. At no time were the students or staff in danger.

Here is what we know so far and are able to share –

- 1) Specifically, the threat was made by one student, and while our investigation is ongoing, we continue to believe that the student was planning to act alone, to the extent that the student was going to act at all.
 - 2) The student has not returned to school and we do not believe the student will be returning in the foreseeable future.
 - 3) Another student did post a warning statement regarding the proposed threat on social media. We dealt with this on Sunday night. This student has been discharged from Renaissance to another school.
 - 4) At no time were any weapons found outside or inside the school building. It is our understanding that the police also did not uncover a gun.
 - 5) We have been working closely with law enforcement and mental health professionals to ensure the building is safe, and will continue to do so in the future. The police continue to check-in with us on a regular basis.
 - 6) We encourage students and families to come forward with any information that may be helpful including posts on social media.
 - 7) We also encourage students to speak to our school social workers and / or counselor if they are feeling upset and need support.
 - 8) We encourage students and staff to not spread information that they do not know to be factual. If you have a question, speak to a member of the School Management Team. We will do our best to answer you being mindful, of course, of student privacy rights.
 - 9) Please know that the safety of everyone in our building is a top priority and we have procedures and protocols in place to keep our school a safe place to learn.
5. Public Speaking regarding the incident above. The floor was opened up for questions.
- a. *It was asked if we could elaborate on whether the student making the threat would be returning to Renaissance.* Mr. Delforte reported that the student has been transferred to an alternate placement, and the student has certain legal rights to privacy that prevents us from divulging that kind of information. This is a public safety issue, and we understand parents' concerns.
 - b. *Wouldn't school safety issues trump privacy issues?* We put first the health and welfare of the staff and the students in our building in order for certain situations do not happen again. However, the student is afforded all the due process that any student would in any public school.
 - c. *Are we going to expel the student?* No public school, district or charter, can summarily expel a student without due process. There is no black and white law

concerning what constitutes an expulsionary act. An investigation process needs to take place.

d. *A parent wanted to know the language used on social media.* We cannot speak to any details of the case. We do not feel at liberty to share what we have turned over to the police. There is no restraining order against the student at this time, but that is in the hands of the police.

e. *What type of safety issues have been implemented in the lobby area?* We believe that our school has continued to be a very safe place. Because we had so many systems in place, this situation was averted because we have good communication, people reported it, investigated quickly over the weekend, and the police took action. Our procedures include systems and plans that are intricate and involved. Our staff has been extensively trained to put in place emergency preparedness safety procedures suggested and supported by the federal government.

f. A parent spoke about how glad she is that our school does not have metal detectors, because it would change the culture so drastically. She appreciates that the school acted appropriately and very quickly because the child was known. Everyone should feel confident that concerns can be brought to the administration, to social workers, to student support, that if you see anything that you don't feel is right, you can report it. Another parent: "I appreciated getting that email, because it showed what a great school this is."

g. *Will students be informed?* There is a very specific process that needs to be followed in an investigation, and we could not say anything until we were confident of all the facts. We are not only working with law enforcement, but the DOE, legal professionals and mental health professionals. The investigation will next start questioning students. Tell your children not be afraid of the questions, and if anyone is concerned they should feel safe in coming forward to any adult they feel comfortable with.

h. *Another parent voiced concern that the student not be allowed to come back to the school.* There are groups outside the school that we are working with. Right now all these stakeholders agree that at this moment the student cannot come back to this school. At the risk of trampling on rights, even though we put safety paramount, we are comfortable at this time that this was an isolated event, and that the student will not be coming back to the school in the foreseeable future.

i. *Parents had heard that there were more students involved.* There were two students involved. One student made the threat, the other student posted a comment about the threat. We felt that the comment was serious enough, in that it added to the situation in a negative way, to suspend the student. The parents made the decision to transfer that student to another school.

