MEETING MINUTES

RENAISSANCE ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOL OF THE ARTS
Board of Trustees
January 8, 2019
5:00 PM
Location: 299 Kirk Road Rochester, New York

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

- **Members Present:** Mr. Steve Gordon, Dr. Marilynn Patterson-Grant, Mr. Bert Brinkerhoff, Mrs. Janine Barry, Mrs. Dale Klein, Dr. Aaron Rosen, Dr. Guy Arie (via video conference)
- **Members Absent:** Dr. Makini Beck, Mr. Zachary Harrison
- **Others Present:** Alan Lockwood, Dr. Donna Marie Cozine, Mr. Craig Eichmann

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 69.5 to approve Consent Agenda for Items listed below:**
- **(Motion to approve January 8, 2019 Agenda.)**
- **(Motion to approve Minutes from December 11, 2018 Board Meeting.)**
- **Motion to approve:** Mrs. Dale Klein **Seconded:** Mr. Bert Brinkerhoff
- **Ayes: 7 Nays: 0**

Chief Educational Officer Report [Dr. Donna Marie Cozine]
Dr. Cozine presented Arts Integrated education research. The Mission of Renaissance Academy Charter School of the Arts is to provide our students an enriched and rigorous education through the humanities and arts integration leading to success in college, career, and life. A focus on arts and arts integration will assist in achieving RA's mission. In their work, Arts Education Navigator, Americans for the Arts, culled through hundreds of bodies of work including research, surveys, and reports. They found that students who come from poverty and are highly in engaged in the arts are more than twice as likely to graduate college than their peers with no education, the dropout rate for these students is 4%, 5 times lower than their peers, and are more likely to obtain gainful employment and volunteer in their communities than their peers. With regard to gaining acceptance to an institute of higher learning, students who engaged in arts and music for four years averaged 100 points or better than their peers on their SAT than those who take only one-half year or less. Further, 72% of business leaders have indicated that when they are seeking employees the number one skill they look for is creativity. The NEA commissioned James Catterall to determine if there was a link between high arts involvement and academic success particularly for students of poverty. Catterall(2012) concluded "In the annals of education research, it is hard to find average performance or outcome statistics reported for low socioeconomic status students that exceed such measures for the entire population.

¬A Results that Indicate AI is an Effective Instructional Methodology
A review of the NYS Assessments 3-year trend report in ELA and math shows that there are aspects of the program that have improved since we began. Specifically, ELA students' capacity to answer questions based on Reading Informational Text has steadily increased over time. In math, the standard trend report indicated that 2 number and operations-fractions standards and 5 standards

in operations and algebraic thinking have improved. Reviewing the trend report for grade 4 ELA, RA actually performed better than the region in three of the reading-informational text standards. RA showed improvement in two of the reading-literature standards. RA used arts integration as an instructional medium to grow student achievement in ELA and math. Several arts integration units targeted the aforementioned standards upon which students improved. For example, 4th-grade students performed 10% better than the region in 2018 on Math Standard 4.MD.6, which states that students should be able to, "measure angles in whole-number degrees using a protractor," and, "sketch angles with a specific measurement." That standard was one of the main targets of a visual arts integrated unit on Islamic Mosque Art and geometry. Furthermore, 4th-grade students performed several percentage points higher than the region on ELA Standards RI.4.2 and RI.4.3. The first which involves determining the main idea of a text, supporting it with key details, and summarizing. The second which involves explaining events, ideas, etc... in a historical, scientific, or technical text. Those two standards were the focus of a drama integrated unit on creating weather report videos. In conclusion, RA is not "an experiment that isn't working", rather we are a school that is using various methodologies to reach our student population from Rochester which is rated, the city with the most child poverty in the state. RA's leadership is confident that AI will be one solution of many that will help to mitigate the effects of poverty and other adverse childhood experiences that negatively impact student learning.

Dr. Grant suggested that the report in its entirety should be shared electronically with absent board members and provided to Paul as a framework.

The Board thanked Dr. Cozine for the thorough research shared.

Education Committee Report

Dr. Guy Arie related that the committee reviewed three possible candidates for retaining and external curriculum consultant. The committee unanimously recommends we proceed with Paul Powell
Rational for this decision:

- Powell will focus on instruction, curriculum, assessments
- During Powell's visit, he created terrific rapport with the teachers and leaders. He did an example live in class that was very impressive and impactful.
- Powell will help establish a working relationship with Uncommon Schools / Rochester Prep.
- Powell is the available at a reasonable fee.
- Powell will be more flexible with his availability as a local

- **Motion 69.6 to approve moving forward with the intent to hire Paul Powell as a curriculum consultant predicated on the review of the scope of services resulting in a positive recommendation by the academic committee.**

Roll call vote:
Mr. Steven Gordon (YES)
Dr. Marilynn Patterson Grant (YES)
Mr. Bert Brinkerhoff (YES)
Mrs. Dale Klein (YES)
Dr. Aaron Rosen (YES)
Dr. Guy Arie (YES)
Mrs. Janine Barry (YES)

- **Motion to approve:** Dr. Patterson-Grant **Seconded:** Mrs. Klein
- **Ayes: 7 Nays: 0**

Further discussion included teacher professional development for teachers. Ways and means for funding as well as identifying dedicated times throughout the year for professional development. An ad hoc committee will be assembled to review this topic.

Mrs. Dale Klein and Dr. Guy Arie left the meeting.

Development Committee Report (Dr. Aaron Rosen)
Dr. Rosen reported that the Barnes and Noble fundraiser was a success raising $1407.48. The Fall Campaign has done exceptionally well. We do have Gala sponsors trickling in and the committee is encouraging the Board members to reach out to family/friends to send in their commitments for the upcoming Gala.

Mr. Eichmann shared that the sign company will be on campus installing signs. The signs are the result of Dr. Cozine's substantial gift to our school library in honor of her late grandmother, Helen J. Kozma.

Finance Committee Report (Bert Brinkerhoff)

Human Resources Committee Report (Janine Barry)
Dr. Cozine reported that the committee is recommending adding a position that would focus on the academic aspect. This position will report directly to Dr. Cozine. The committee is asking for approval of the position predicated on a finalization of the reporting structure.

- **Motion 69.7 to approve staff Curriculum Position:**
  Roll call vote:
  Mr. Steven Gordon (YES)
  Dr. Marilynn Patterson Grant (YES)
  Mr. Bert Brinkerhoff (YES)
  Dr. Aaron Rosen (YES)
  Mrs. Janine Barry (YES)

- **Motion to approve:** Dr. Rosen **Seconded:** Mrs. Barry
- **Ayes:** 5 **Nays:** 0

Governance Committee Report (Zach Harrison)
In the absence of the Mr. Harrison Dr. Cozine shared that the committee will be meeting on February 5th and will be discussing board limits as well as potential new board members.

Old Business

New Business

Public Comments

Adjournment at 5:55 PM
- **Motion 69.8 to approve adjournment:**
- **Motion to approve:** Dr. Patterson-Grant **Seconded:** Mrs. Barry
- **Ayes: 5 Nays: 0**