

The Renaissance

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Charter School

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December 6, 2017

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 6:45 PM.

1. Chairperson's Welcome – Vice Chairperson, Monte Joffe opened the meeting, reporting that Sandra Geyer, Chair, was not feeling well and would not be able to attend. Dr. Joffe imparted words of wisdom saying that children are the teachers and we are the learners.
2. Pledge of Allegiance – Led by Monte Joffe
3. Roll Call – Taken by Everett Boyd, Secretary
Present- Everett Boyd, Stacey Gauthier, Chester Hicks, Monte Joffe, Raymond Johnson, Margaret Martinez-De Luca and Rachel Mandel. Absent – Sandra Geyer, Conor McCoy and Francine Smith. Also present – David Ashenfarb, Matthew Delforte, Jacob Claveloux, and Denise Hur.
4. Approval of October 5, 2017 minutes – Approved
5. Review and Approval of Certified Financial Report (CFR) – The CFR was presented by David Ashenfarb, CPA, and Denise Hur, Director of Operations.

It was noted that the NYC DOE has stated that it will consider footnoting our charter budget goal to reflect our unique fiscal challenges as a conversion charter school.

The Finance Committee of The Board of Trustees previously reviewed the CFR and recommended that The Board accept the report as presented. Motion to accept, seconded, and passed by acclamation.

6. Report on Executive Compensation – See attachment

“Developing Leaders for the Renaissance of New York”

7. Discussion on Paid family Leave – Jacob Claveloux, attorney representing Shebitz and Delforte, presented.

The recent NY State law on paid family leave was not clearly defined as applicable to charter schools. The Workers Compensation Board has designated charter schools as private entities; the law applies to most charter school employees. At present, all of the employees at TRCS will be covered. The unions (UFT, CSA, and DC 37) have taken various positions on the issue.

The law will take effect on January 1, 2018, granting 8 weeks of family leave for the following conditions: birth of a child, illness of a family member, and military leave of an immediate family member. Family leave pay for each employee is covered by insurance provided by the state. The cost to the school will be \$83 per employee per year, which is essentially the copayment.

Question: Is there a chance that if The Board approves the provision, The UFT would grieve a decision to grant family leave to one of its members?

Answer: Yes, there is a possibility of that occurrence.

There has already been a precedent established for paid family leave to be implemented, since TRCS has paid disability to eligible employees since its inception.

Upon the recommendation of our attorneys The Board adopted a resolution, by a unanimous vote, to recognize the Paid Family Leave Policy as outlined by the NYS Workers Compensation Board, applicable to all eligible employees of TRCS, effective January 1, 2018.

8. School Management Team Report – See attachments
Progress Toward Goals, Accountability Metrics

9. Board Members' New Business – None

10. Public Speaking –

Angel Belanos, a parent of a kindergarten student at TRCS, asked the following question: “Does TRCS recognize the Parents Bill of Rights”? Mr. Belanos said that he has not felt welcome at TRCS, and that his efforts to communicate with The Principal and the school have not been satisfactory. He is restricted from visiting the school because he has an order of protection against him, which limits contact with his spouse, Ethan’s mother.

The Principal, Stacey Gauthier, said that she has communicated with Mr. Belanos on numerous occasions, and is fully aware of the circumstances surrounding the family. Ms. Gauthier stated that the school is legally bound to observe all court orders of protection.

Matthew Delforte (TRCS attorney) said to Mr. Belanos that any concerns he has should be made in writing to Ms. Gauthier. Further review of his concerns may be brought to The Board’s attention, upon the recommendation of The Principal.

11. Adjournment of Public Session – 8:02 p.m.

12. Executive Session – Convened at 8:26 p.m.