

The Renaissance2

35-59 81st Street, Jackson Heights, NY 11372

www.renaissancecharter.org • 718-803-0060 • 718-803-3785 (fax)

Charter School

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Everett Boyd

Chairperson

Elizabeth Perez

Secretary

Dr. Rachel Mandel

Conor McCoy

Natalie Hardcastle

APPROVED (Dec. 6, 2017)

October 5, 2017

The Renaissance Charter School 2

Meeting of the Board of Trustees

The meeting convened at 7:45 PM.

1. Roll Call: Present: Everett Boyd, Rachel Mandel, Elizabeth Perez;
Absent: Natalie Hardcastle, Conor McCoy – quorum met
Also Present: Stacey Gauthier, Daniel Fanelli, Matthew Delforte
2. Nomination for Board Secretary -
Chairperson, Everett Boyd, nominated Liz Perez; Dr. Rachel Mandel seconded
The nomination was accepted; Liz Perez elected by acclamation.
3. Renaissance 2 Status and General Update –
 - Stacey Gauthier: The two schools have different authorizers. TRCS 2 cannot have employees on its board. TRCS 2 is required to have 12 board meetings per year. We are working with Civic Builders to locate facilities. We are cultivating relationships (e.g. Regent Chin) and conducting various meetings with community members and various elected officials (e.g. Councilman Dromm) as well as having ongoing conversations about relationship between the two schools (TRCS and TRCS 2)
 - Matthew Delforte: The Charter was approved in the spring of 2017. NYSED wants us to discuss the legal and functional relationship between TRCS and TRCS 2. The schools will be two separate legal entities. The expectation is that TRCS will have control over TRCS 2. Will we merge the two corporate entities and have two separate authorizers, or will it be a parent/subsidiary relationship? There are legal issues around each. We need to have an MOA to explain the legal and functional relationship between the two schools.

- Matthew will be working with David Frank and lawyers at SED in regards to the MOA.

 - Stacey: SED recognizes that this will be the first time a conversion school maintains a relationship with its second school, and there are issues around being a conversion school. It is our intention to work with the unions
4. Presentation on facilities – Daniel Fanelli-
- The TRCS 2 team has been meeting with Civic Builders, who are helping secure and build space. A handout was presented regarding potential sites. The team visited six sites with Civic Builders. The charter was approved for K-6, so the plan is around that for Phase 1. One specific site (the “ice cream factory”) has the potential to expand as the school expands.
- The Ice Cream Factory is close to the 7 train, which is good for linking the two schools.
 - It has multiple buildings; we could potentially take over two sites
 - Second phase would connect second building for a HS
 - We want to match facilities funding as much as we can with the space we have, as it’s important for expandability.
 - Is it possible to have this space?
 - Moving in is an issue because of the funding, which is all up front. We would have to dip into the general school fund (as opposed to facilities fund)
 - Test fit: owner brought in his own architects after seeing our interest.
 - Zoning--must be changed; would split up into three separate zones, which would not be optimal for owners, who want to build luxury housing, which would cut back on our space. Civic Builders is negotiating this on our behalf.

We are still investigating other sites--this issue has moved our timeline forward for opening in a new facility. We would not be able to open in 2018, and would have to incubate in a facility in 2019, which is not ideal for a number of reasons. We need to re-think the plan, which is to start with younger grades and move up. We don’t think it is wise to incubate too far away, especially with younger kids. Another alternative is not to be located in CSD30. If we don’t have to do renovation at first, that will help us build financially. The only expense so far has been the test fit. We’ve been approached by others, including our authorizers, with a potential site in Jamaica, Queens (Vaughn College). They’ll offer a site in another district, which is not family-friendly.

