

The Renaissance

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

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

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Monte Joffe, Ed.D.
Chairperson
Daniel Fanelli
Secretary
Stacey Gauthier
Chester Hicks
Raymond Johnson
Dr. Rachel Mandel
Margaret Martinez-DeLuca
Everett Boyd

AGENDA

April 6th, 2022

The Renaissance Charter School

Meeting of the Board of Trustees

HONORARY MEMBERS

Sandra Geyer, 1941-2019
Hazel DuBois, Ph.D. 1937-2013
Francine Smith, 1949-2021
Hon. Rudolph Greco, Esq.
Meryl Thompson

1. Chairperson's Message – 3 minutes
2. Roll Call – 2 minutes
3. Approval of Last Month's Minutes – 5 minutes
4. Finance Committee meeting Report - 10 minutes
5. School Management Team Report – 10 minutes
6. Board Members' New Business – 10 minutes
7. Public Speaking - TBD
8. Adjournment of Public Meeting
9. Executive Session

“Developing Leaders for the Renaissance of New York”

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APPROVED

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1. Chairperson's Message – 3 minutes
 - a. Monte Joffe provides welcome message about the state of the world and the state of education, NAEP wrote in their last report in 2012 student progress has declined and the achievement gap has increased. This is why Renaissance is so important, we have to keep move forward, imagine harder, and push student achievement. Renaissance is the place where possibilities begin. I hope you enjoy your upcoming spring break.
2. Roll Call – Attendance taken by Dan Fanelli, Secretary
 - a. Present: Monte Joffe, Everett Boyd, Stacey Gauthier, Daniel Fanelli, Raymond Johnson
3. Approval of the minutes of the March 2nd, 2022, board meeting
 - a. Minutes approved by acclamation
4. Finance Committee meeting Report - Stacey Gauthier
 - a. Raymond, Denise, Dan, Stacey attended. We looked at the YTD budget vs what we spent so far. We will have another meeting to discuss next year's working budget. The removal of Federal Funds, but the addition of the per-pupil. Fortunately, the Pension cost is going down. There is another round of ECF funding, we plan to purchase more Chromebook and laptops for staff and students. We are looking at capital expenses, revitalization in the cafeteria by purchasing new tables, new oven, and changing the paint in the room.
 - b. We had a Single Audit which focused on a lot of the purchase for the technology
5. School Management Team Report – Stacey Gauthier
 - a. Introduction to Carolina Caicedo our new Parent Coordinator
 - i. Caronlina C. - I have been at the school in that role for 1 month. I love to help others and this why I enjoy this work. I am looking forward to engaging our families in many new events and courses for families to participate in.
 - ii. Stacey G. – happy to have Caronlina on board, she is always connecting with families and staff. She has been very helpful.
 - b. State testing is upon us, and we continue to assess internally.
 - c. COVID testing is still happening, we have seen an increase in cases. Not that many, but we are watching the increase. The mayor was going to drop the mask mandate, but with the increase in cases he decided that the

“Developing Leaders for the Renaissance of New York”

- masks for those students must remain on.
- d. We will have a full summer school, thank you to all of our staff that have stepped up to bring this program to our students. Thank you, Raymond.
 - e. Our Lottery for K, 5th and 9th grade seats will take place Friday April 8th. After the lottery we will report out our waitlist numbers
 - f. STOP Grant - Renaissance is the lead on the grant, which provides services to school around cyber bullying, child abuse, emergency preparedness, federal and State compliance. There are several other schools that are part of the consortium, Renaissance 2 is one of those schools.
 - g. Last week, 24 students participated in the model UN. Bill Clinton Spoke, they got to meet many students from around the world. Thank you to Ana Falla Riff and Gavriella Arias putting together the program and for supporting our students.
 - h. Thank you to Riaad, our Future Farmer of America Chapter was reinstated, and Stacey got US Foods to donate \$750 for our FFA chapter students to attend a conference.
 - i. Thank you to Jose Mana, for getting out our first addition of the school newspaper and a pod cast.
 - j. Rensizzle –
 - i. Bit difficult this year, field trips were just reinstated, so we will have abbreviated Rensizzle this year.
 - ii. Rensizzle elementary will be doing little sizzle with 3 half days of project based learning.
 - iii. Middle School will survey the students to figure out which field trip they would like to attend, NHM, Bronx Zoo, Staten Island Zoo, Botanical Gardens and perhaps student suggestions. The hope is that the entire middle school will go on one day in May and students will get to go on the trip they selected.
 - iv. High School – Plans in the works where some days classes are suspend and student interest groups are created
 - v. Next year we are hopeful for full Rensizzle, we would love to have students involved in planning and picking what they would like to learn about
 - k. Field Trips-
 - i. Elementary is going on a number of trips
 - ii. Middle and high school are doing Great Adventure trips and field days
 - l. Open Meetings Law –
 - i. Month by Month we have been able to have Zoom board meetings. There has been advocacy around keeping Zoom meetings. If they don't we will have to resume having a main location, we will have to talk about that if it happens.
 - m. Language Department Restructuring
 - i. Marta will be taking on Advisory but will also be doing AP Spanish Literature
 - ii. So that means we have an opening in our Language department.
 - iii. We have been talking about changing our Language program to offer Mandarin in our Elementary grades
 - iv. Then in 6th grade we would offer 3 different tracks, Mandarin, Spanish Language, and Spanish Heritage. Spanish Heritage would advance our Spanish Speaking student's Spanish literacy skills.
 - v. We are working with Laurie L. who is the head of Language at Dalton to identify which language program is best and to assist us in the hiring process.
 - vi. This will offer our students the ability to develop their language and expose students to another language
 - vii. Everett – says, Mandarin students are learning phrases, writing in calligraphy, they sing and dance, celebrate cultural experiences, it's a wonderful program
 - viii. Monte – From a programming perspective how would it work? Stacey – All students in Elementary would receive the same instruction. Students in MS would move into Heritage or non-Heritage program.
 - ix. Down the road we hope to offer HS courses in Language for students in both schools.
 - n. Board Resolution–
 - i. In February the board unanimously elected Rebekah Oakes to the Board of Trustees. Monte Joffee gave Stacey Gauthier the permission to carry forth this resolution.
 - ii. Monte Joffee asked for the approval of said resolution.
 - iii. The Board unanimously approved the resolution by acclamation
6. Board Members' New Business – None
 7. Public Speaking - TBD
 8. Adjournment of Public Meeting – 6:44pm



Laurie Hazeley
Senior Director
Charter School Office

100 Gold Street
New York, NY 10007

LHazeley@schools.nyc.gov

April 7, 2022

Monte Joffe, EdD.
Board Chairperson
The Renaissance Charter School
35-59 81st St
Jackson Heights, NY 11372

Dear Chairperson Joffe,

This letter serves as notification that the New York City Department of Education Charter School Office has no objection to Rebekah Oakes serving on the Board of Trustees of The Renaissance Charter School.

Please update your board roster within the next five business days via the Charter Information Portal (ChIP).

Thank you for working to increase the capacity of your school's Board.

In Partnership,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Laurie Hazeley', written in a cursive style.

Laurie Hazeley
Senior Director
Charter School Office
New York City Department of Education