j. *There was a question about the exits in the building.* In the event of a potential shooting, the protocol is to get into a secure room and hide, not exit. We did eight exit

drills in the fall, and in the winter we do “shelter in place” drills, and 4 more exit drills in the spring. We have two safe-havens if an evacuation is necessary: Community Methodist Church and Jahn’s Coffeeshop across the street.

k. *Why did we not alert parents on that first morning of the potential threat?* Based upon police assessment we made the decision that the school was safe; we elected not to alert parents at that time, that first morning, we were very confident there was no threat. Stacey did not leave the police precinct that night until she had assurance from the precinct that there would be a police presence at the school in the morning, which they were. All school safety agents are aware of students who are not allowed in the building.

l. *Parent asked if we can institute a text-message alert system.* We can institute a text-message alert system through School Messenger; it is an “opt-in” program: parents need to provide their cell-phone numbers and give permission for us to text them. We will add paperwork for that in the summer mailing.

m. *Will there be a more detailed report once the entire investigation is finished?* We will be able to share more once the investigation is finished. Chester Hicks, your parent representatives to the board, is not allowed by law to discuss what is reported in executive session, but he will be able to report what parents need to hear.

Everett ended this portion of the meeting with an invitation to parents to attend “High School Unwrapped” on February 8. Stacey invited everyone to “Meet Up for Democracy” on Saturday, March 4. Lisa and Kelly, PTA Co-Presidents, invited everyone to the March 15 meeting.

6. Approval of December 7, 2016 minutes – The minutes were approved as written.
7. Mid-Year Development Report – attached. The report includes updates on current grants including NYSED Charter School Dissemination Grant, COMPASS Explore through DYCD, “Project Aware” Mental Health Awareness Grant, and various others. Fundraising continues for the Angel Fund to help pay for Nature’s Classroom, the middle-school trip and senior trip. The Friends of Renaissance board is undergoing board development meetings with consultant Mike Jolley.
8. Mid-Year Financial Report – Expenses year-to-date is included in the report in the board packet. Important to note that budgeting is dependent on a slow-moving process, tied up in the funding formula controlled by the state. We are undergoing a “single audit” for federal expenditures mostly concerned with our school food program.
9. Proposed New School Update – Dan Fanelli, Everett Boyd and Stacey are on the planning committee for the new school. The letter of intent is about 75% done, which is the first step in the process. Once approved, you move onto the next step, writing the charter application. We are talking to Civic Builders, and are considering a capital project as facilities are so hard to come by. We can absolutely support a second school, with the 3,500 plus people on our waiting list. We will be hiring new staff, but there will be agreements in place to support both schools as partners. The committee has secured

the support of several elected officials, including Daniel Dromm and Senator Peralta. There will be overlapping boards—roles on the board will be similar, with elected parent, founding members, etc. The founding board is comprised of current board members. We may be considering whether to merge the two schools into a single corporate entity, but that will be in the future.

10. Resolution to Approve Bylaws Revision – Mr. Delforte has amended the bylaws to add the capability of video-conferencing, agreed upon in our last meeting. It is required to provide the address of any off-site board members, so we may want to suggest a neutral, safe location instead of transmitting from a member’s home. The revised by-law is below:

Section 5: Meetings

- a. *Regular Meetings.* The Board shall meet at least five (5) times during the academic year at an agreed upon time and place.
- b. *Special Meetings.* Special meetings may be called by the Chairperson or a majority of the members of the Board of Trustees.
- c. *Participation by Video-Conference.* Any one or more members of the Board, or any committee thereof, may participate in any public meeting by video-conferencing in accordance with the applicable sections of the Open Meetings Law. Specifically, in the event that a Board member participates by video-conference, TRCS shall provide audio and visual equipment at the location of the meeting so that the members of the public present thereat may see and hear such Board member. Additionally, the Board member participating by video-conference shall have available to him or her audio equipment that will enable such member to hear and fully participate in the meeting. Moreover, any location from which a Board member participates shall be accessible to the public to attend, listen, and observe such meeting.
- d. *Notice.* Written notices of each meeting shall be given to each voting member not less than five days before the meeting. The written notice may be given by mail, overnight delivery, hand delivery, facsimile or by electronic means. Notice of all Board Meetings, including annual, regular and special meetings, shall be given to the public in a manner consistent with the Open Meetings Law. If video-conferencing is used, the public notice for the meeting shall inform the public that video-conferencing will be used, identify the locations for the meeting, and state that the public has the right to attend the meeting at any of the locations.
- e. *Location.* The location of any board meeting shall comply with the requirements of the Open Meetings Law.
- f. “To the extent of any conflict between any provision of these by-laws and the Open Meetings Law, the Open Meetings Law shall prevail and control.”

