

# 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.

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Dr. Rachel Mandel

Everett Boyd

Rebekah Oakes

**APPROVED**

June 12<sup>th</sup>, 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. Welcome message provided by Monte Joffe at 12:03pm
2. Roll Call – 2 minutes
  - a. Everett Boyd, Stacey Gauthier, Rebekah O., Dan Fanelli, Raymond Johnson, Chester Hicks, Monte Joffe. Absent Dr. Rachel Mandel
3. Approval of Last Month's Minutes – 5 minutes
  - a. Minutes approved by acclimation.
4. CSG End of Year Report – 15 minutes
  - a. Meredith – first half of the year picked up on the aspirations of the prior year. Cross grade interactions. Cross grade buddies. Pivot in the second half of the year to talk more about cross grade interactions with Rensizzle. 5<sup>th</sup> grade students will get the chance to participate in the Rensizzle presentation on the last day of the week. The focus will be on a hands on type experience for the

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

presentation.

- b. Monte – Thank you to Meredith and the CSG for working on these efforts. It is a very important job and thank you for that work.

5. School Management Team Report – 10 minutes

- a. Stacey - Busy time of the year, testing and end of year events. Thanks to Andrea for all her work on coordinating the assessments. We have a lot of fun stuff, thank you to the Arts department for Art explosion and all the teachers that are taking students on trips. Amazing singing happening with students for the HS graduation.
- b. We are losing our Art teacher, she is moving to New Mexico.
- c. Summer School – very robust program K-12 over two sites.
- d. Very successful Career Day for HS and Elementary Career day.
- e. Literacy Grant – Nicole, Daniela, and Ariel are supporting it across the school. Including the Spanish book fair for next year.

6. Review and Approval of DEI policy – 10 minutes.

- a. On June 12, 2024, at a duly constituted meeting of the Board of Trustees (“Board”) of The Renaissance Charter School (“TRCS”), the following resolution was put forth and adopted:
- b. **WHEREAS**, TRCS is committed to creating and maintaining a positive and inclusive learning environment where all students, especially those currently and historically marginalized, feel safe, included, welcomed, and accepted, and experience a sense of belonging and academic success. The Board believes doing so is fundamental to our education program and to the social development and well-being of our students. Toward this end, the school has prepared a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Policy that endeavors to provide equitable, inclusive, and diverse opportunities for all students so that they may reach their highest potential.
- c. **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that in meeting with the schools commitment to creating and maintaining a positive and inclusive learning environment for all students, and preparing and empowering all students to reach their highest potential, the Board adopts the DEI Policy presented by the School Management Team and further directs the principal to implement and enforce this policy, and create regulations and practices necessary to do so.

- i. Approved Unanimously

7. Approval of 2024-25 Board Meeting Calendar – 10 minutes

- a. Change of the time to 9:00 am on the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of the month for the most part. The proposed dates are as follows. July 24, 2024, August 14, 2024, September 4, 2024, October 2, 2024, November 8, 2024, December 4, 2024, January 8, 2025, February 5, 2025, March 5, 2025, April 2, 2025, May 7, 2025, June 4, 2025.

- i. Approved Unanimously

- b. We will need Board members to fill out the Board Financial release forms for the annual report due in August. Meredith will circulate the form once we receive it from DOE.

8. Appointment of Vice Chair - 5 minutes

- a. Rebekah Oaks was appointed and accepted the appointment for Vice Chair.

- i. Approved Unanimously

9. Board Committee Reports, Finance and Audit Committee – 5 minutes

- a. The Renaissance BOT Working Budget Finance Committee Meeting (Board members present: Dan Fanelli, Raymond Johnson, Stacey Gauthier) discussed the projected increase in income per pupil, stable special education funding, and delayed Pre-K funding. Employee compensation and benefits are the highest expenses, with health insurance costs surpassing pension costs. Additional budget details included increased teaching and learning budgets and planned savings, with a school food program loss. Future considerations involve legislative changes impacting pension fund costs and expected special education budget changes. The committee voted to recommend the working budget to the board.

- i. Approved Unanimously

10. Board Members' New Business – 10 minutes

- a. Education committee – We will be doing the deep work of reflection on the year. Drafts have gone back and forth with the SMT and Board Education committee. We will have the full report to everyone in September.

- b. The Board of Regents has approved massive changes to the graduation requirements, including making Regents Exams optional. However, we do not know how this will impact charter schools, we waiting to hear back from the Charter Center on that. We don't believe that the Regents exams are going away; if regents are not mandatory how do we ensure our students can demonstrate their understanding via a project. We are concerned that this will further segregate students that do and do not take these exams. All this information is available on the NYS regent's website.

#### 11. Public Speaking – TBD

- a. Alejandro Montoya – shares his thoughts about how the well run and efficient our board meetings are.
- b. Zuzana Keeslar – Head of PTA, they have raised over \$11,000 to support our school's Academic program and make changes to the auditorium equipment. As well as additional financial support for all cluster related trips K-12.

#### 12. Adjournment of Public Meeting

- a. At 12:41pm

#### 13. Executive Session