

DRAFT MINUTES

RENAISSANCE ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOL OF THE ARTS

Board of Trustees

April 4, 2017

Location: 299 Kirk Road, Rochester, New York 14612

Mission: *Renaissance Academy Charter School of the Arts will provide children an enriched and rigorous educational experience through the infusion of the humanities and arts rooted in a culture of high academic standards leading to success in college and careers.*

Welcome/Call to Order and Introductions 5:16 PM

- **Members Present:** Alan Lockwood, Dale Klein, Steve Gordon, Marilynn Patterson-Grant
- **Members Absent:** Bert Brinkerhoff
- **Others Present:** Donna Marie Cozine, Craig Eichmann, Aaron Rosen, Zach Harrison, Nan Westervelt, Tom Lake, John Loury.

Approval of Consent Agenda Items

[Note: *Single items can be removed from the list and considered separately at the request of a Board of Trustees member***]**

- **Motion 54.6 to approve Consent Agenda for Items listed below:**
- **(Motion 54.7 to approve Minutes from February 14, 2017 Board Meeting.)**
- **(Motion 54.8 to approve April 4, 2017 Agenda.)**
- **Motion to approve: Steve Gordon Seconded: Dale Klein**
- **Ayes: 3 Nays: 0**

- **Marilynn Patterson-Grant arrived after the vote, at 5:17pm.**

Chief Educational Officer Annual Report [Donna Marie Cozine]

- **Motion 54.9 to appoint Mr. Eric Fehrenbach to the position of Assistant Teacher, Third Grade:**
- **Motion to approve: Steve Gordon Seconded: Dale Klein**
- **Ayes: 4 Nays: 0**

- **Motion 55.0 to appoint Mr. Dylan Gramlich to the position of Assistant Teacher, Kindergarten:**
- **Motion to approve: Marilynn Patterson-Grant Seconded: Dale Klein**
- **Ayes: 4 Nays: 0**

- **Motion 55.1 to approve the 2017-2018 School Calendar as presented:**
- **Discussion: Approved for 2 weeks less (183 days instead of 191), NYSED granted the exception to Charter for construction purposes. Early dismissals. Parent-Teacher conference: One scheduled calendar day, then teachers schedule conferences with parents as needed throughout the year. Description of methods of contact with parents, teachers are in close contact through phone calls, emails and apps, robocall/emails, etc.**
- **Motion to approve: Dale Klein Seconded: Steve Gordon**
- **Ayes: 4 Nays: 0**

- **Nan Westervelt and Tom Lake gave a presentation to the Board about Arts Integration, and what the process is using AI to teach core subjects. Mr. Lake demonstrated an example of how drama was used to illustrate a Social Studies lesson and bring the lesson alive. Mrs. Westervelt and Mr. Lake gave a very detailed overview of how the music, dance and drama Arts Integration teachers work with the classroom**

teachers to educate RA's students in unique ways while meeting all NYSED standards. Dr. Patterson-Grant suggested sharing the detailed information about exactly how RA's Arts Integration program works on the website, creating visual indicators like posters and flyers, and modeling a lesson for incoming new families.

- Dr. Cozine presented the results from the Parent Survey to the Board. Dr. Cozine addressed the issues that parents identified as important to them, and detailed the ways in which the administration and the School Improvement Team are working to increase parent involvement at RA.
- Dr. Cozine presented the NWEA Test Results for Winter 2017. National averages and increases were compared with RA's averages, as well as the Fall testing window in comparison to the Winter testing window. Next steps for improving testing scores and addressing weaker areas were explained to the Board.
- Board Member Dale Klein left the meeting at 6:17pm.

