

The Renaissance

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Charter School

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February 7, 2018

The Renaissance Charter School

Meeting of the Board of Trustees

HONORARY MEMBERS

Hazel DuBois, Ph.D. 1937-2013

Hon. Rudolph Greco, Esq.

Meryl Thompson

The meeting convened at 7:02 PM.

1. Chairperson's Message – Secretary Everett Boyd opened and will chair the meeting; Rebekah Oakes will take the minutes.
2. Pledge of Allegiance – Led by Everett Boyd
3. Roll Call – by Everett Boyd, Secretary
Present- Everett Boyd, Stacey Gauthier, Chester Hicks, Raymond Johnson, Margaret Martinez-De Luca, Francine Smith and Rachel Mandel. Also present –Yumeris Morel, Victor Motta, Rebekah Oakes, Daniel Fanelli.

Absent - Monte Joffee, Sandra Geyer, Conor McCoy
4. Approval of the December 6, 2017 minutes – Approved as written.
5. Mid-Year Development Report – Rebekah Oakes (refer to attached report for details)
 - a. Applying for New Ventures Grant for TRCS2 pre-opening - \$200,000
 - b. Applying as part of a consortium for a federal Farm to School grant.
 - c. Applying as part of 2 consortiums for Gates Foundation grant.
 - d. Applying on behalf of Renaissance alone, and as part of a consortium managed by CEI to the NYSED Student Support and Academic Enrichment grant.
6. Mid-Year Financial Report –
 - a. Revision to Financial Handbook required by new policies instituted by NYSED, the following language would be added:
For the School Food Service program only:

“Developing Leaders for the Renaissance of New York”

- Purchases of only American products, and
- Encourage women and minority-owned businesses to bid for goods and services.

A resolution to approve the revision as stated above into our Financial Handbook was approved.

- b. Renaissance is showing a deficit for the second quarter on the Statement of Activities because of previous year liabilities. However, our year-to-date budget shows our cash flow is stable at this time. There is another delay in getting the conversion charter school allocation promised to us by the state legislature. Advocacy with City Hall and the NYS Legislature continues with the support of Patrick Jenkins and Associates.
 - c. The Finance & Audit committee approved the 2017 Form 990.
 - d. Accountants are finishing up the 2017 Single Audit.
7. Mid-Year Academic Report/Educational Support Committee Update – presented by the Teaching & Learning Directors. See attached reports.
- a. Yumeris Morel reported that the theme across the middle and high-school Humanities is to increase our rigor across the content area. The ELA PLC developed the “SPEAR” concept to support students’ approach to complex texts across classes, creating a common language and teaching strategies to support literacy in ELA, Social Studies and Science. 2nd-8th grade ANET Internal Assessment data review is being supported by concrete feed-back and follow-up. The concept of Growth Mindset is a grant-supported initiative that has taken root in the HS. Peer-to-Peer Learning Groups started last week, and the HS is designing a program for AP Support.
 - b. Victor Motta reported on the January Regents Exams. AP Mock Exams, Mid-Terms and make-up Labs and Math make-up assignments were administered during Regents week, as well. Targeted Tutoring continues in MS and HS homework centers, and Saturday School has begun.
 - c. Daniel Fanelli reported on the ANET assessment, data-review and re-teaching cycles. Comparison shows that we outperformed the network, but we are still striving to achieve scores in the 80’s and 90’s. In Science, elementary school continues with the FOSS system, including literacy integration. In 4th grade are having a mock assessment for the Science exam in the spring. Middle school teachers are taking advantage of the Urban Advantage professional development, and students and families get free admission to all the science museums in the city. We are continuing to push rigorous courses into lower grades with 7th graders taking pre-Algebra and the 8th Grade Science exam, and 8th graders taking Regents Algebra and Earth Science courses and exams.

- d. Stacey reported on the Spanish Language program – this year 18 of our junior and senior Spanish Honor Society members will be traveling to Spain. This year we started implementing the SOPA assessment in 4th, 8th, 10th and 11th grades.
 - e. Everett reported on the Arts Department – senior elective theatre production of *Beware the Jabberwock*; Festival of Lights featured Katie’s vocal program; we have a small Jazz Band meeting on Wednesday mornings; 8th grade theatre students will be participating in CUNY CAT’s Shakespeare project, and the Spring Production will be Harvey.
 - f. College Bound – (see report in packet) 2 Posse winners; 100% of seniors have applied to college. Courses from Youcubed.com incorporated into math and literacy skills classes to instill growth-mindset concepts based on brain research.
 - g. ELA and Math instructional rounds revealed certain trends that will be considered when teachers adapt their instruction plans.
8. Discussion and Vote on Memorandum of Agreement between Renaissance and Renaissance 2 – The MOA was reviewed by the Executive Committee, who voted to make a recommendation to adopt. NYSED wants to understand the relationship between Renaissance and Renaissance 2. We could not merge the corporation without risks to both schools. Key items include:
- a. The MOA states that Renaissance will be the sole member of the corporation of Renaissance 2.
 - b. Renaissance will be paid back by Renaissance 2 for any funds already paid out, and will have no financial obligation to Renaissance 2 going forward.
 - c. The MOA outlines the personnel structure for Renaissance 2 administration/oversight.

A motion to adopt the MOA was approved unanimously.

9. Discussion and Vote on Revisions/Clarifications to Paid Family Leave Policy – This policy comes straight out of the law. In the case of policies adopted by the unions, this policy may be revised, but until that time the policy has been written by our attorneys and awaits approval. Two employees have already taken advantage of the leave.

Motion to accept the policy was approved unanimously.

10. Board Member New Business – None
11. Public Speaking – None
12. Adjournment of Public Session - 7:55 p.m.
13. Executive Session – Convened at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Rebekah Oakes

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