

The Renaissance

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Approved Minutes

July 15th, 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.

Margaret Martinez-DeLuca

1. Chairperson's Message

- a. Monte Joffe welcomes everyone and reflects on the summer as a time for reflection and growth. Monte Joffe compares the summer to the Jewish month of reflection, emphasizing the importance of imagining a better future. Monte Joffe encourages the board to use the summer to consolidate and imagine the future of Renaissance

2. Roll Call

- a. Present: Monte, Raymond, Chester, Everett, Jose, Rachel, Stacey, and Dan.
- b. Rebekah Oakes is absent.

3. Last Month's Minutes were approved by acclamation.

4. SMT Report – Dan Fanelli

School Community Celebrations

June was filled with celebrations recognizing the accomplishments of students across every grade level.

“Developing Leaders for the Renaissance of New York”

On **June 10th**, we celebrated the graduation of the Renaissance Charter School Class of 2026 at The Renaissance Charter School 2. It was a wonderful ceremony celebrating the achievements of our seniors alongside their families, staff, and members of our Board of Trustees. A special thank you to Board Member **Chester** for joining us as we recognized this important milestone.

One of the most meaningful traditions of our graduation ceremony continues to be inviting our faculty and staff to join our graduates on stage. It serves as a powerful reminder that every graduate's success is the result of years of dedication, encouragement, and support from our entire school community. Thank you to Victor, Omar, Shareen, Nicole, Joe, and every staff member who helped our seniors reach this incredible achievement.

Our **8th Grade Stepping-Up Ceremony** also celebrated students as they prepare to begin high school. I was excited to have Bridget Curran, our Assistant Principal for Grades K–8, participate in the ceremony and congratulate our students as they begin the next chapter of their academic careers.

Our **5th grade students** enjoyed their annual end-of-year picnic, providing an opportunity for students, teachers, and families to celebrate a successful elementary school experience together. Thank you to our 5th grade teachers for organizing this tradition and to Bridget for her support throughout the event.

Finally, our Kindergarten, 1st, and 2nd grade students delighted families with their performance of **Frozen**. The performance highlighted the importance of the arts in our school community while showcasing our students' confidence and creativity. Thank you to Omar and Bridget for coordinating the many logistical details that made this event possible.

Regents Assessment Highlights

While we continue to complete a comprehensive analysis of Regents performance and await statewide comparative data, I would like to recognize several outstanding accomplishments from this year's administration.

Our students earned a **96% pass rate on the Spanish Regents Examination (101 of 105 students)**. This assessment included both accelerated middle school students and high school students, demonstrating the strength of our World Language program across grade levels.

We also achieved a remarkable **97% pass rate on the U.S. History and Government Regents Examination (75 of 77 students)**. These results reflect the outstanding work of both Thandi at the high school level and Malini, whose accelerated middle school students continue to demonstrate exceptional success by completing this Regents examination before entering high school.

Additionally, our students achieved a **90% pass rate on the Biology Regents Examination (39 of 43 students)**, this is due to Riaad who reflected on the previous year's Regents, which had changed, and reflecting the strong instructional program and commitment of both our science teachers and students.

These early Regents results are encouraging indicators of the work taking place across multiple content areas. Once statewide comparison data becomes available, we will provide the Board with a comprehensive analysis of overall Regents performance, including areas of strength and opportunities for continued growth.

Instructional Reflection and Curriculum Planning

We have begun our review of the June Instructional Report alongside our internal assessment data to evaluate schoolwide performance and identify priorities for the upcoming school year.

One encouraging finding is that the priority standards we have focused on over the past several years continue to align closely with the standards carrying the greatest weight on the New York State Assessments. This confirms that our instructional focus remains centered on the skills that matter most for long-term student success in reading, writing, and mathematics.

At the same time, our internal data has identified areas where additional support is needed. While final state results have not yet been released, we anticipate that several grade levels—most notably Grade 5—will require targeted instructional improvements. These trends were identified throughout the school year using our internal assessment system, allowing leadership to provide additional classroom coaching, curriculum support, and professional development well before the conclusion of the school year.

As part of our Charter School Literacy Consortium Grant, we are excited to expand the Lavinia Red Thread curriculum into Grade 5 beginning this fall. With this addition, students in Kindergarten through Grade 8 will now receive instruction utilizing the Lavinia curriculum, supported by instructional coaching and ongoing leadership development. We are confident this expansion will continue the strong literacy growth we have experienced across our elementary grades.