A motion was made to adopt the amendment to section 5 in the By-Laws and to authorize Stacey to submit the changes to the Department of Education for approval; the motion was seconded and approved by majority vote.

11. Board Members New Business – Invitation was made to get involved in “Meet Up For Democracy” on March 4th. Stacey highlighted the following documents in your board packet: an article from HS student Melanie Mata in YT Teens Magazine about getting rid of the Electoral College; advice for President Trump from the 2nd grade; article from Education Dive showcasing our social-emotional learning at Renaissance; Chancellor’s recommendation to protect undocumented students will be adopted by Renaissance.
12. Adjournment of Public Session – 8:36 PM.
13. Executive Session convened – 7:56 PM.

The Renaissance Charter School

Public Meeting of The Board of Trustees

May 3, 2017 – 6:45 p.m.

35-59 81 Street

Jackson Heights, NY 11372

Meeting Location: Second Floor Auditorium

AGENDA

- | | |
|--|------------|
| 1) Chairperson's Welcome | 5 minutes |
| 2) Pledge of Allegiance | 1 minute |
| 3) Roll Call | 2 minutes |
| 4) Approval of February 1, 2017 minutes | 10 minutes |
| 5) Review and Approval of FY 2018 Working Budget | 15 minutes |
| 6) School Management Team Report including staff assignments for 2017-18 | 10 minutes |
| 7) Collaborative School Governance Committee Report | 10 minutes |
| 8) Update on New School Application | 15 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

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May 3, 2017

The Renaissance Charter School

Meeting of the Board of Trustees

HONORARY MEMBERS

Hazel DuBois, Ph.D. 1937-2013

Hon. Rudolph Greco, Esq.

Meryl Thompson

1. Chairperson's Welcome: Mr. Boyd, Board Secretary, welcomed Board Members, SMT attendees, and public attendees, on behalf of Ms. Geyer, Board Chair.
2. Pledge of Allegiance: The pledge of allegiance was waived by the board for this meeting, as the meeting was located in a space that had no American Flag.
3. Roll Call: all board members were present except Sandra. Geyer, Dr. Monte Joffe, Conor McCoy, and Margaret Martinez, DeLuca – absent. Also present were Denise Hur, Director of Operations and Finance, and Daniel Fanelli, Administrator for Middle School and STEM PK-12.
4. Approval of February 1, 2017 minute – The minutes were approved as written.
5. Review and Approval of FY 2018 Working Budget – The budget was included in the board meeting packet and presented by Denise Hur, Director of Operations & Finance & Stacey Gauthier, Principal.

Additional notes regarding the budget are:

- “Operating Income (General Ed. Special Ed, IDEA) \$9,498,226” is reflective of the new per pupil allocation.
- “Federal NCLB Funds \$177,122” are estimated, based on historical data and projections.
- “Conversion Money to Reimburse for Contractual Costs (FY16) \$341,293” has been deposited into the school's account.

