

The Renaissance

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APPROVED Minutes

November 5th, 2025

The Renaissance Charter School

HONORARY MEMBERS

Meeting of the Board of Trustees

Sandra Geyer, 1941-2019

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Francine Smith, 1949-2021

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1. **Chairperson's Message** – Monte is still in Vienna and unable to attend meeting. Rebekah chaired the meeting, with a brief welcome to everyone.
2. **Roll Call** – Monte Joffee and Dr. Rachel Mandel absent; Daniel Fanelli, Stacey Gauthier, Chester Hicks, Raymond Johnson, Everett Boyd, Rebekah Oakes and Jose Mane all present.
3. **Minutes** from October 8, 2025 reviewed and approved by acclamation.
4. **Finance Committee Report** - The committee met along with accountants Joe Al-bano and Trevor. It was a totally clean report. The Financial situation for Ren 1 is healthy, and we are experiencing a healthy reserve for the first time in several years. We are, however, expecting a significant rise in health care costs. The committee recommend that the board approve the report. The board approved the report by acclimation.
5. **School Management Team Report** –

“Developing Leaders for the Renaissance of New York”

- a. Presented by Daniel Fanelli – please see attached report.
- b. **Stacey's report** – The Mental Health grant seems officially dead. The state did not include us in their lawsuit for technical reasons, and we will not benefit from being on other states' lawsuits. Jessica, our MH professional, has resigned because Ren 1 does not have the grant funding to continue her employment. The school is looking for ways to spend the money that is left, around \$700K. Now we will use it for trainings for Ali Rosow, the social worker and the Project Prevent grant-funded counselor Max Perez. Since the current Project Prevent grant is still in effect and we are applying for another one, we may be able to fund some additional personnel. We won't know about the new grant until January.
6. **Board Members' New Business** – Meredith reminded the board that she needs some personal information for a CACSP grant (that funds the supper program). They require board members' birth dates.
7. There was no Public Speaking.
8. Adjournment of Public Meeting, motion carried to adjourn public meeting.

Principal's Report – November 5, 2025
The Renaissance Charter School
Presented by:
Daniel Fanelli, Principal

1. Instructional Focus: Questioning, Discussion, and Progress Monitoring

On **November 4**, we held a full-staff professional development session planned by me and the coordinators and the co-led by our **High School Teacher Leaders**. The session centered on our schoolwide instructional goals:

- Deepening and sharing out our **Progress Monitoring Practices**.

Teachers shared concrete examples of how they are tracking student learning, reflected on successes and challenges, and adjusted their practices in real time. Highlights included:

- **9th Grade Biology:** Students' progress is tracked by standards for the course, giving teachers a clear lens into mastery and areas of need.
- **6th Grade Math:** Teachers initially provided feedback on exit tickets but realized that occurred too late in the lesson to intervene effectively. They will now use similar prompts during the **Do Now** to identify and support struggling students earlier in the class period.
- **1st Grade ELA:** Teachers track writing skill growth using a formal document that pinpoints specific areas of student struggle, allowing for targeted support during the same lesson.
- **Padlet** (the link to this tool was shared with the Board members in the Zoom chat.)

These examples reflect meaningful progress toward our **60:40 student-to-teacher voice ratio** and demonstrate how teachers are embedding data-driven decision-making into daily instruction. I have shared the link to Padlet in the chat for you all to pursue on your own time.

2. Cluster Planning and Family Engagement

Following the whole-group PD, teachers met in **cluster teams** to prepare for upcoming **Parent-Teacher Conferences (PTC)**, which will take place **remotely**.

Together with **Omar Rafael** (Assistant Principal of Operations), we collaborated with cluster leaders to streamline communication to families and created a **family-facing document** that allows parents to easily schedule meetings with their children's teachers.

3. Technology for Student Support and Accountability

Assistant Principal for Student Support **Vincent Garlick** and I introduced Securly (Securly - Classroom Device Management for Teachers), a new classroom management and monitoring tool for Chromebooks. Teachers completed an online PD demonstrating how to:

“Developing Leaders for the Renaissance of New York”

- Monitor student Chromebook activity,
- Lock screens when needed, and
- Close off-task tabs to ensure focus and accountability.

With Chromebooks used widely across classrooms, Securly provides an important layer of instructional and digital safety support.

4. Facilities Update

I met with representatives from the **School Construction Authority (SCA)** regarding the **RTU Replacement, BMS Upgrade, and Fire Alarm Upgrade** project. The SCA has confirmed that work will begin soon, with **the majority of construction scheduled for summer 2026**.

This will temporarily impact our **summer program**, which will be held at **Renaissance 2**. We thank **Stacey Gauthier** for her continued partnership and guidance throughout this process.

5. Reporting and Data

We have officially **submitted our Annual Report**. The leadership team is continuing to review and analyze the data internally, and we plan to present a **comprehensive data report** to the Board at the **December meeting**.

6. School Culture and Community Highlights

The past month have been filled with events that embody Renaissance's vibrant culture:

- **Spirit Week and Halloween Parade:** Students in **Pre-K through 5th Grade** showcased their creativity during the annual parade, warmly attended by families.
- **Scholastic Book Fair:** Managed expertly by **Carolina Caicedo**, providing students and families with engaging literacy opportunities.
- **Middle School Student Council Debates:** Candidates presented their platforms for president and vice president before peers, promoting civic engagement and leadership.
- **College Bound Fair (12th Grade):** I attended alongside our students, who were well-prepared thanks to **Fahad and Gavy from the college office**. Students engaged meaningfully with college representatives, asking thoughtful questions about programs, majors, and campus life.

These moments reaffirm our **Pre-K–12 continuum**, where students can begin their educational journey in Pre-K and graduate ready for college and beyond — a true testament to the dedication of every teacher and staff member in our community.

Closing Reflection

The past month has showcased the collaborative spirit and instructional focus that define Renaissance. From classroom practices that make learning visible to operational systems that keep our schools running smoothly, every initiative connects back to our mission: **empowering students to think critically, speak confidently, and thrive academically and socially.**