Leadership Reflection and Schoolwide Planning

Our School Management Team has begun completing comprehensive reflections on the 2025–2026 school year while identifying priorities for the year ahead. These reflections include individual leadership goals, schoolwide priorities, and recommendations for strengthening systems before students return in September.

One consistent theme emerging from these reflections is the importance of strengthening communication and ensuring consistent expectations across all areas of the school. As a result, much of our September professional development will focus on clearly communicating systems, procedures, and expectations so that staff have the tools necessary to begin the school year successfully.

Another theme is doing everything we can to bring our families back into the building throughout the year.

Simultaneously, our leadership team continues to refine our academic goals for the 2026–2027 school year. Over the remainder of the summer we will finalize our instructional goals, Professional Learning Community structure, peer observation process, coaching systems, assessment calendar, and professional development sequence. I look forward to presenting these finalized goals and initiatives to the Board during our August meeting.

Summer Program Update

Summer programming officially launched on **July 6th** following several months of cross-school planning involving both leadership teams. Weekly planning meetings beginning in April allowed us to thoughtfully

coordinate operations, staffing, curriculum, transportation, assessment systems, and family communication across both campuses.

One of our greatest accomplishments this year was administering all K–8 summer school pre-assessments before the conclusion of the regular school year. Traditionally, these assessments consumed the first two days of summer school. Completing them in advance allows teachers to begin targeted instruction on the very first day while also providing leadership teams with valuable student performance data before programming even began.

This early assessment process positioned our staff to create student groups, identify instructional priorities, and establish clear grade-level goals before students entered the building. Among all schools participating nationally in the Bloomberg Philanthropies Summer Learning initiative, Renaissance was one of only two organizations to successfully implement this process.

A tremendous thank you to **Dawn Cahill** for designing and coordinating this assessment system, as well as to both schools' leadership teams for making its implementation possible.

At the high school level, we also introduced a Summer School Orientation prior to the start of classes. Students received schedules, met teachers, reviewed expectations, and gained a clear understanding of attendance requirements necessary for earning course credit. Thank you to **Nicole Jollon** for leading this initiative.

Attendance continues to be closely monitored throughout the summer, with office teams at both schools contacting families daily when concerns arise. Thank you to our operations teams, office staff, and administrators for implementing these systems with consistency.

Finally, I would like to sincerely thank every teacher who chose to work during summer school. Their commitment provides students with critical opportunities to recover credits, strengthen foundational skills, and remain on track toward graduation and long-term academic success.

Annual Report and Board Compliance

Preparation of our Annual Report is currently underway, with required submissions due to the New York State Education Department by **August 3rd**.

Anahi will be reaching out to Board members requesting their annual Financial Disclosure Forms. We kindly ask that these documents be returned as soon as possible to allow sufficient time for review and submission.

In addition to the financial disclosures, our team is finalizing Board meeting minutes from the school year and the 2026–2027 academic calendar for submission. Thank you in advance for your assistance in helping us complete these important compliance requirements on time.

Facilities and Operational Readiness

Throughout the summer, our facilities and operations teams have been working diligently to prepare both campuses for the upcoming school year. This includes extensive cleaning, classroom preparation,

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maintenance projects, and operational improvements designed to ensure students and staff return to welcoming, organized, and safe learning environments in September.

Dan delivered thanks to our facilities team for their tremendous effort, and to **Omar Rafael** and the operations department for coordinating this important work.

Stacey noted the pre-K contract, revealing that the DOE has signed a contract but are only agreeing to a 2% increase for next year. Other schools are receiving significantly more money per student, which could be a deal breaker for keeping pre-K. There are issues with the pre-K contract from the previous year, including delayed payments and the need to pay staff out of school funds initially. On a more positive note, the conversion money from Albany, with \$210,000 is expected to be received.

Stacey discussed the impact of healthcare savings on the budget, noting that while some costs have decreased, others have increased due to family coverages and pension costs.

Dan and several people from Ren 2 attended the National Charter School Conference in New Orleans, which was covered by a grant.

There is a compliance meeting for DOE authorized schools on August 6th, we can forward the link to any board members that wish to attend.

a. Board Members' New Business – None

5. Public Speaking – None

6. Adjournment of Public Meeting at 9:21am