

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

Everett Boyd

Rebekah Oakes

AGENDA

June 7th, 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
2. Roll Call – 2 minutes
3. Approval of Last Month's Minutes – 5 minutes
4. School Management Team Report – 10 minutes
5. Board Members' New Business – 10 minutes
6. Public Speaking - TBD
7. Adjournment of Public Meeting

"Developing Leaders for the Renaissance of New York"

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APPROVED MINUTES

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1. Chairperson's Message – 3 minutes
 - a. Welcome Message Provided by Monte Joffe at 12:00pm
2. Roll Call – 2 minutes
 - a. Present: Monte Joffe, Everett Boyd, Stacey Gauthier, Daniel Fanelli, Chester Hicks, Rebekah Oakes, Raymond Johnson.
 - b. Guests: Rebekah S.
3. Approval of Last Month's Minutes – 5 minutes
 - a. Minutes approved by acclamation.
4. Board Meeting Calendar approval 2023-24 – 5 minutes
 - a. 2023-24 Board Calendar approved by acclamation.
5. School Management Team Report – 10 minutes
 - a. Welcome Rebekah S. who was officially elected at a UFT meeting and will be the teacher representative to the board. We are still trying to get clarification about the application for new board members. Meredith has sent a help desk ticket into the DOE to get the correct application we will get it to Rebekah, she

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will fill it out, she will send it to the board, the board will interview her, and the board will go into executive session and put forward the application to the DOE.

- b. Renewal – we had our first renewal visit, we initially thought it was a get to know you visit, but it really turned out to be a renewal visit. This will be our 5th renewal. Every Renewal visit can be different, i.e., this is a different team of people, the new Head of Non-public and Charter Schools Executive Director Meiasia Edwards and Director Raisa Schwanbec.
 - i. We were very prepared for the meeting, we had a packet for them, we had data, all SMT members and Meredith were present. Their biggest concern was our Math data, we presented all of the work we are doing to address that struggle. We will provide them with additional data from this year. The packet also included social emotional learning, advisory, project-based learning, and Rensizzle. There was also a concern about budgeting, but we addressed it as we have more than 60 days of cash on hand.
 - ii. What they were very pleased with was our Targeted Reading Intervention Program. They were not able to see everything as their walkthrough was during a very specific time. They asked us for our grows, still not consistent heavy student lifting, there were some gaps in check for understanding. We provide the feedback to staff and will continue to work on this. We will work with teachers on this for next year.
 - iii. They are still missing the final renewal application, but there may be some changes, hopefully the changes are not big as Stacey, Dan, Victor and Wayne are working the application now, it's due September 1st. We thought this was going to be heavy with Covid, but it seems they are more interested in our return to schools and closing academic gaps for our students.
 - iv. They will come back in October for another visit. They will want to meet with all school stakeholders. By then we will send them our State

Exam Scores for this year. We believe there will be additional folks that come during the visit including SPED.

- c. Budget/Hiring – Denise has finished the working budget, but we have made some changes and we need to hire some additional positions that may affect it. MS/HS ICT Science teacher, Elementary Fine Arts Teacher, 6-12 Music position, we are looking for an ELL Coverage teacher. We hired the Mandarin Teacher. These hires will impact the budget.
 - i. We did not get a big increase in the PPF. We have seen a big increase in Health costs of 1.6 million and 1.3 million in pension costs.
- d. DOE Calendar update – The DOE has sent the Calendar for next year without the input of the unions. Thus, the unions put out a statement stating that teachers need to go back to the school day schedule from 2014. If we have to do this other proposed schedule, we will have to fire staff. Thus, it is our advice to keep our current schedule to preserve jobs and our academic program. If it is not approved by our Union, we will have to put together a new schedule that will excess jobs. We have provided some language for an SBO that the chapter can vote on. Our unions work for us, we pay dues, they need to do what is best for us. We would like a response from the UFT Chapter by early to mid-next week.
 - i. Raymond – because we are our own district when we excess people that means they are fired, there is no other place for them to go.
 - ii. In light of the political theater of the unions; the Board proposes that the SMT’s decision to maintain the current schedule and academic program including jobs, and positions, be upheld even if the UFT Chapter votes to change to the DOE schedule. This will ensure the integrity of the program that makes us Renaissance.
 - 1. Board resolution approved by acclamation.
- e. Summer School – Will take place at both schools K-5 at Ren 2 and 6-8 at Renaissance. The program is from 8:30 to 2:30 or 3:00 four days a week Monday

- Thursday. The academic program is supported by Lavinia’s Curriculum and consists of two hours of ELA and one hour of Math. We will provide additional enrichment in Mandarin, Recess, Art, and Drama.
 - i. Thank you to all the office staff at both schools for supporting the recruitment efforts to get our program fully enrolled. Thank you to Omar, Jessica, and Meredith for getting our communications to families and materials organized.
 - ii. Both programs will be supported by Two SMT members at both sites rotated throughout the summer.
 - f. Federal Grants – We are coordinating all people across both schools to have a mental health counselor, an intern, and a practicum student. We are concerned that we are losing folks because they are being under paid. Several of our teachers are interested in attending, Too Good For Drugs, PBIS and Restorative Practices.
 - g. Funding – We are wrestling out our state funding, we have had to explain why we had deficits in our spending. We are at the last stage now, 210k for Renaissance. We are still working to get additional funding. We have gotten the PreK money finally, they will get new sinks and tile work.
 - h. Shout out to Ram Buenaventura – The President of the Philippians called Ram personally to ask him to be the Teacher Representative for the country in the United States. They will be filming a commercial at our school in the next few weeks.
 - i. Principal Review is being worked on and will share out the review next meeting.
 - j. Facilities update – Building air units have been delayed. The bathroom stall doors will hopefully be installed by September.
6. Board Members’ New Business – 10 minutes

- a. June 23rd our HS Graduation Keynote Speaker is Assistant Commissioner for Educational Policy David Frank.
 - b. Rebekah will be moving to Albany.
7. Public Speaking - TBD
 8. Adjournment of Public Meeting at 1:06pm