

The Renaissance

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

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

Charter School

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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Minutes of TRCS Board of Trustees

Meeting of June 30, 2015

HONORARY MEMBERS

Hazel DuBois, Ph.D. 1937-2013

Hon. Rudolph Greco, Esq.

Meryl Thompson

Meeting convened at 3:15 PM

1. Chairperson's Welcome: Ms. Geyer welcomed Board Members and Public attendees. She expressed her appreciation for everyone's efforts this year.
2. The Pledge of Allegiance was said.
3. Roll Call was taken: All board members were present except Margaret Martinez-DeLuca, Monte Joffe, and Helen Zumaeta. Also present: Julia Cohen, School Counsel and Denise Hur, Director of Operations

The Chair reordered the agenda to include items that required voting by a quorum of BOT members, as some members expressed that they would need to leave by 5:00.

4. Minutes of May 6, 2015 BOT Meeting were reviewed and approved.
5. (Agenda item 7) – Vote to Approve FY 2016 Working Budget -- Chester Hicks, of the Finance Committee, presented the Working Budget for FY 2016, which was included in the board packet. Motion made to approve. Motion was seconded. Motion approved.
6. (Agenda item 8) - Vote to Approve New Financial Policies and Procedures – This document was sent electronically for board review. Motion made to approve. Motion was seconded. Motion approved.

“Developing Leaders for the Renaissance of New York”

7. (Agenda item 9) – Vote to Approve Board Meeting Calendar for 2015-2016 – This document was sent electronically for board review. Motion made to approve. Motion was seconded. Motion approved.
8. (Agenda item 10) - Vote to Approve Board Officers for 2015-2016 – Everett Boyd made a motion to table this item until next board meeting, as there were key members of the board who were absent, including one officer. Motion was seconded. Motion approved.
9. (Agenda item 11) - Vote to Approve a Revision to our School’s Charter regarding Student Enrollment –TRCS submitted a revision to our charter with our charter renewal requesting an enrollment of 558 students which has been our actual enrollment (including District 75 students) for the last several years. The DOE denied this request and approved an enrollment of 541 students, which the DOE based on our last charter’s enrollment numbers TRCS disagrees with this decision and has submitted numerous correspondences and justifications for our position to DOE.

Motion made by Chester Hicks to resolve that the BOT delegates the authority to Stacey Gauthier, Principal, to request a material change of the charter to increase the student enrollment to 558 for the school year 2015-2016 and forward. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

10. (Agenda item 12) - Vote to Approve a Revision to our School’s Charter regarding Enrollment Preference for the Children of Staff – Motion made by Justin Ginsburgh to resolve that, consistent with the outcome of the most recent legislative session in Albany, that TRCS implements a revision to its charter with regard to enrollment preferences as follows:
 1. Returning students
 2. Siblings of returning students
 3. Children of staff
 4. Children of residents of Community School District 30

The board delegates the authority to Stacey Gauthier, Principal, to submit a revision to the charter as indicated above.

11. Charter Renewal Update and Next Steps – We were granted a 4.2 year renewal, which we continue to contest. Harvey Newman of CEI-PEA has set up a meeting with Stacey and a member of the Board of Regents to discuss the issues with our renewal in an effort to further our case – since multiple discussions with the DOE have proven fruitless.

We want to issue a public statement regarding the inequities in the charter renewal process based on our experience. It is also imperative that matters related to our enrollment, funding and inaccuracies in Renaissance’s renewal report be resolved.

12. School Management Team Report and CSG/CEP – Principal, Stacey Gauthier presented the School Management Team Report which included the following items included in the board packet:

- Development and Partnership Report
- Over \$10,000 expense Report
- College Bound and Leadership Report
- Admissions Statistics Update

CSG Chair, Everett Boyd, presented the CSG/CEP Report, which was included in the board packet.

13. New Teacher-elected Representative – Raymond Johnson was introduced as the newly elected candidate for teacher representative to the Board. Mr. Johnson has an 18 year tenure as a teacher at the Renaissance Charter School.

Mr. Johnson spoke briefly about his experience and his desire to become a Board member.

Discussion was held about board member experience and responsibilities. Mr. Johnson's application was submitted for review and a motion was made and seconded to recommend Mr. Johnson's candidacy to the Board.

14. Discussion on Recruitment of New Community Members to the Board – Justin Ginsburgh informed the board that he would be stepping down from the board. He and the board expressed their appreciation for his service over the past four years.

Discussion was held about the need to begin searching for new candidates to replace Justin.

15. Board Members New Business – none
16. Public Speaking – none
17. Adjournment of Public Session - 5:15PM