

# The Renaissance

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

[www.renaissancecharter.org](http://www.renaissancecharter.org) • 0060-803-718 • 718-803-3785 (fax) Charter School

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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Everett Boyd

Rebekah Oakes

**APPROVED**

April 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023

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.

Margaret Martinez-DeLuca

Meryl Thompson

### 1. Chairperson's Message – 3 minutes

- a. Welcome message provided by Monte Joffe at 12:05pm

### 2. Roll Call – 2 minutes

- a. Present: Monte Joffe, Everett Boyd, Stacey Gauthier, Daniel Fanelli, Chester Hicks, Rebekah Oakes, Raymond Johnson, Dr. Rachel Mandel.

### 3. Approval of Last Month's Minutes – 5 minutes

- a. Minutes approved by acclamation

### 4. School Management Team Report – 10 minutes

- a. Stacey – Today is the first day of ELA State Testing. Yesterday the elevator is broken, but it was just fixed. The Board of Regents is speeding up the process of perhaps getting rid of the Regents Exams. Our counsel member just sent an email to families that families can opt out of tests. Interim testing is
- b. Congratulations to Marta and Anna for a very successful Advisory Day. Over 400 students participated. Cleaning beaches and parks, Cat shelters, Reading to student in younger grades at Renaissance and Renaissance 2, just to name a

*“Developing Leaders for the Renaissance of New York”*

few.

- c. Congratulations and thank you to Dan, we were awarded the summer boost grant 433k and awaiting an additional 100k by April 30<sup>th</sup>. The Elementary program located at Renaissance 2 and Renaissance will host Middle and High school students. We got a strange email about RTU units be putting in this summer, but we were told that wasn't happening. We are looking into it
  - i. We are fully staffed for the summer program
  - ii. We have two administrative support staff assigned to each school along with office and kitchen staff, as well as teachers
  - iii. The program is academic, but student will also have the opportunity to play and participate in Arts programming
  - iv. Special populations will get addressed by us providing PD by Liz and Shannon as well as staff from the collaborative.
- d. We got the mental health grant along with the Project Prevent grant, Stacey is the lead on both grants.
  - i. Innovative therapies including equine therapy
  - ii. This is for both schools
  - iii. Working with Living Redemptions, transforming one student at a time
- e. We are applying for the Innovative Approaches to Literacy grant again. We have built a consortium of schools that meet the poverty level that is required for the grant. This will go in on May 15<sup>th</sup>
- f. New York still doesn't have a budget
  - i. This has delayed our budget because we don't have a final per pupil number.
  - ii. We are working on our projected budget for next year. Other costs are

going up significantly, health costs and salary costs are on the rise.

iii. So, we will be lucky if we are flat for the year

g. Advocacy

i. Things are a bit crazy in Albany, so we won't have any new information until the budget season has come to an end.

h. Ray has stepped down as the UFT Chapter Leader. Ali Rosow is the new Chapter leader and Martin Medina is the Delegate.

i. Stacey will be meeting with Ali to review the Teacher preference sheets and they are

ii. We are working on the schedule and teacher positions

i. We are partnering with Global Online Learning

i. They work in many schools around the world.

ii. It's not just online and go, students will participate in classes that will be taught and scheduled during the day.

iii. We are still in the process of getting a teacher to help facilitate this

iv. They provide PD for Staff to help students be successful

j. Renewal

i. Stacey spoke with our new Authorizer. She is very interested in our Interim Assessment Program. She was also interested in our Mental Health Grants. We are optimistic about our partnership with her. She spoke at the authorizer meeting and talked about remote learning.

ii. She asked if she could visit the school in May, we are working to make that happen.

iii. The application is now due September 1<sup>st</sup>, but we plan to get it done by

June 30<sup>th</sup>. Stacey and Dan have been meeting with Wayne one to two times per week to go through the narrative.

iv. We are following the process that we have done for the past 4 renewals

v. Visits will start in the Fall, they will interview the Board, teachers, students, and families.

k. This is the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the New York Charter Act, Stacey has been asked to speak. The Governor is supportive of Charter Schools and expanding them.

5. Board Members' New Business – 10 minutes

- a. Education committee – Will meet soon to review the Principal Review Report
- b. Finance and Audit committee meeting will take place in Early May to discuss the Budget for next year as well as the Audit, which came back with no findings
- c. Lottery – Our lottery went well; we are working all year to get families enrolled. All our seats are currently filled.
- d. HS graduation is June 23<sup>rd</sup> at Renaissance 2
- e. Costa Rica Trip – Raymond went on the trip, it was a very educational trip, traveling to different parts of the country. They had a number of excellent educational experiences.

6. Public Speaking – TBD

- a. None

7. Adjournment of Public Meeting

- a. Meeting Adjourned at 12:45pm