

# 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**

October 11<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: Dwayne Andrews, Matthew Delforte, Meredith Hinshaw

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

- a. Minutes approved by acclimation

### 4. Political Advocacy Update – 10 minutes

- a. Dwayne Andrews, Patrick Jenkins and Associates, Senior Vice President. Has worked with Renaissance for 7 plus years.
  - i. Always a struggle, year after year, to get elected officials to understand

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

that Renaissance is a conversion charter school and has all the unions.

- ii. We are working to make sure we have political support behind our renewal. It is important to have the community groups and organizations to show their support.
  1. We have received letters of support from many members: Donavan Richards, Shaker, Catalina Cruz, Jessica Ramos, DC 37, CSA, we are hoping to get a letter of support from the UFT. We have letters from families and alumni. We will continue to file letters even after the submission date. We have shared letter of support from past local elected officials with current elected officials so they can see that we have had support for our school for years.
  2. We are waiting on a letter of support Jessica Rohas. The assembly member honored Stacey with a proclamation, but still has not provided a letter.
- iii. Stacey has gotten to know the elected officials. Many of them make caustic statements about charter schools, but they still like us and have provided us with their letters of support.
- iv. Renaissance has a strong focus on advocacy, which allows us to bring those folks to come and see the school and its successes.
- v. Stacey – In the 7 years of our work with Dwayne Andrews, he has gotten the school 2 million dollars. We will be getting a letter from Jessica Gonzalez-Rojas soon and we believe we will be getting a letter of support from our UFT Chapter soon.
- vi. Monte – Maybe we should reach out to AOC to try and get her to soften on her charter school stance. Dwayne will reach out to her.
- vii. Stacey – CSA has put us into their budget testimonial. Dwayne has relationships across the State and City.

viii. Dwayne – It’s a dance to try and get additional money out of the labor unions; CSA and DC 37 supported us in their budget testimonials. We have reached out to the UFT to get public support for our school and to be put into a budget testimonial and to get a letter of support.

ix. Rebekah Oaks will be going to the Charter School conference in Albany. Thank you Rebekah.

5. School Management Team Report – 10 minutes

a. State Test Data Share out:

2023 ELA State Test Results							
TRCS vs NYC				TRCS vs CSD 30			
Grades	TRCS	NYC	Difference	ELA	TRCS	CSD 30	Difference
3	78.57%	48.00%	30.57%	3	78.57%	51.60%	26.97%
4	79.31%	52.20%	27.11%	4	79.31%	61.60%	17.71%
5	57.63%	49.90%	7.73%	5	57.63%	58.30%	-0.67%
6	61.67%	47.80%	13.87%	6	61.67%	56.20%	5.47%
7	53.97%	51.70%	2.27%	7	53.97%	59.50%	-5.53%
8	63.53%	59.90%	3.63%	8	63.53%	65.30%	-1.77%
Overall	65.78%	51.58%	14.20%	Overall	65.78%	58.80%	6.98%

2023 Math State Test Results							
TRCS vs NYC				TRCS vs CSD 30			
Grades	TRCS	NYC	Difference	Math	TRCS	CSD 30	Difference
3	64.29%	55.00%	9.29%	3	64.29%	59.70%	4.59%
4	72.41%	52.30%	20.11%	4	72.41%	56.20%	16.21%
5	60.71%	50.50%	10.21%	5	60.71%	55.20%	5.51%
6	72.88%	45.50%	27.38%	6	72.88%	52.20%	20.68%
7	47.62%	51.20%	-3.58%	7	47.62%	56.70%	-9.08%
8	54.22%	42.30%	11.92%	8	54.22%	44.20%	10.02%
Overall	62.02%	49.47%	12.56%	Overall	62.02%	54.60%	7.42%

b. Shout out to teachers for all their work! We will continue our targeted tutoring program and utilize our internal assessment data from NWEA and ANET to help inform us which groups of students need to be supported with the Lavinia curricula.

6. Code of Ethics Review and Approval – 10 minutes

- a. Matthew – the Code of Ethics has been updated, to make it user friendly. Combined Code of Ethics and Conflicts of Interest together into one document. The document includes the BOT, Employees, and Officers Code of Ethics. We have a unique BOT as we have employees on the board so that we have a voice, it is critical to be able to wear two different hats. There are pieces that talk about conflicts of interest, self-dealing, and generally what are our responsibilities as a fiduciary. The last 5 bullets discuss how we should feel free to challenge each other, but that we are on the same team and work together to do what is in the best interest of the school rather than us as individuals. It's important to note that after we go through the democratic process, once a decision is made, we move forward as one cohesive group to support the school.
- b. Code of Ethics Approved by acclamation.

7. Discussion of Raymond Johnson & Chester Hicks positions on the board – 5 Minutes

- a. Chester has served on the board as a Parent Member and Raymond served as the teacher representative. They no longer hold those positions.
- b. Monte – They are extremely valuable members of our board we would like to make Chester a Community Member and Raymond an Appointed Member. Raymond works with our most challenged students he represents their voices. Chester is deeply involved in the community and the NYPD.
- c. Board approves to further discuss this in Executive Session.

8. CSG Report – 5 minutes

- a. See attached presentation.

9. Board Members' New Business – 10 minutes

- a. School Leadership Review been going over the reflections and the SMT will use the unembargoed data to complete their report.

10. Public Speaking – TBD

- a. None

11. Adjournment of Public Meeting

- a. 1:19 pm