

## **APPROVED MEETING MINUTES**

### **RENAISSANCE ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOL OF THE ARTS**

**Board of Trustees**

**March 13, 2018**

**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 5:05 PM**

##### **Members Present:**

Mr. Alan Lockwood  
Dr. Patterson-Grant  
Mr. Steve Gordon  
Mrs. Dale Klein  
Mr. Bert Brinkerhoff  
Dr. Makini Beck

##### **Members Absent:**

Dr. Aaron Rosen, Mr. Zachary Harrison

##### **Others Present:**

Dr. Donna Marie Cozine, Mr. Craig Eichmann, Kristin Loftus, RA Math Specialist, Dr. Guy Arie

#### **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 64.4 to approve Consent Agenda for Items listed below:**
- **(Motion to approve March 13, 2018 Agenda.)**
- **(Motion to approve Minutes from February 13, 2018 Board Meeting.)**
- **Motion to approve: Mr. Bert Brinkerhoff Seconded: Mrs. Dale Klein**
- **Ayes: 5 Nays: 0**

#### **Chief Educational Officer Report [Dr. Donna Marie Cozine]**

Presentation on how RA uses data to inform instruction by Mrs. Kristin Loftus, RA Math Specialist. Mrs. Loftus explained the method used to analyze students' responses to get to 2 point construction. During the process of the data dive strategies for helping students read with fidelity were discussed. How to use the CUBE strategy, read carefully and providing for mock tests. Using item analysis to build stamina and review

topics that need review. We are providing for guided math practice for students that are doing fine to guide them to achieve even higher.

Dr. Cozine added that we utilized released questions from prior years. We are providing for dress rehearsals to remove the barrier of test anxiety for our students. We will continue to score our own tests so that we can identify areas that we need to focus on. We are doing lots of data driven work and we are so fortunate to have Mrs. Loftus, a Ph.D. candidate, writing curriculum and guiding our Math program.

*(Dr. Makini Beck arrived at 5:15 p.m.)*

Dr. Cozine shared student work samples taken from our students' math journals. The samples show growth over time. We have had a positive experience with the implementation of journaling. Dr. Grant shared that math is a thinking process and you can see the process of the students moving from a rudimentary math approach to the higher order thinking approach.

CUBES strategy has allowed us to have a school wide approach that can be applied to both math and ELA. The student reads for understanding then applies the CUBES strategy (Circle the numbers, Underline the question, Box the action words, Evaluate the next steps to take and Solve the problem).

### **Science Night**

March 22, 2017 we will host 60 students and their families. We expect well over 130 to host for dinner and science activities. Dr. Kelly, a parent in our school will be leading this with a contingency of students from Brockport. Dr. Cozine extended an invitation for any members of the Board that would like to join the event.

### **ELL Student Outreach**

Dr. Cozine shared that Mrs. Kimberly Felton, Family Services Coordinator has been working diligently to recruit ESOL students.

### **School Safety**

Dr. Cozine reviewed that we have 5-7 adults outside when the busses arrive. Teachers must turn in attendance by 9:00 a.m. If a student is absent, we send a Robo call. Our students are walked by the teachers to their busses and we utilize detailed lists. We check via radio to be certain that all classrooms are clear, the afterschool program is accounted for and all pick up students are accounted for. We have always been extra vigilant especially since we are not a neighborhood school. Mr. Eichmann, Mr. Hurst and the entire Administrative team work together to make this transition from school to home is as smooth as possible. We always have strategically placed our security and Mr. Hurst at the road and front door.

### **Education Committee Report (Dr. Makini Beck)**

We are working on the re-chartering document that has ten sections. We are following a process for completing and reviewing each section. Northeast Charter Network will be working with us.

We are looking at ways to efficiently assess our students that would be better alternatives to DRAs and NWEAs. We have been piloting iReady in four of our classrooms. The feedback has been positive. It is a culturally responsive online program that walks them through skills in a game format using Avatars. The iReady is flexible and allows for individualized, differentiated programming. This program will meet the needs of all of our students, including students who need to learn at a higher level because it goes from K-8 levels versus the current programs that are only available K-5. The cost is the same if we switch programs but it is a charter revision.

**Motion 64.5 to adopt iReady as a school-wide assessment tool**

- Motion to approve: Mr. Steve Gordon    Seconded: Mr. Brinkerhoff
- Ayes: 6        Nays: 0

*(Bert Brinkerhoff excused himself at 6:10 p.m.)*

Discussion regarding Dashboard data and how to best present data to the Board. Dr. Guy Arie offered his assistance in this area and will work with Dr. Cozine on how to best present relevant data at future meetings. Dr. Arie revised the RA Organizational Dashboard.

**Development Committee Report (Dr. Aaron Rosen)**

Dr. Grant shared the details of the upcoming German House "Reach for the Stars" with a goal of raising \$4000 for our school. Dr. Cozine, in honor of her Grandmother Kozma has donated \$30,000 to the school. This was matched by Dr. Barbara Cozine for a total of \$60,000 donated to our school. The Board passed a resolution to name the new library in her honor. The Helen J. and Theodore J. Kozma.

**Finance Committee Report (Bert Brinkerhoff)**

At this time the Finance committee is meeting to review the upcoming budget.

**Facilities Committee Report [Steven Gordon, Alan Lockwood]**

We anticipate that we can move items in mid-July and will get the C of O late August. Mr. Lockwood would like us to plan a grand opening. Dr. Grant suggested that in conjunction with the dedication of the new library we do the entire celebration and ribbon cutting.

**Human Resources Committee Report (Alan Lockwood)**

**Governance Committee Report (Dale Klein)**

Mrs. Klein reports that Mrs. Barry is still working on her paperwork. We do not have it in hand at this time. Dr. Arie has completed his paperwork and fingerprinting.

**Motion 64.6 to approve Dr. Guy Arie as a Board Member**

*Motion [64.6]:*

*The 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. Guy Arie as a final candidate to its Board of Trustees, with a term expiring on 4/2021, pending approval by SED. The resolution approving Dr. Guy Arie is formally adopted upon SED's approval.*

- Motion to approve: Dr. Patterson-Grant Seconded: Mr. Gordon
- Ayes: 5      Nays: 0

Mrs. Klein and Mrs. Nancy Goethel will coordinate with submission of necessary paperwork to New York State.

Mrs. Klein reported that we need a new slate of officers in June. Please be thinking if you are interested in serving as an officer.

Mr. Zachary Harrison has been working with Causeway on future Board training and their suggestion is that we form a task force. If anyone has an interest in serving with Mrs. Klein, Dr. Cozine and Mr. Harrison please let her know.

**Old Business**

**New Business**

**Public Comments**

**Adjournment at 6:45 PM**

- Motion 64.7 to approve adjournment:
- Motion to approve: Dr. Makini Beck    Seconded: Dr. Patterson-Grant
- Ayes: 5      Nays: