

The Renaissance

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Charter School

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Meryl Thompson

Minutes of the Board of Trustees on February 6, 2013

- 1) The meeting was called to order at 6:51 p.m. with the chairperson's welcome.
- 2) Pledge of Allegiance.
- 3) Roll call was taken.
Everett Boyd – present
Nancy Condyles – present
Stacey Gauthier – present
Sandy Geyer – present
Justin Ginsburgh – present
Chester Hicks – present
Monte Joffe – present
Margaret Martinez-DeLuca – absent
Francine Smith – present
Helen Zumaeta – absent

Additional participants: Dennis Stamm, School Accountant, Matthew Delforte, School Attorney, Denise Hur, Director of Operations and Rebekah Oakes, Director of Development and Partnerships.

- 4) Minutes of December 5, 2012 were reviewed; the board unanimously approved the minutes.
- 5) Mid-Year Financial Report – review given by Dennis Stamm, CPA. Cash flow shows a \$350,000 surplus above what it was at the same time last year. DOE has again asked for 6 month unaudited financial report which is due March 1st. Accountants will get this report to the finance committee before it is submitted. We are ahead of the projected 6-month budget at this time, most likely because of the pension costs. Dennis will be back in May to provide the end of year report.
- 6) Mid-Year Development Report – review given by Rebekah Oakes, Director of Development (attached.) Thanks to Rebekah and Peggy for their hard work.
- 7) School Management Team Report/Mid-Year Academic Report, report given by Stacey Gauthier. Everett Boyd was officially confirmed by the DOE to become a member of the

“Developing Leaders for the Renaissance of New York”

board again. Both requested revisions (Dignity for All Act and other student support handbook revisions) and the school calendar revisions were approved by the DOE.

a. Academic Mid-Year Report is attached. Teachers all over the school are participating in many Professional Development initiatives including:

- ICT Consultant / NYC Special Ed Collaborative ICT workshops (all ICT classes)
- Junior Great Books K-12
- Bank Street Mathematics Consultants K-5
- FOSS Science Consultant K-5
- Ramapo – all clusters and support staff
- Playworks – recess staff
- Metropolitan Opera Guild
- SRI Winter Meeting (PLC work)
- Teachers College Special Education Working Group
- Danielson Frameworks Training – all staff, new staff, administrators, coaches
- Harvard Professional Development - Leadership
- Math Workshop training – Peggy and Pierina
- Title IIB Math workshops - Ram
- Coaching Staff – Administrators
- Cahn Fellowship – Stacey and Dan
- Common Core PD – all staff (Wednesday and after-school work)

b. CSG is undergoing a change as a way to revitalize our CEP process. Committees are meeting together in small action research groups to do the work of the CSG. Three committees are participating in action research:

- Academic Success & Parent Involvement: Liz Perez, Chair – Develop a common language around learning, strengthen organization and time management skills, and develop strategies for proactive, productive and timely communication about at-risk students.
- Renaissance Person and Global Competencies & School Environment and Safety: Sarah Berenstain, Chair – Identify the shared values at TRCS, leadership attributes and how they may be learned and practiced among our students and the necessary global competencies our students will need to be successful at Renaissance and beyond.
- Technology, Professional Development, Communication, & Collaboration: Marta Kowalska, Chair – Review, revise and implement a school-wide technology plan that will lead to ways to increase technological literacy among our K-12 students, make recommendations to increase our building's ability to support more devices, and support teachers in technology-related professional development.

c. We are still looking for Math/SPED teacher in HS and widening the net considerably by contacting universities all over the tri-state area. Interim measures include teacher's aide in the classroom. We are out of compliance in the ICT classes.

- 8) CIPA Policy, report given by Matthew Delforte. Federal law requires schools participating in the E-Rate program to create an internet use policy that is compliant with the Children’s Internet Protection Act (“CIPA”) and other federal laws referenced by CIPA. TRCS amended its technology policies to include the required CIPA provisions (attached.) The CIPA policy requires us to schedule training for students and staff to ensure that everyone understands their obligations under the policy.

Motion to approve the Children’s Internet Protection Act Policy; unanimously approved.

- 9) Review and Vote on DASA Coordinator, reported by Stacey Gauthier. Proposal by SMT that Suzanne Arnold, the Administrator for School Culture, become the required coordinator for the newly adopted policy.

Motion to approve Suzanne Arnold as the Dignity for All Students Act Coordinator; unanimously approved.

- 10) Lice Complaint – Report given by Stacey Gauthier. One of our parents in the 3rd grade filed a complaint with Department of Health, the Special Commissioner of Investigation and others because of an ongoing problem with lice in the 3rd grade. 6 out of 25 children were affected by lice and/or nits. At this time we have only one student with nits, but we are not sure if the house and family of this child are treating the other members of the household and taking care of the physical home, despite all of the school’s efforts to educate the family on appropriate steps to eradicate lice and nits in the home. Stacey informed the Board of the school’s exhaustive efforts the school has taken to eradicate the lice problem, outlining the steps and measures detailed in her report (attached), and also advised that the school has followed all of the Department of Health’s (the agency with jurisdiction over this matter) rules and protocols for addressing lice problems. She also said that as a matter of policy and practice the school has adopted and follows the DOH’s rules and protocols on this issue. After discussion, the Board expressed its approval of the school's efforts and response to the situation, remarking that the principal’s and school management teams' response to the problem is exemplary. The Board expressed concern that the appropriate complaint process was not followed and not supported by the DOE. The Board agreed that they will send the minutes with all the attachments along with a cover letter to the DOE as requested. The Board authorizes Counsel to send the letter Counsel has recommended, indicating that our School Counsel does not believe SCI has jurisdiction over this matter.

Motion to approve authorizing Counsel to send the letter described above; unanimously approved.

- 11) Board Committee Reports – Board Finance and Audit Committee Report included in Accountant’s Report. No other Board Committee reports.

- 12) New Business:

- a. Nancy Condyles raised question about voting members. Like Nancy, Everett is another "appointed teacher" on the board, and Stacey and Nancy have been non-

voting members to keep the board in compliance. Nancy would like to be the voting member, rather than Everett. The Board asked Counsel to look at the By-laws to find out what the process is to designate voting members.

- b. Everyone is invited to Latin American Carnivale on February 15.
- c. One of our founding members, Meryl Thompson, sends greetings to the board.

13) Public Speaking – No Public Speakers.

14) Motion to adjourn the public meeting at 8:05 p.m. and move into executive session for the purpose of discussing litigation and attorney-client privileged matters.