Finance Committee Report

- **The Finance Committee did not meet due to the absence of Bert Brinkerhoff.**
- **Alan Lockwood spoke to the details of the financial situation. Mr. Eichmann indicated that the State Department has not arrived at a budget decision; however, the requirement of Charter Schools is that the budget must be voted upon each year in April. He explained the differences that may arise due to this situation. There are no major discrepancies from the current budget, other than the growth of the teaching staff as planned for in the 5-year plan.**
- **Budget voting is tabled until May Finance Committee meeting, and Board meeting.**

Facilities Committee Report [Steven Gordon, Alan Lockwood]

- **Phase 4 is now Phase 4A and Phase 4B, due to budgeting.**

Human Resources Committee Report (Alan Lockwood)

- **Looking at additional benefits as identified by employees in the Staff Survey.**
- **Focus on the Evaluation of the CEO.**

Governance Committee Report (Dale Klein)

- **Election of Officers and Class of 2017 & 2018 Trustees will be voted on at the Annual Meeting on August 11, 2015.**
- **Motion 55.2 Renaissance Academy Charter School of the Arts Board of Trustees, having conducted a thorough background check via a fingerprint scan as required and having discovered no State or federal criminal history, or having provided such history to SED if found, has voted to select Dr. Makini Beck as a final candidate to its Board of Trustees, with a term expiring on 4/2020, pending approval by SED. The resolution approving Dr. Makini Beck is formally adopted upon SED's approval.**
- **Motion to approve: MPG Seconded: SG**
- **Ayes: 3 Nays: 0**
- **Motion 55.3 Renaissance Academy Charter School of the Arts Board of Trustees, having conducted a thorough background check via a fingerprint scan as required and having discovered no State or federal criminal history, or having provided such history to SED if found, has voted to select Mr. Zachary Harrison as a final candidate to its Board of Trustees, with a term expiring on 4/2020, pending approval by SED. The resolution approving Mr. Zachary Harrison is formally adopted upon SED's approval.**
- **Motion to approve: TABLED Seconded:**
- **Ayes: Nays:**
- **Motion 55.4 Renaissance Academy Charter School of the Arts Board of Trustees, having conducted a thorough background check via a fingerprint scan as required and having discovered no State or federal criminal history, or having provided such history to SED if found, has voted to select Dr.**

Aaron Rosen as a final candidate to its Board of Trustees, with a term expiring on 4/2020, pending approval by SED. The resolution approving Dr. Aaron Rosen is formally adopted upon SED's approval.

- Motion to approve: MPG Seconded: SG
- Ayes: 3 Nays: 0

- Motion 55.5 to re-elect retroactively Board Chairperson Alan Lockwood to another term, determined as 4/2016 - 4/2018.
- Motion to approve: MPG Seconded: SG
- Ayes: 3 Nays: 0

- Motion 55.6 to re-elect retroactively Board Secretary Dale Klein to another term, determined as 4/2016 - 4/2018.
- Motion to approve: MPG Seconded: SG
- Ayes: 3 Nays: 0

- Governance Committee will review each policy and procedure for relevance and correct language.
- Governance Committee will create a spreadsheet that enumerates the Charter points, and determine what is being done according to the Charter and what needs to be fine-tuned.

Resource Development Committee Report (Marilynn Patterson-Grant)

- Thank you to Board Members who have brought in gift cards. If members have not contributed gift cards already, they need to do so.
- Board members are asked to sell at least 4 tickets to the ButaPub event on April 28.
- John Loury spoke to the Board regarding the feasibility study and the Capital Campaign. John explained the reasoning behind the aim of 150 target people, and why we target people who are close to supporters of Renaissance. He also explained the purpose of the feasibility study, which is a non-financial commitment to interview with Cause & Effect to gauge the potential for the capital campaign. John indicated that we need 47 more names to reach the goal of 150.

- Steve Gordon left the meeting at 6:49pm. (Mr. Lockwood and Dr. Patterson-Grant remain.)

Old Business

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New Business

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Public Comments

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Adjournment at 6:56PM

- Motion 55.7 to approve adjournment:
- Motion to approve: Seconded:
- Ayes: 2 Nays: 0