

The Renaissance

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Charter School

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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Rebekah Oakes

APPROVED

February 14th, 2024

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. Rebekah Oakes provides welcome message at 12:00 pm
2. Roll Call – 2 minutes
 - a. Everett Boyd, Stacey Gauthier, Rebekah O., Dan Fanelli, Raymond Johnson, Monte Joffe joins at 12:40pm Absent: Dr. Rachel Mandel, Chester Hicks, Monte Joffe
3. Approval of Last Month's Minutes – 5 minutes
 - a. Minutes approved by acclimation.
4. Approval of Workplace Violence Prevention Policy - 15 minutes
 - a. Matthew – Department of Labor changed the law and specifically made a change for charter schools. We have drafted a statement which is attached to the notes and read aloud. All staff need to work in a place where they feel safe and free from workplace violence. See the attached Workplace Violence

"Developing Leaders for the Renaissance of New York"

Prevention Policy Statement.

- b. There will be a webinar that staff can log onto to provide PD for this policy. As for non-employees, i.e. DOE staff onsite, we believe they will also receive training, but if not, we can provide it to them. Board members will also attend this PD.
- c. The law mandates this and we will comply, we have not heard from any of the unions on this yet.
- d. We have policies that address hostile work environment. We will review those policies to make sure they are all consistent with the current policy.
- e. Resolved: The Renaissance Charter School will adopt the Workplace Violence position statement as provided by counsel, effective immediately.
 - i. Resolution unanimously approved.

5. Approval of Timeout and Phys Restraint Policy – 10 minutes

- a. Matthew – The Regents and SED have amended the rules as it relates to aversive techniques and student discipline. They are the result of an investigation by Times Union that found schools putting students in a locked room by themselves or placed in the corner unsupervised. Thus, SED and the Regents made some changes to conform statements to the United States Department of Education. For example, banning the use of placing a student in the prone position. For further detail see the attached Timeout and Physical Restraint Policy.
- b. We will need to provide training to staff on what is or is not acceptable behaviors for staff and student interaction as guided by the policy.
- c. Resolved: That the board will adopt the physical restraint policy prepared by counsel in response to the state education department and regents recent amendments to applicable regulations, with the proviso that school leadership meet with counsel to further revise the policy as appropriate for immediate implementation. The board further directs school leadership to present any revisions

to the policy for further consideration and adoption at its next scheduled board meeting.

i. Resolution unanimously approved.

6. School Management Team Report – 10 minutes

- a. Finance and audit committee met last week. The minutes are available to you. We will have another meeting with you to present the coming years budget. We are continuing to look out for changes to SPED funding.
- b. Staff update - Recently lost a teacher, she decided not to return on the day she was scheduled to return. We extended the time of another teacher to replace that teacher on leave.
- c. Grant Update - Thank you to Meredith for navigating the federal grants that we are involved in. Living redemption will come and work with our students after the break. We just had a restorative justice training for most of the middle school and high school staff. We will train non pedagogical staff, elementary staff, and the rest of the school management team. Feb 19th we will have the literacy grant kick off for a consortium of charter schools at Renaissance. We will be discussing the activities of the grant in this meeting; all board members are welcome to attend in person. Students of the program will receive 100 books each.
- d. Student Recruitment – we are in full recruitment mode for families. We are visiting Food banks, pre-schools, churches, and other places in the neighborhood. We have two people go so we can have someone that speaks Spanish with any possible families.
- e. Renewal update – we are waiting to hear on our recommendation and when we will go on the calendar for a Regents meeting.
- f. Political Advocacy - Expecting a visit from Catalina Cruz in the coming weeks to talk to our student council about.

- g. Career Day – one for alumni coming back to share what they are doing now. The other for local community members to share about their jobs.
 - h. Community service day – Renaissance and Renaissance 2 will be out in the community in May. A further update will be provided as we get closer to it in May.
 - i. Lunar New Year Celebration – Renaissance Charter School students took the bus over to Renaissance 2’s building to participate in a full day celebration. Thank you to Sien and our other Mandarin teachers for the experience. Students sang songs and Ren 2’s student preformed for Renaissance students that was choreographed by Sien.
 - j. Remote Learning Day – We had all students attend in person learning online for the snow days.
 - k. Compass Programming has been canceled by the city and we will not be able to have it.
 - l. We still have not received any Pre-K money from the city.
7. Board Members’ New Business – 10 minutes
- a. Rebekah O. – Could we have 5 to 10 minutes at the next meeting to have a presentation by the Friends of Organization for both schools.
 - b. It will be added to next month’s meeting.
 - c. Monte will be scheduling a meeting in March for the Principal Review.
8. Public Speaking – None
9. Adjournment of Public Meeting at 1:01 pm