

APPROVED MINUTES

RENAISSANCE ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOL OF THE ARTS

Board of Trustees

January 12, 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.*

1. Welcome/Call to Order and Introductions 5:03PM

- **Attending:** Steve Gordon, Bert Brinkerhoff, Alan Lockwood, Dale Klein, Cait Loury, Craig Eichmann, Dr. Donna Marie Cozine, Zach Harrison, Dr. Makini Beck, Michelle Gannon-clerk.
- **Absent:** Dr. Marilynn Patterson-Grant is absent and requests that it is noted that she had a prior engagement.

2. 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 52.7 to approve temporary rule to limit public comment to 30 minutes total, with an allowance of 3 minutes per speaker on the sign up list:**
 - **Motion to approve:** Steve Gordon **Seconded:** Dale Klein
 - **Ayes: 4 Nays: 0**
- Mr. Lockwood and Mr. Eichmann spoke about the data breach regarding addresses and phone numbers that were accessed from RA's database. Mr. Eichmann explained that the NYSED has been contacted and are satisfied with the measures taken by RA to identify the source of the leak, and to ensure that the laws regarding FERPA violations are being followed.
- **Motion 52.8 to approve Consent Agenda for Items listed below.**
 - **(Motion 52.9 to approve Minutes from December 13, 2016.)**
 - **(Motion 53.0 to approve the 01-12-2017 agenda)**
 - **Motion to approve:** Bert Brinkerhoff **Seconded:** Steve Gordon
 - **Ayes: 4 Nays: 0**

3. Chief Educational Officer Annual Report [Donna Marie Cozine]

- **Motion 53.1 to appoint Mrs. Caitlin Loury to the position of Director of Elementary Education:**
- **Motion to approve:** Steve Gordon **Seconded:** Dale Klein
- **Ayes: 4 Nays: 0**
- Mrs. Loury spoke briefly to accept the appointment.
- Dr. Cozine offered her monthly report to the Board. Key points were the results of the Staff Survey from December, 2016; Staff Retention statistics for RA, local Charter Schools, and National Charter Schools; and Diversity Statistics with regard to staff and staff retention at RA.
- Mr. Hurst spoke briefly on the integrity and effectiveness of RA's leadership.

4. Finance and Audit Committee Report [Bert Brinkerhoff]

- Mr. Brinkerhoff gave a brief summary of RA's current financial overview, and stated that financially, things are sound.
- Recommendation for the 403(b) retirement plan with match for employees, which includes immediate vesting, a 1% match for years 1 through 3 of employment, and a 5% match for years 4-plus of employment.
- **Motion 53.2 to approve a 403(b) match incentive for employees:**
- **Motion to approve:** Dale Klein **Seconded:** Steve Gordon
- **ROLL CALL vote**
 - Steve Gordon xYES
 - Bert Brinkerhoff xYES
 - Alan Lockwood xYES
 - Dale Klein xYES

5. Facilities Committee [Steven Gordon & Alan Lockwood]

- Mr. Eichmann spoke about next-phase building plans. The Facilities Committee will offer a proposal for the February Board meeting for the design concept of the fourth phase, the Fine Arts Building. Board members were invited to review the design information prior to the February meeting, in order to vote on the proposal.

6. Human Resources Committee Report [Alan Lockwood]

- Mr. Lockwood spoke about addressing staff and teacher retention through proper incentives and rewards.

7. Governance Committee Report [Dale Klein]

- New prospective board members have been invited to the meeting.
- **Motion 53.3 to approve Dr. Aaron Rosen:**
- **Motion to approve:** Bert Brinkerhoff **Seconded:** Steve Gordon
- Brief Discussion of Dr. Rosen's credentials.
- **Ayes: 4 Nays:0**

- **Motion 53.4 to approve Dr. Makini Beck:**
- **Motion to approve:** Dale Klein **Seconded:** Bert Brinkerhoff
- Brief discussion of Dr. Beck's credentials. Dr. Beck expressed her excitement to be involved.
- **Ayes: 4 Nays: 0**

- Discuss changing the day of Board meetings in Governance committee meeting and make a recommendation at the February Board Meeting.

8. Resource Development Committee Report (Marilynn Patterson-Grant)

- In Dr. Grant's absence, Dr. Cozine spoke of the recent and upcoming fundraising events.

9. Old Business - none

10. New Business - none

11. Public Comments -

- Members of the public in attendance (parents) raised several areas of concern. Specific concerns were:
 - lack of parent representation on the Board of Trustees
 - lack of timely communication between the Board and families
 - the circumstances surrounding Mr. Kittelberger's resignation
 - staff retention
 - parents shared their support for Mr. Kittelberger and shared what they thought he

- brought to the school community
- Additional parents and staff members shared the following:
 - support for Dr. Cozine's leadership
 - trust in the decisions made by the school leadership
 - overall satisfaction with their child(ren)'s experience at RA

12. Adjournment at 6:55

- **Motion 53.5 to approve adjournment:**
Motion to approve: Steve Gordon **Seconded:** Bert Brinkerhoff
- **Ayes: 4 Nays: 0**