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- “Conversion Money to Reimburse for Contractual Costs (FY18) \$655,510 has been earmarked for TRCS by the state and the city.
 - “Retro \$323,105” reflects distributions that will occur in October 2017 for teachers and February 2018 for administrators, as defined by the latest contractual agreements of their respective unions.
 - In general, our funding is dependent upon several streams that can change from year to year, depending upon legislation in Albany. Our efforts to lobby our legislators to push for equitable reforms in funding will continue.
6. School Management Team Report including staff assignments for 2017-18 – Stacey Gauthier, Principal, presented the report, which included the following board meeting packet documents:
- “Teacher Leadership Positions for 2017-2018”
 - “The Renaissance Charter School Teaching, Guidance and Social Work Assignments for 2017-2018 School Year
7. Collaborative School Governance Committee Report – Everett Boyd, CSG Chair, presented the report which was included in the board meeting packet.
8. Update on New School Application – Daniel Fanelli, Administrator for Middle School & Family Engagement, presented the update as a member of the new school applicant group.

The applicant group includes Stacey Gauthier, proposed executive director, and Dan Fanelli, proposed principal; as well as current TRCS board members Everett Boyd, proposed chair, Monte Joffee, proposed vice chair, Sandra Geyer, proposed secretary, Conor McCoy, proposed trustee, and Rachel Mandel, proposed trustee.

The Letter of Intent (LOI) was submitted on February 14, 2017. We were subsequently invited to submit a full application, which was submitted on March 17, 2017. The full application was accepted and a public hearing was scheduled for and held on April 20, 2017. The hearing was attended by a representative from The NYC DOE and three members of the applicant group, Stacey Gauthier, Dan Fanelli, and Everett Boyd. There were no additional attendees, although sufficient notice was given for the public to have attended.

The next phase of the approval process for the new school will be The Capacity Interview, which will be held on May 10, 2017 at the NYSED Charter School Offices in Albany, NY. This interview is to include the applicant group, inclusive of the proposed school leaders and at least five members of the proposed board of trustees.

Throughout the process of preparing the application and planning for TRCS 2, TRCS and the applicant group has engaged the services of a consultant, Wayne Jones and Associates, who finalized and submitted the charter application. The applicant group has also been working with Civic Builders, pro bono at this stage, to identify suitable spaces in CSD 30 for the location of the proposed new school, Thus far, several sites have been identified and visited by the Civic Builders team and members of the applicant group. Additionally, the applicant group has contracted with a consultant, Kevin Hogan, who will undertake comparative research and analysis of charter school collective bargaining agreements, in preparation for the eventual crafting of collective bargaining agreements for the new school and its associated collective bargaining units.

9. Board Members New Business – None
10. Public Speaking – None
11. Adjournment of Public Session- 7:55 PM
12. Executive Session – Convened at 8:00 PM

The Renaissance Charter School

Final public meeting of The Board of Trustees for the 2016 -2017 School Year

June 7, 2017, 6:45 p.m.

Agenda –

- | | |
|--|------------|
| 1) Chairperson's Message | 5 minutes |
| 2) Pledge of Allegiance | 1 minute |
| 3) Roll Call | 1 minute |
| 4) Presentation by 2nd Grade – CMA Partnership - Leah Shanahan, Teacher and students | 15 minutes |
| 5) School Management Team Report | 40 minutes |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• College Bound and Leadership Report – Ana Falla Riff, College Bound Coordinator, Inti Ossio, Leadership Coordinator and students• Summary of School Partnerships – Rebekah Oakes, Director of Development and Partnerships• Final Development Report – Rebekah Oakes, Director of Development and Partnerships• Admissions Statistics – Spring 2017 Lottery• Update on Summer School Program• Update on School Advocacy | |
| 6) Approval of May 3, 2017 Minutes | 8 minutes |
| 7) Approval of 2017-2018 Board Meeting Calendar | 2 minutes |
| 8) Board Members' New Business | 5 minutes |
| 9) 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> | |
| 10) Adjournment of Public Session | - |
| 11) Executive Session | TBD |

Thank you to the board, faculty, staff, families and community members for your dedicated service to the students of our school! Have a wonderful summer!

