

# 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

Monte Joffe, Ed.D.

*Chairperson*

Daniel Fanelli

*Secretary*

Stacey Gauthier

Chester Hicks

Raymond Johnson

Dr. Rachel Mandel

Everett Boyd

Rebekah Oakes

## APPROVED MINUTES

July 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. Everett gives message because Monte is experiencing travel delays; Meredith acting as secretary taking the minutes
2. Roll Call – 2 minutes
  - a. Present: Everett, Stacey, Rebekah O., Chester, Raymond
  - b. Absent: Dan, Rachel, Monte
  - c. Guests: Meredith (taking notes), Rebekah S., Matthew Delforte (attorney)
3. Approval of Last Month's Minutes – 5 minutes
  - a. Minutes unanimously passed
4. School Management Team Report – 10 minutes
  - a. Stacey: Still under covid emergency order; can always have Zoom meetings, but Board members will have to post addresses online if attending on attending

*"Developing Leaders for the Renaissance of New York"*

- remotely. Ren1 is also always a site for in-person meetings.
- b. Stacey: RS's application packet has been shared; will be reviewed in August meeting when Monte is back; note a quorum is legally required to vote. A quorum is 4 board members. Resolution for approval to be sent to DOE once a quorum-vote has been reached
  - c. Hiring: Daisy hired and second Mandarin teacher coming on board; Rs teaching 6-12 theatre; 6-12 music (Ryan) and 6-12 fine arts (Robert E). Ethyl is coming for elementary art; still in process of hiring ICT Science teacher and ELL coverage teacher due to Leah maternity leave. Many thanks to Omar – kitchen is now fully staffed and new food changes are being introduced. Kindergarten teacher Vanessa Pepe is leaving, moving to Westchester, but we don't need to replace her because she's the second teacher. Some more shuffling may be happening in the falls.
  - d. Grants: RO appreciated! Federal grants – have offset funding to do onsite safety work; put focus on safety procedures; Safer Access door (camera'ed entrance), ongoing safety committees. Working with Vinny on plan. Bid for an alumni coordinator.
  - e. Teams: Confident method to create working teams is working. CCO – Gavi, Ana, Ali; Marte and Ana for Advisory; new Dev-Coms team with Meredith as head of program, Anahi has joined as a communications associate; new parent coordinators (new PC for Ren 2; taking on parent workshops through Project Prevent and STOP grants).
  - f. Budget: Working budget is still under revision. DH waiting for health care cost increases; pending new staff hires / changes; offset money from grants, putting into budget state money – \$420,000 awarded to us from the state. Jumping through some bureaucratic hoops to get money released. Per pupil 3.16%, but healthcare going up.
  - g. Summer program: thank all the paras, admin, teachers, everyone – servicing about 380 kids, visit from Building Impact and Lavinia people (see ES

- program) – everyone was really impressed with the teachers leading Lavinia. Included great enrichment component (art and Mandarin, have recess); TRIP – Liz E. is working with them as well; Summer Boost funds Rising 1s to Rising 8s. Curtis doing theater, Robert E doing art, gym, etc, not funded by Summer Boost. Budgeted for metrocards for parents (very happy to get that monthly card); food celebrations once a week – advertised by parent coordinators. First lunch was ice cream. Trained all the teachers by Collaborative working with IEP students, two admin at each school at least. Had to hire outside admin support staff to cover main office. Thanks to Pat P and Pierina for signing up. Note to the Board: in reality, we are a 12-month school. Our kids need us here 12 months. Omar did a great job recruiting 82<sup>nd</sup> Street and they are doing a great job managing. Being able to stick to the mission and ALSO adapting is part of who are. Two Summer Boost funders are coming next week as well – will push to cover high school as well. Posttest measurements will give us a lot of data, kids look happy, have a few ideas to increase fun (book reading packs) for next year. Built in training and end of summer bonuses for teachers as well.
- h. Renewal: Is underway, charter being red-lined. Sept 1 is when charter narrative is due. Have to do all the backup documents, sorting that out. Board will be needed virtually sometime in the Fall for a Board interview from the charter authorizers. Next step: put application in along with addendums like text scores. Regents score are looking pretty good. We have our own criteria for measuring success, and comparative to state, also good. Still missing renewal guidance document from the DOE. Supposed to get in the fall. SG will follow up so that MD and BOT can review terms. MD: Most recent iteration of agreement is largely the same as before. Narrative and redline – Sept 1; Oct 1 corresponding docs, 5-year ACR needs to be finished; have been asked for interim testing data. This is incredibly important, being financially sound, maintaining community support. In October there will be a public hearing, BOT members can sign up to speak, and we need everyone to vocalize. COO is getting letters from all our partners and Carolina is actively receiving letters from a diverse parent body to show how we support all kids, even the most difficult. To Rebekah S. – would be great to get a letter from the UFT to support the charter renewal.

- i. Question from Rebekah O: Comparative district data? Embedded and disaggregated, which is still problematic. Kudos to Dawn for data collection in PowerSchool. CS District 30's proficiency rates vary widely. We broke down where our kids come from to make better comparisons (averages don't apply correctly). The comparison system is not fair and we have to take every facet of renewal seriously. We can make the best case for a 5-year renewal and still get 3-year renewal. We cannot afford to underestimate the significance of this process. Timelines and questions will be publicized as they come up – still waiting on info from the charter authorizers.
  - i. 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Retention: Thanks to Raymond – only 10-12 8<sup>th</sup> grade students are leaving; the rest are staying for high school!
  - j. Reports and presentations: CSG presentation report with feedback, looking at an upcoming meeting. If attendance is low for Aug, will do it later. CCO will publish their report and present soon; renewal report will be circulated and shared shortly.
5. Board Members' New Business – 10 minutes
    - a. EB – not graduated from Cahn yet. (Jan 31)
  6. Public Speaking - None
  7. Adjournment of Public Meeting
    - a. Motion to adjourn. Public session adjourned at 12:46 pm.