

The Renaissance

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

www.renaissancecharter.org • 718-803-0060 • 718-803-3785 (fax) Charter School 2

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Everett Boyd
Chairperson
Elizabeth Perez
Secretary
Dr. Rachel Mandel
Conor McCoy
Natalie Hardcastle

FINAL – APPROVED 2/07/18

January 3, 2018

The Renaissance Charter School 2

Meeting of the Board of Trustees

Meeting convened at 6:49pm

1. Roll Call:

Present: Everett Boyd, Natalie Hardcastle, Rachel Mandel, Conor McCoy, Elizabeth Perez - Quorum met
Also present: Stacey Gauthier and Daniel Fanelli

2. Minutes of December 6, 2017 meeting approved by acclamation

3. Updates on progress toward opening of TRCS2

a. Facilities - Daniel Fanelli

i. Moved on to two additional properties and potentially have a third property

ii. 33-02 Skillman, near last location

iii. Sent details to owner of property on 12/15. Reviewed, requested meeting w/Civic Builders on January 8. Should deal move forward, will request meeting with zoning attorney. Will have update at next meeting, hopefully will be somewhere along that process.

iv. 10-20 46th Avenue: received counteroffer; not bridging the gap. Not completely off table.

v. New property: Civic Builders to visit on Friday, January 5
37-18 Northern Blvd. and 60-01 31st Avenue. Once they visit, they will give us an update.

vi. Civic has made it clear that we're not going to get the space we need for the entire school when it builds out. The possibility of locations is limited within D30 and across the city. We have to make compromises and may need to make sacrifices if it is to stay in D30. E.g., Hyde Leadership started at a small location and moved to a new property (worked with Civic to build a new location).

vii. Facilities funding 30% of per student amount.

Right now, we need to apply to DOE for space, be denied, and appeal that in order to get

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the money to pay for the lease. We would not have to go into the general funds to pay for the space.

viii. Discussion of being aware of the terms of the facilities contract. Will be reviewed by our lawyers. Ren2 may use the same lawyers as TRCS.

4. MOA between TRCS and TRCS2 - Stacey Gauthier

- a. Dan and Stacey spent a day with our lawyers and follow-up call regarding MOA.
- b. Important to ensure financial obligations of TRCS2 don't fall back on TRCS1. The board of TRCS will in control of the process.
- c. We may think about having one board at some point. We can't officially merge the corporations. TRCS1 could lose things it currently has with a merge.

5. Proposed calendar:

January 3
February 7 (after TRCS BOT Mtg.)
March 7
April 11 (after CSG Mtg.)
May 2 (after TRCS BOT Mtg.)
June 6 (after TRCS BOT Mtg.)
September 12
October 3
November 7
December 5

A motion to adopt the TRCS2 Board Calendar passed by acclamation.

Location and times can be changed in bylaws via a resolution--could be in Manhattan, as early as 6, etc. We need the times before we advertise it. Probably won't happen for next meeting.

The Board can resolve to amend its bylaws to adopt video conferencing as well.

The following resolution was proposed to adopt an amendment to the bylaws to have video conferencing as an option:

WHEREAS, Public Officer's Law §103(c) allows charter schools to conduct board meetings by video conferencing;

WHEREAS, the Board desires to avail itself of the opportunity to conduct board meetings by video conference in order to provide greater flexibility in connection with meeting to transact the business of the Board;

WHEREAS, the Board is required to amend its Bylaws in order to provide authority to meet by video conference, and also to submit a non-material charter revision to its authorizer, the New York State Education Department, for approval of its amended Bylaws;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Chair, in consultation with school counsel, is authorized and directed to amend TRCS2's Bylaws to include authority to conduct board meetings by

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video conference pursuant to applicable law; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Chair, in consultation with school counsel, is authorized and directed to submit a nonmaterial charter revision application to NYSED for the purpose of procuring the approval of the Bylaws amendment, which is required by the NYSED whenever an authorized school amends its Bylaws.

Approved by acclamation

6. Financial Concerns and Fundraising

- a. Will have to apply for CSP grant. Haven't done because we want to make sure the timing makes sense. Largest amount is 800K, which we may be eligible for.
- b. Fundraising - already lobbying to get more money before TRCS opens.
- c. Charter schools in a difficult position financially/politically; not supported as much by the Governor. We will have to take money out of the general operating fund to support facilities. Ren1 has to use a lot of money to pay pensions, etc. All charters are struggling monetarily. 800K suggested as a "down payment" by Civic for facilities, that comes off the costs. If we can't get it, it would be built into the costs. There is still a way to work with that. Ren1 is not subsidizing the facilities cost. Ren2 will be paying Ren1 back for any costs.
- d. What are the things we need to do to make up some of the difference? Family Foundation that wants to support a progressive, humanistic school?
- e. Families/foundations in Queens with prior dialogue? Rebekah should be invited to an upcoming meeting. We do better with big Fed/State grants than local funding. Pumpkin Foundation used to be 100K/year, but is now defunct. A lot of people turned off by fact that Ren1 is unionized. We need someone who wants to support a progressive model/high-needs kids.
- f. Once Civic takes ownership, 5-7 years down the line, we could potentially purchase the space. We should try to raise money toward that. Civic Builders is a "full-service developer." They will build and do facilities management. Civic negotiates the lease, but we still would have it reviewed by our lawyers.
- g. Fundraising is bigger than just facilities. In an ideal situation, both schools would benefit, especially since there is already a school in place with this programming.
- h. Working to have continual funding; that's what the big networks do.
- i. Conor to reach out to Posse, Natalie will do some thinking before the next meeting.
- j. Rebekah and Peggy to have discussions with Natalie and Conor.
- k. Independent schools struggle with this, because people want to give money to networks with political clout or to projects rather than one school.

8. Meeting adjourned - 7:40 p.m.