5. Public Speaking - NONE

Meeting Adjourned - 8:10pm

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Elizabeth Perez
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Natalie Hardcastle

Approved January 3, 2018

December 6, 2017

The Renaissance Charter School 2

Meeting of the Board of Trustees

1. Meeting convened at 8:03
2. Roll Call: Present: Everett Boyd, Rachel Mandel, Elizabeth Perez
Absent: Natalie Hardcastle and Conor McCoy
Also Present: Stacey Gauthier, Daniel Fanelli,
Quorum met
3. Review and Approve Minutes of October 5, 2017 Meeting:
Motion to approve by Rachel Mandel and seconded by Elizabeth Perez. Motion passed by acclamation.
4. Updates on progress toward opening of TRCS2:
 - a. Facilities - Daniel Fanelli
 - i. The “ice cream factory” site is no longer available
 - ii. Met with Civic Builders. There is a new site on Skillman, a stand-alone building, three floors within site. The amount of money limits what we can do. Continuing to work with CB, who have reached out to the owners of the property in regards to how many floors we can occupy. That is in the process of being negotiated. Phone call with CB Wednesday December 13.
 - iii. One more site--10-27 46th Avenue in LIC, being renovated. Waiting to hear back from the owner of that property.
 - iv. Since we have not secured a lease, it has pushed our timeline a little further back.
 - b. MOA between TRCS and TRCS 2 - Stacey Gauthier and Matthew Delforte –
Productive meeting at our law firm yesterday, with attorneys Matthew Delforte and Fred Berman. Hope to present a draft of agreement between two schools at next Board meeting or the meeting after to define organizational structures re: funding and staffing. This will be vetted with SED. As a conversion school we’re treading on new territory.
 - i. Working actively on a number of specific items that SED has requested as the authorizer. Operational control of TRCS 2 by TRCS as well as start-up costs and outlays that TRCS will be making as well as issues related to how staff are used and shared to the extent that they will be shared and defining roles of specific titles. We intend to have a draft prior to the end of the year that will be shared with the board, for its approval.

- ii. One complication is the facilities, which drive much of our decision-making. We may need to incubate in a temporary facility, until a permanent facility is secured. The staffing plan will have to be modified if we need to change the number of classes due to incubation. Also, we may need to look at our grade configuration. People don't always want to travel or move from one location to another with their younger kids.

- c. Request for planning year from NYSED - Everett Boyd - Due to the prospect of not being able to house the school until at least 2019, we need to ask for a planning year from SED. We've been in communication with them about the need to extend our term. Our charter says we will open by 2018, but that will be impossible under the present circumstances. We need a resolution authorizing the chair, Everett Boyd, to write a letter to SED on our school letterhead that says that the board is requesting a delay in opening the school until the year 2019, with a planning year to begin in 2018.
 - i. Motion by Rachel Mandel to approve the following resolution: "Be it resolved that The Board of Trustees of The Renaissance Charter School 2 authorizes the chair, Everett Boyd, to write a letter to NYSED Charter School Office, requesting a planning year beginning in 2018 and a delay in opening the school until 2019."

Motion seconded by Elizabeth Perez. Resolution passed by acclamation.

5. Board Meeting Calendar - must have 12 meetings within the year:

Plan to meet in the first week of each month, as of now, these are open dates:

- October 5 (scheduled and held)
- December 6 (scheduled and held)
- January 3 (proposed)
- February 7 (proposed, after TRCS BOT Mtg.)
- March 7 (proposed)
- April 11 (proposed, after CSG Mtg.)
- May 2 (proposed, after TRCS BOT Mtg.)
- June 6 (proposed, after TRCS BOT Mtg.)
- July (TBD)
- August (TBD)
- September 5 or 12 (proposed)
- October 3 (proposed)
- November 7 (proposed)
- December 5 (proposed)

Suggestion that this proposal be circulated among the board members. At the next board meeting we can vote to adopt the calendar. The current board has 5 members, as designated by the SED. A quorum is 3.

Minutes to be sent to our authorizers and posted to the website.

7. Public speaking - NONE

8. Meeting adjourned at 8:21 p.m.