

# 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

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## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Monte Joffe, Ed.D.

*Chairperson*

Daniel Fanelli

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Stacey Gauthier

Chester Hicks

Raymond Johnson

Dr. Rachel Mandel

Everett Boyd

Rebekah Oakes

**APPROVED**

January 30<sup>th</sup>, 2025

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 9:04

### 2. Roll Call – 2 minutes

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

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

- a. Minutes approved by acclimation.

### 4. School Management Team Report – 10 minutes

- a. Stacey Gauthier – Thank you to Everett & Sein for our Lunar New Year celebration that took place at Ren 2
- b. Retirement - After many years of Service Ana and Suzanne are retiring

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

- tomorrow. Combined they had over 30 years of service within our organization. We Thank them for their work and will have a breakfast for them tomorrow please come.
- c. ICE report - SMT have been on various webinars if ICE comes. If ICE comes to the building an SMT member will be told, and they will come to meet with them. We take all their information; ask them to wait outside, as we send it to our legal counsel. We will not share any information with them. See the attached Protocol. We will be having a “Know your rights webinar” on Zoom. This will be circulated to the families.
  - d. Federal Grants – There was an emergency Federal pause on the money. We have 5 Federal grants. We also have lunch grant money, but Title money and IDEA money we think will be untouched. We drew down the money from the grants to pay for Metro cards and enrichment. We suspect that we will be get documents from the Federal government that we will be required to sign.
  - e. Pre-K – we got last year’s money, but we haven’t gotten this year’s money. They also dropped our Pre-K money down about a thousand dollar’s per student. This is problematic because we have extended our contract with them, so why would our money be cut. Stacey will continue to work to push for the money for this year and to maintain the past per-pupil.
  - f. Security – we can get reimbursed for school safety officers. Renaissance should have 2 security guards, but we do not have them.
  - g. DOE Building City Wide freeze on third party work – Our Air conditioning project has been put on hold, as well as the phone system has also been put on hold.
  - h. Soil Contamination – there was a property that had soil contamination near us, so over the winter break they will come and test our soil here.
  - i. Regents Week - We had a successful regent’s week. Everyone was busy. Lots of students took regents exams, made up labs, and other work.

- j. Matthew Delforte – There is a judge’s order that resends the executive order but they have changed anything yet. They will continue to monitor this and provide us with updates
  - k. Matthew Delforte & Stacey Gauthier– As we know, there have been Unfair Labor Practices filed against the school to bargain, the School wants to bargain. The UFT said they do not want to bargain, so we have filed our own Unfair Labor Practice, this past May, the UFT is not bargaining. The Unfair Labor Practice was filed against us to bargain several items that benefit the Unit, example: teachers get laptops. We want to bargain these things and the CBA as a whole. A big problem is that the CBA doesn’t make sense for us as many parts of the contract do not apply to us. There are many parts of the contract that do not apply, i.e. Parental leave and the Medical Review Board. There is a lot of misinformation flying around the school, it is unfair, not accurate. We are in the pension to stay, and our benefits will not be changing. We will address this misinformation with our lawyers and communicate it to the staff.
    - i. Monte question – does the consultation committee take notes
    - ii. Jose Mane - we do not take formal notes
    - iii. Stacey – there was an agenda last time, we will be addressing their concerns. New policy dissemination and more collaboration, teacher preference sheets, teacher coverages in the elementary school. The CSA sent notice about the best practices for the consultation committee meetings.
      - 1. The Principal can invite APs
      - 2. The agenda needs to be had one week in advance. If we do not get it, we can push the meeting to the following meeting.
5. Board Members’ New Business – 10 minutes
- a. None
6. Marketing Strategy Report

- a. Our recruitment is very important and our current list of students for next year is very low.
  - b. There are a lot of things that other charter schools that can do that we cannot. So, we have competition, and we need to think about what we can do as a school to showcase and highlight our organization. What sets us apart from other schools.
  - c. Monte – We should have drop everything and brainstorm.
  - d. Stacey - We really need to highlight all the great things that we do as an organization. We need to change and adjust to the needs of our population. We need to continue the really great things that we do like summer school.
  - e. Presentation Pushed to the February BOT Meeting.
7. Reflection with Jose – Jose met with Matthew and Monte.
- a. Jose Reflection - This is a huge responsibility. The more he has come to the meetings the more he has heard about not just our current situation but also meeting our goals as a school and making critical decisions that the board must make to ensure that our students and families are getting what they need. With the current situation, there will be a lot of discussion, and everyone will come to the table with an open mind. Jose was a student at Renaissance in 1995, additionally his sister was as well. Many members of his family have come here and now their children attend Renaissance. Jose has been teaching here for 18 years. During that time, he was a CSG co-facilitator and a Teaching and Learning HS Co-Coordinator. He came to Renaissance in 2007, he has grown with the support of co-teachers and APs to become a better teacher. He got his Masters from Teachers College, this was a transformative experience as he was able shift his mind set. He believes there are a number of things he can still learn that will support students' growth. He wants to push to a leadership program soon.
  - b. Navigation of conflict of Interest: In any conflict of interest, he will remove himself from that conversation.

8. Public Speaking – TBD

a. None

9. Adjournment of Public Meeting

a. 10:03am