

# The Renaissance

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Charter School

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## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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Chester Hicks  
Raymond Johnson

Dr. Rachel Mandel  
Everett Boyd

Rebekah Oakes

**APPROVED**

September 27<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. Monte Joffe provides welcome message at 12:00

### 2. Roll Call – 2 minutes

- a. Monte Joffe, Everett Boyd, Stacey Gauthier, Rebekah O., Dan Fanelli, Raymond Johnson, Chester Hicks, Absent: Dr. Rachel Mandel
- b. Guests: Matthew Delforte, Denise Hur, Vincent Garlick

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

- a. Minutes approved by acclamation

### 4. Approval of School Safety Plan – 5 minutes

- a. The District plan and the school level plan have been shared with the board. The plan that gets posted is the District level plan. We are finalizing room changes, the board can approve the plan

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

- b. Approved - The Board adopts the plan as written subject to the additional nominal revisions relating to room changes and staffing changes that the School Management team is making.
  - c. The Changes that are made will be tracked and we will adopt them as they happen.
5. Approval of SY 2023-24 Budget – 10 minutes
- a. This is the most updated working budget that needs to be approved.
  - b. Denise Hur – This is the most updated information. The conversion money we have received. Compensation was updated based on new hires and people leaving. The budget reflects the retro payments for DC37, UFT, and CSA. Insurance went up and the pension cost has gone down slightly. We have a bit of a surplus and hope to put that money back into our reserves, as it is important to rebuild a reserve for times when we may need the money.
  - c. Stacey – We are awaiting a CSA contract, thus we do not have finalized numbers just projections
  - d. SY 2023-24 Budget is approved by acclamation.
6. School Management Team Report – 10 minutes
- a. Stacey – congratulations to Dan for becoming a Father! Denise has been dealing with all things financial, including the bonuses for CSA UFT, summer school RFP, the single audit and financials. Denise is continuing to do ordering with Omar. We are on time with UFT retro and Signing bonuses.
  - b. Covid policy and guidance – there really is no covid policy out there, SED says to use your best judgement. Our policy is the same as last year, stay home until you recover and come back and wear a mask for additional days. We send messages to families notifying them that their child may have been in contact with someone who has tested positive for Covid, but we longer are reporting cases to the situation room.

- c. Facilities – Air conditioning units are still out, Stacey speaks to them every day, but they still haven't fixed it. The bathroom stall doors are the same situation.
- d. Fully staffed up and our communications team will share who our new staff are with all staff.
- e. Staff voted to have curriculum night virtually per the UFT contract. There was similar attendance as in person. We had a parent town hall virtually, Stacey, Omar, Meredith, Carolina, and Zuzana attended.
- f. Standardized test scores are still embargoed by the State, we do not know when they will become public. We have shared the scores with Families, but we cannot discuss this beyond that. There are no comparisons to the district, city, or the State.
- g. Meredith is working on Rensizzle, which is happening the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of October, she has created a really great webpage. More on that to come.
- h. Meredith and parent coordinators put out a great calendar of meetings / workshops with families through federal grants that we are a part of. We will share this with all schools.
- i. Hispanic book fair is being held here again, October 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>.
- j. Renewal – We made our first submission, last night at 8pm we received a list of items we were missing, but we feel that some of the things we are missing are for an upcoming due date and we are concerned that we have uploaded schedules and they are not seeing it. Evaluation will be discussed in executive session. We have received Many letters of support, thank you to the college bound team to get letters of support from families and partners, we got a letter from Make the Road. Many Elected officials are and have submitted letters. We have letters of support from the CSA and DC37, but nothing from the UFT.
  - i. Rebekah Slotnick – she does not want to share information until she is elected to the board.

- ii. Everett – We have letters of endorsement for past renewals from the UFT, I think that we need to hear the issues that we need to address so we can get the UFT to provide us a letter.
- iii. Rebekah – She took some steps after our last meeting, but because she is not on the board, she feels she cannot represent the teachers.
- iv. The deadline is Friday, we need this letter of support.
- v. Ali is the UFT representative, and Rebekah and Stacey had a meeting to discuss that we would like a letter of support for our school, not for Stacey specifically. Stacey followed up after the meeting with an example of a past letter for Ali. If we couldn't get a letter from the UFT, we would like to get a letter from the UFT Chapter. Ali and Rebekah have asked Stacey to reach out Miles to get a letter, Stacey feels uncomfortable with this as Miles is not her representative. The UFT chapter has grown every year to a total this year of 59 members, DC37 is 15, and CSA is 8, and 15 non-union members.
  - 1. Those non-union members are non-union because their job description doesn't fit any union description. Nobody has come forward with trying to get them into a union.
- vi. Stacey was served with a letter from the UFT asking for positions and salaries of our staff.
- vii. Rebekah had to go teach, she didn't request coverage so she had to go.
  - 1. Rebekah's board paperwork was delayed because she didn't fill out some of the paperwork correctly and we didn't have a quorum to move forward over the summer quickly.
- viii. Ali will not be in this week, Stacey would like the board to ask the UFT for the letter.

1. Monte – could we hold and all staff meeting to ask for this?
  2. Stacey – this was presented to the entire staff at the beginning of the year, I would do it again. I am worried, I have put this out to the staff multiple times. No grievance or gripes have been brought to us. In the meeting with Ali and Rebekah, Ali said Miles is upset with Stacey about Covid, which we still need clarity on.
  3. Monte – could we get letter of support from the clusters? Vincent and Raymond confirm that would be direct dealing. Could we have a meeting to just get all staff members to sign a letter of support.
  4. Matthew Delforte – We have letters of support from all chapters except from the UFT. This topic can be tabled for executive session, but it is possible for the board to ask for the letter of support.
  5. Rebekah Oaks – Can the board just reach out to the chapter?  
Mathew – we will discuss this in executive session.
  6. Monte – Could we put a letter in to the authorizers after the fact.
  7. Stacey – Yes we could. Miles has come to the public meeting to speak on behalf of the school in the past.
  8. Stacey – We have been asking for this letter of support since last year.
7. CSG Report – 10 minutes
- a. Tabled for next month
8. Board Members’ New Business – 10 minutes
- a. Self-Reflection and Principal Review will be discussed further but will be shared out in coming meetings.

9. Public Speaking – TBD

- a. Zuzana was recently elected to the PA she is excited to work with the school and is excited to bring back the PA.

10. Adjournment of Public Meeting

- a. Meeting Adjourned at 1:09pm