

The Renaissance

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

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

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May 2, 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 6:55 PM.

1. Chairperson's Welcome – Vice Chairperson, Monte Joffe opened the meeting by thanking everyone for their commitment to the ongoing work at The Renaissance Charter School. He also said that he is looking forward to the end-of-year activities, especially graduation. Mr Joffe relayed the best wishes to The Board and the school community, on behalf of Sandra Geyer, Chairperson, who is requesting a leave of absence to take care of some personal matters.
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, Rachel Mandel, Conor McCoy and Francine Smith.
Absent – Sandra Geyer. Also present – Liz Perez, Daniel Fanelli, Ana Falla-Riff, Denise Hur, Elise Castillo
4. Approval of February 7, 2018 minutes – Approved
5. Budget Discussion and Fiscal Plan – Stacey Gauthier
 - a. Financial Planning for 2018-2019
 - i. There was an increase of \$932 per student combining the per pupil and the legislative appropriations from FY 18 to FY 19.
 - ii. Due to the advocacy efforts of Patrick Jenkins and Associates in Albany (PBJ), conversion charter schools received a \$500,000 legislative grant for FY 19. Of that \$204,125 will be allocated to Renaissance.
 - iii. The State continues its commitment to seeing this through and leadership has spoken to the City Administration calling on the City to acknowledge the burden it has unfairly placed on the

“Developing Leaders for the Renaissance of New York”

- conversion charter schools, and should grant funds to address the budgetary shortfall it has created through its contract.
- iv. As recently as Tuesday, Speaker Heastie has spoken directly with the Mayor about this issue. The City is now in the midst of its budget process. Since our meeting with the City in November, they have been analyzing our numbers versus theirs, and there is a desire to address our issue by budget adoption in June.
 - v. PBJ will continue to advocate, and we have been securing support through other elected officials to pressure the City to meet its obligations.
 - vi. While the increase in revenues for next year certainly improves our budget situation, it is not enough to cover the ongoing contractual costs or to make up for uncovered costs over the past few years.
 - vii. Our bank reserves are down to \$380,840.
 - viii. We have three more lump sum contractual retroactive payments to make in 2019, 2020 and 2021. These are the largest payments of 25% each. Each lump sum payment will total over half a million dollars. To put this in perspective, 41% of our staff will receive 3 individual payments of between \$10,000 and \$20,000. 24% of our staff will receive payments between \$5,000 and \$9,999. This is significant not only in the cost itself, but the impact on the pension costs as well.
 - ix. We also have two more teacher contract increases in May and June and CSA increases in September and October.
- b. Actions to be taken in the short-term –
- i. Continue working with paid lobbyist who has successfully brought us in \$545,000 and will hopefully bring more funding and a long-term structural fix to our issue.
 - ii. We will add 8 students to our roster next year. In the past, we have not “filled” the seats that D75 students hold.
 - iii. Eliminate Wednesdays at the “Y” and Boys and Girls Club.
 - iv. Not replace 3 positions of personnel leaving TRCS: Richard, Meredith and George.
 - v. Eliminate a grant-funded counselor position and an f-status paraprofessional.
 - vi. Review and cut certain positions paying stipends.
 - vii. Request an SBO to allow for staff meetings to be a part of all teachers’ work day thus saving on per session.
 - viii. Eliminate morning advisory
 - ix. Limit overall per session.
 - x. Eliminate certain High School Leadership Programs.
 - xi. No school-funded summer programs this summer.
 - xii. Limit office staffing the summer.
 - xiii. Request PTA and Friends Of to do more fundraising.
 - xiv. Support more Donor’s Choose Projects.
 - xv. Limit teacher RFPs for this summer. There will be some reading RFPs and some grant-funded math opportunities.
 - xvi. Assign pro-periods to cover advisory and small group instruction. (No morning advisory)
 - xvii. Curb general spending.
 - xviii. Move Rensizzle to March – This will support preparing for Renewal and give us a chance to raise funds for Rensizzle.

- c. Actions to be taken in the long-term –
 - i. Consider requesting an enrollment increase with our charter renewal.
 - ii. When hiring, hire less experienced (and thus, less costly) staff.
 - iii. Ask UFT Chapter to participate in advocacy. Work to engage support from Michael Mulgrew.

- d. Goals –
 - i. Maintain program integrity and Mission / Vision.
 - ii. Ensure financial viability for the school long-term through wise budgeting, advocacy, fund raising.
 - iii. Advocate for a long-term structural fix which includes have a voice in all contract negotiations.

- e. Questions, Answers, and Additional Concerns –
 - i. Q. Chester – Have we gotten our first payment?
A. Stacey - \$341,000 was paid to us for FY 2017. We haven't received our money for this FY. We are expecting that to happen.
 - ii. It might be worth our while to have PBJ come to the June Board Meeting to present a report on their efforts regarding fiscal advocacy.
 - iii. The DOE is maybe considering an allowance for an enrollment float. We might want to consider requesting a class-size increase to increase revenue. At this point an enrollment increase is only allowable with an approved revision to our charter. As a conversion charter school, we are looking for a structural fix that would support our pension and benefit costs.
 - iv. Q. Monte – would publicity like an article in the NY Times be helpful
A. Stacey – Patrick believes that their advocacy efforts and lobbying elected officials is working, however if this fails, publicity of this kind is something that he is willing to do.

- 6. Collaborative School Governance Committee Report – Everett Boyd
The report was distributed to The Board in the meeting packet and presented by Mr. Boyd.

- 7. Board Members' New Business – None

- 8. Public Speaking – None

- 9. Adjournment of Public Session – 7:45 p.m.

- 10. Executive Session – Convened at 8:00 p.m.