The Renaissance

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Charter School

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Minutes of Public Meeting of the Board of Trustees of The Renaissance Charter School

HONORARY MEMBERS

Hazel DuBois, Ph.D. 1937-2013

Hon. Rudolph Greco, Esq.

Meryl Thompson

June 7, 2017, 6:45 p.m.

1) Chairperson's Message - Chairperson, Sandra Geyer opened the meeting with the following words: "We want to give an enthusiastic welcome to all who have gathered at this last meeting of the school year, including The CSG, Parents, Staff and everyone." Monte Joffe added a welcome to board member Margaret "Maggie" Martinez-De Luca, who was present at this meeting, returning from an extended medical leave of absence. Monte referred to an op ed by David Brooks, who recently wrote in The NY Times. "We're striving to be like Greece ..."

2) Pledge of Allegiance – Led by Raymond Johnson, board member

3) Roll Call – Taken by Everett Boyd, Secretary

Present- Everett Boyd, Stacey Gauthier, Sandra Geyer, Chester Hicks, Monte Joffe, Raymond Johnson, Margaret Martinez-De Luca, and Francine Smith. Absent – Rachel Mandel and Conor McCoy. Also present – Rebekah Oakes, Director of Development & Partnerships, and Matthew Delforte, TRCS Corporate Counsel.

4) "In Our Future" - Presentation by 2nd Grade – CMA Partnership - Leah Shanahan, Teacher, and students.

5) College Bound and Leadership Program Presentation, Ana Falla Riff, College Bound Coordinator, Maura Malarcher, College Bound Teacher and TRCS Founder, Inti Ossio, Leadership Program Coordinator and students; Veronica Testi (graduating senior – Opportunity Network), Marie Deleon (Mentoring Program Participant) Maria Recalde (Mentoring Program Participant).

Ana Falla Riff outlined the work and goals of the College Bound and Leadership Programs, emphasizing that feedback from students prompted the development of the program, beginning with work on interview skills, developing cover letters, and presentation skills. We also looked at how students who do not go to college are perceived.

"Developing Leaders for the Renaissance of New York"

The College Bound office recently began to look at community colleges as viable options for our students to become career ready, e.g. Bronx Community College, which offers a 2 year program in mechanical engineering and automotive mechanics, having a partnership with BMW. Community colleges, CUNY, and SUNY colleges have become more increasingly attractive to our students because of the excellent education that they offer at reasonably affordable prices. We have been encouraging our students to apply for and attend CUNY schools, remaining in the city of NY and embracing the quality of a good public education.

The office was a participant in and a focal point of the dissemination grant with Scholars Academy, which is based on the work with Growth Mindset. This led to a greater interest in brain research and neuroplasticity, which has enabled the College Bound Program to look at our students differently in terms of their ability to adapt to the changing demands of academic and career pursuits. Creativity can now be looked at as a life skill that can articulate to any field of endeavor. Adaptability is a key component to becoming successful in a changing world.

6) Collaborative School Governance Committee and Board Visioning – Everett Boyd, CSG Chair
The CSG met earlier in the evening and addressed the following questions, which were presented at this meeting of the board.

- a) What does the future of our college and career readiness program look like?

CSG responses: There is a need for continuing and increasing the support for students going to college, as the challenges of college acceptance and successful completion increase. There is also a need to support students who are seeking non-college options for their post-secondary life, including military service, professional schools, and career training.

Students who were present at the CSG Meeting offered some perspective on the present state of the College Bound experience: Students are offered many opportunities to develop their college and career readiness including attending college and career readiness classes during and after school. Students also work on skills to help manage stress, financial management and planning for college, and exam preparation and readiness. Students shared some insight that although these offerings exist, individual initiative is the key to taking advantage of the opportunities.

- b) How does our leadership program support this vision?

CSG responses: The leadership program is essential to the development of our students in connecting them with resources and opportunities based on their interests. The program offers a variety of ways to meet the individual needs of students and helps them to develop relationships with peers and mentors that are important for success.

