

The Renaissance

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BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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APPROVED Minutes

June 3rd, 2026

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.

1. Chairperson's Message was deferred until Monte can join the meeting.
2. Roll Call – Daniel Fanelli, Stacey Gauthier, Chester Hicks, Raymond Johnson, Everett Boyd, Jose Mane, Rebekah Oakes all present. Dr. Rachel Mandel absent, and Dr. Monte Joffee arrived late.
3. Last month's minutes were approved by acclamation.
4. Financial Committee Report – Please see the complete committee report attached below. Dan gave an overview of the Finance Committee meeting to review the 2026-2027 working budget, and reported that the committee unanimously voted recommend that the board approve the working budget.
5. SY2026-2027 BOT Calendar – More discussion toward possibly revising the time frame for our meetings is needed, so it was proposed that we determine the dates for the summer meetings, and a full calendar will be presented during the summer. The board agreed on:
 - July 15, 2026 - TRCS - 9 am, TRCS 2 - 10 am; and
 - August 12, 2026 - TRCS - 9 am, TRCS 2 - 10 am

"Developing Leaders for the Renaissance of New York"

6. School Management Team Report – Please see the attached Principal report below, following the Financial Committee Meeting report. Stacey followed up Dan’s report on the Elementary Arts and Social Studies musical performances led by Cristine Slingerland and Susan Agin of Variety Boys and Girls Club, by mentioning that if the partnership with Variety goes forward as planned, a Musical Theatre program for both schools would be a welcome addition.
7. Stacey’s report – There is still no UPK contract (and consequently no funding for the previous year) and no communication surrounding this unprecedented lateness.
 - a. The state budget process is done, so there is hope that the city UPK office was waiting for that to issue our contract, as part of the “clean-up” when outstanding budgetary issues are settled. The charter school conversion money from the state may also be part of that.
 - b. SPED got a 3.8% increase in per-pupil funding, but that is essentially eaten up by teacher contractual increases of 3.6% and rising pension and health-care costs. Another challenging year ahead for our budget, and we may continue to see problems going forward, as DOE loses enrollment, because our money has always been tied to the city per-pupil.
 - c. There are a couple of other federal grants for which we are applying, and Stacey has asked David Frank for a letter of support as a matter of some urgency.
8. Board Members’ New Business – The annual financial disclosure reports will be coming to each board member soon, and we are reminded to return them promptly to Anahi, before we all scatter for the summer.
9. Adjournment of Public Meeting at 9:37 AM.

Budget Planning and Financial Update

Denise presented the projected working budget for the upcoming school year. At this time, the budget has been developed using conservative assumptions, as final per-pupil funding numbers have not yet been confirmed due to delays in the state portal system. A tentative per-pupil rate has been used, and overall projections remain cautious, particularly around special education funding, which is expected to increase.

Budget planning has also been impacted by delays in federal and city funding streams. IDEA and ESSA allocations have been estimated based on current-year figures, as final approvals are still pending. There continue to be delays in pre-K funding and contract registration, despite services already being in place.

The team also reviewed broader financial challenges, including rising personnel costs driven by contractual salary increases and higher health insurance expenses. Efforts have been made to balance the budget through strategic adjustments, including reallocations within teaching and learning and consulting lines. We continue to pursue the missing conversion funding money funding.

Staffing projections for next year include key hires in ELL and ICT, while also accounting for anticipated retirements. Strategic decisions have been made to restructure certain leadership roles to maximize efficiency and reduce costs.

Finally, the Committee recommends to the Board the approved of the organization's 990 tax filing and agreed to reallocate \$210,000 from conversion funds to grant funding within the budget.

June 2026 – Board of Trustees Update

Charter School Literacy Grant: Cross-School Planning

We have begun initial planning for the Charter School Literacy Consortium Grant, working across both schools with Assistant Principals and Rashid Johnson to develop a draft goal document. This work is centered on strengthening ELA performance on the State assessments, with a long-term vision of achieving 100% proficiency over the next ten years.

We will continue refining this document in the coming weeks and will provide a more detailed update at the July Board meeting.

Summer Program Planning: K–12 Alignment Across Campuses

We continue to meet weekly across both schools to prepare for summer programming. This year, the program will be split across campuses, with Renaissance hosting grades 9–12 and Renaissance 2 hosting grades K–8. Summer school will begin on July 6th for all students.

We will provide a more comprehensive update on summer programming at the July Board meeting.

“Developing Leaders for the Renaissance of New York”

Instructional Reflection and Goal Setting

Over the next several weeks, our Lavinia and Eureka Math² coaches will work alongside Bridget Curran and myself to reflect on this year's instructional progress. We will also review coaching observations across all grades and content areas to identify key areas of success and opportunities for growth.

This analysis will drive the development of targeted leader, teacher, and student goals for the upcoming school year and summer program. It will also inform the design of our professional development sequence, ensuring alignment to next year's priorities, as well as our school events calendar and assessment calendar.

Observations

Operational Update: SAM.gov Recertification

We are pleased to share that Renaissance has successfully regained access to and recertified our SAM.gov account. We have also confirmed that we did not lose any funding associated with programs tied to this platform.

This work required significant coordination, particularly as the responsibility transitioned from Meredith. A sincere thank you to Omar for stepping in and leading this effort to completion.

Leadership Transitions: Continuity and Planning

We continue to work closely with Nicole Jollon and Victor Motta to ensure a smooth transition in leadership roles and responsibilities, with a focus on maintaining continuity across our instructional and operational systems.

Assessment Update: Regents and End-of-Year Data

We are transitioning into Regents exam administration, which will run through the end of June. Thank you to Victor and Andrea for their work in preparing assessment and grading systems to ensure a smooth administration.

Students have also completed their final NWEA assessments. We are currently analyzing this data and will provide a comprehensive, year-long data update at the July Board meeting.

Community Highlight: Elementary Arts and Social Studies Performance

"Developing Leaders for the Renaissance of New York"

On May 29th, our 3rd and 4th grade students performed a series of songs connected to their social studies learning for families. I would like to thank Susan Agin and Cristine for their outstanding work in bringing this experience to life.

Thank you as well to Bridget and Omar for their support in coordinating this partnership and performance.

Upcoming Event: High School Graduation

High School Graduation will take place on June 10th. I would like to thank Victor, Omar, Shareen, Nicole, and Joe for their work in supporting our seniors as they prepare for this important milestone.

Closing

This month reflects continued progress in cross-school alignment, instructional planning, and preparation for summer programming. We remain focused on strengthening our academic program and setting clear goals to support student achievement in the year ahead.