

The Renaissance

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

www.renaissancecharter.org • 0060-803-718 • 718-803-3785 (fax) Charter School

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APPROVED

December 18th, 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 12:00pm

2. Roll Call – 2 minutes.

- a. Monte Joffe, Everett Boyd, Stacey Gauthier, Rebekah O., Dan Fanelli, Raymond Johnson, Chester Hicks, Absent: Dr. Rachel Mandel

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

- a. Minutes approved by acclamation.

4. Discussion of Renewal Visit – 10 minutes

- a. Stacey – Below are the notes from Renewal

- We had five staff members from NYC Public Schools spend from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. with us. Two of the team members focused exclusively

“Developing Leaders for the Renaissance of New York”

on special education. Below please find a summary of their shared findings from the day –

Areas to Celebrate –

- All classes were Effective or Highly Effective based on the Danielson Framework.
- Evidence for flexible groupings was found in various classrooms. (In one class the “Do Now” was used to form the groupings which they praised”.
- Students did the heavy lifting in most classrooms. In fact in one classroom they observed, students did almost all the lifting. They were very pleased to see this.
- Teachers consistently were checking for understanding by using a variety of methodologies.
- Student engagement was high.
- There was evidence of cognitive demand and standards-based activities.
- Math discourse was observed.
- Students were observed taking risks.
- The attributes described by the leadership team and outlined above are alive at the school.
- Teachers interviewed consistently shared that they had academic freedom and autonomy.
- Teachers also said there was trust among members of the school community.
- Teachers shared that feedback used came primarily from the students.
- Teachers shared getting on-going professional development and having a choice in what PD they wanted to attend.
- The team made note of the amount of PD from July to date that our staff has participated in.
- The D75 model is impressive.
- Elementary SETSS is high quality.
- They praised the Orton-Gillingham program.
- They were pleased to see we have such a holistic program but were clear that we are rated on test performance.
- They appreciated that we were able to respond to all areas where there are / were challenges.
- Many questions were asked about our Advanced Placement Classes and how we support students to be successful.

- The Renewal Application and packet provided was thorough and complete.
- We were complimented on the number of grants we have been awarded and the work being done with the funding / training.
- They said that charters are supposed to be great options for families and we are!

Areas for Growth –

- Continuing to support our 11th graders as this cohort has struggled.
- Digging Deeper in our student questioning in all subjects and asking more questions of students overall.
- Meeting our IEP Progress Monitoring Timelines and Goal Measurement.

Next Steps –

- Members of the SMT will share specific feedback to those teachers whose classrooms were visited.
- NYC Public Schools will interview the Board in January.
- NYC Public Schools will schedule a Public Hearing in January.
- Our Renewal Recommendation will be on a March or April Board of Regents' Calendar. (We do not have the recommendation yet).
- We will share the renewal visit packet we created shortly.
- We will continue to collect letters of support for the Hearing as well as ask people to testify if they would like to.

Thank you to the entire school community for a successful day! We definitely showed some of our best teaching and learning. We also showed how beautiful our building can be in terms of cleanliness, classroom organization and student work displays. Let's keep it up!

- b. A UFT member was able to get 76% of staff to sign a letter of support for renewal, as well as the Jackson Heights Beautification Group and Community Board.
- c. Next steps: meeting with the board Jan 5th, after that a public meeting, we hope to be on a March or April Regents meeting.
- d. We outperformed the district in subpopulation data including ELL, SPED, and FRL.
- e. They were impressed by the packet that we provided, we will provide it to the

- board and staff.
- f. A huge thank you to everyone for all the hard work including the building cleanliness.
 - g. Rebekah: As a board we resolve to recognize and officially acknowledge all the hard work that the school put in for the visit from our Authorizers.
 - h. Stacey – In our last charter we had an enrollment float which is no longer allowed, so we will make a material revision to add the additional students. They didn't raise any issue with the leadership review. They did see AP literature and were very impressed by that class. We will be doing a one page write up on the AP program that we will provide that to them.
 - i. Authorizers were impressed with Ren 1 and Ren 2 collaboration and for future partnership and collaboration.
5. School Management Team Report – 10 minutes
- a. Lots of celebrations going on: ES: Jingle mingle, MS: Festival of Lights and the HS Feast.
 - b. We have had an outbreak of COVID in 2nd grade.
 - c. Welcome to Leah and her son. Leah is coming back in a couple of weeks from her leave. Another teacher just went on her leave for the birth of her daughter. Dan will be going on leave to bond with his son after the break.
 - d. We have 6 teachers in building leadership programs. This is a testament to our program and support our teachers through that work.
 - e. Our Pre-K contract has not been registered yet. We are still owed 2023 \$8,000 plus for our program. We raised it with the renewal team. Proportionate shared use agreement has brought us money over the years and we have not gotten the Pre-K funding. We are following up.
 - f. Stacey: Thank you to Monte and Rebekah, I have taken feedback from the

Principal review and will make adjustments to be shared after the new year.

6. Board Members' New Business – 10 minutes
 - a. Monte, it was a real pleasure to read the Principle Review; to share warm and cool feedback with her. She will put together an updated self-reflection and she will meet with the board to provide a thorough review. We expect to conclude that process by the end of the year.
7. Public Speaking – TBD
 - a. None
8. Executive session.
 - a. Adjournment of public meeting at 12:24
9. Unanimous Reponing of the Public Session at 1:02
 - a. After a detailed discussion within the Board's Executive Session, the Board voted unanimously to not approve the candidate Rebekah Slotnick to the Board. The decision was not taken lightly by the Board, but for numerous reasons the Board decided not to approve her candidacy. The Board advises the staff, per the bylaws, to put forward another candidate. We will share with the community additional information in the coming days.
10. Adjournment of Public Meeting
 - a. At 1:13 pm