- c) What changes do we need to make to address the needs of our upcoming graduates?

CSG responses: We should look at introducing 8th grade students to college readiness in their advisories, and inviting 8th grade parents and students to an introduction to The College Bound Program, similar to or in conjunction with High School Unwrapped.

7) Final Development and Partnership Report - Rebekah Oakes, Director of Development and Partnerships

“Developing Leaders for the Renaissance of New York”

See Board Packet Attachments

8) School Management Team Report – Stacey Gauthier, Principal

- a) Admissions Statistics – Spring 2017 Lottery - See Board Packet Attachment
- b) Update on Summer School Program
- c) Update on School Advocacy – We are continuing to challenge our ongoing issues with funding by advocating to state officials in Albany. We anticipate that additional funds will be set-aside next year to cover the increasing costs of contractual obligations inclusive of retroactive pay and salary increases.
- d) Update on New School - We have heard from The Charter Office at the NYSED that the charter application for the new school, TRCS2, will be reviewed and voted on at the annual meeting of The Board of Regents on June 12 or 13.

9) Approval of May 3, 2017 Minutes - Approved

10) Approval of 2017-2018 Board Meeting Calendar - Approved

11) Board Members' New Business - Board member Chester Hicks

Mr. Hicks brought up an issue as a parent rep that there is a disciplinary problem in the school, especially in the lower grades, specifically 6th grade and below. Mr. Hicks stated that this issue has been ongoing for several years. Mr. Hicks pointed out that our charter stipulates that we must serve District 30 children. He asked is there any way that we can go beyond the district boundaries to diversify our population.

Ms. Gauthier addressed Mr. Hicks' concerns about admissions. We are mandated by law to give priority to students who reside in District 30. She also clarified that the discipline problem Mr. Hicks is referring to is really just a very few students who have some serious challenges that the school has been working hard to address in a comprehensive way. She also questioned how going out of District 30 would address the concern. Ms. Gauthier expressed her support for the student body and the students attending our school.

12) Public Speaking

A 5th Grade parent brought an issue to the Board regarding his son, who is completing his first year here at TRCS. The father reported that the son has experienced physical and emotional bullying. His son has filled out several reports for multiple incidents with what the parent reports as unsatisfactory results. According to the parent, in his previous school he did not experience these types of incidents. The parent stated that he met with Suzanne Arnold (Administrator for Student Support and School Culture) for about an hour and a half. She said that there was a lot of work being done to address the issues his son is reporting. Ms. Gauthier asked if the parent felt the meeting with Ms. Arnold was helpful and he answered that he did.

Ms. Gauthier - We are not a zero tolerance school. At one time we were, and we found the policy to not be successful in discouraging and eliminating undesirable student behavior and incidents. In fact, The NYC DOE has abandoned their once-held zero tolerance policy, for similar reasons. We look at every case holistically and take a restorative approach to solving the issues. This approach has proven to be very successful overall. It is important to note that we have many students with serious issues that cause them to behave in challenging and inappropriate ways. Our mission is to support all of our students and we have invested many resources into doing that.

The parent continued to say that his son was experiencing these issues during transitions between classes, during recess, and during lunch.

Matthew Delforte raised the point that bullying is a societal issue, and that although the reported incidents and the experiences of the student are cause for concern, they indeed are not anomalous to this school.

Ms. Martinez-DeLuca suggested that we may need to include more social group dynamic education within our peer groups and classrooms, especially with new students. She stated that children are children, and we need look at the way they are interacting with one another just as they are.

Several board members, including Mr. Johnson, addressed the experiential nature of their work with students to address the ongoing issues of peer to peer relationships in creating an environment of mutual respect for the individual.

After the parent left the meeting, Ms. Martinez-DeLuca suggested that we send a note to the parent thanking him for bringing this issue to The Board.

13) Adjournment of Public Session 9:36 p.m.

14) Executive Session – Convened at 9:40 p.m.