



**Boston Renaissance Charter Public School  
Board of Trustees Meeting  
Wednesday, March 21, 2018**

Attendance: Senam Kumahia, Lupita Bispham, Edwine Alphonse, Shaumba Dibinga, Stacia Copeland, Fred Lowery, Brian Keith

Guests: Alexandra Buckmire, Phil Littlehale, Franklin Shearer

Call to order: 8:09 a.m.

Review and Approval of Minutes:

L. Bispham: Motion to Approve January 17, 2018 minutes with approved typographical edit. Seconded by L. Bispham. So moved.

Public comment: No comment.

Welcome to our newest board member: Fred Lowry – Introductions

**Head of School Report** - Presented by A. Buckmire

The school has had five snow days and needs to complete the 180-day requirement and so we are thinking of having Saturday classes in the summer. Graduation will still take place on June 8<sup>th</sup>. The expectation as of now is that students will return after graduation. MCAS has been a bit of a challenge with the snow days, but the dates for testing will not be changed.

School safety continues to remain a top priority at the school. We have assessed areas of vulnerability and are working on making improvements to the main entrance and pods. We have had conversations with older children about what happened in regards to the school shooting. We have reached out to ALICE for additional training to ensure protocols are current and we are continuing to work with local police to keep schools safe.

S. Kumahia: What has been the conversation with parents?

A. Buckmire: We practice unannounced drills and have procedures in place. We also sent a letter to parents asking for updated contact information, etc.

Four 4<sup>th</sup> grade students have launched school-wide anti-bullying campaign called the “Kindness Club.”

### **Finance & Operations Report** - Presented by E. Alphonse & P. Littlehale

We have reviewed the preliminary budget and we will end with a deficit of close to \$300k but we don't have final numbers yet. We won't know until mid-April but we are budgeting at 99% of this year's actual. The goal is to have a budget finalized in April. Hopefully we will have a final tuition budget in April as well. We should have a meeting on April 25<sup>th</sup> to discuss the budget.

For fiscal year 2018: we are predicting a surplus. We are having a hard time filling bus monitor positions, but should be able to hire early next school year within the budget.

Harvard Pilgrim health insurance is estimated at an 11.4% increase for next year. We have been communicating with the broker on those numbers. We may have to see what else is out there, although changing health insurance providers can be disruptive for staff.

There is a possible land opportunity for the school – we will gather more information and report.

### **Strategic Planning Process** – Presented by F. Shearer

We are ending the research phase of the process. We are somewhat delayed because the consultants had some difficulty hearing back from some interviewees and wanted a decent sample size. We have almost completed all interviews and will provide a summary report of the research from the interviews and conversations with the leadership team and other charter school leaders. It will be an anonymous report that will be provided by the end of this month.

The consultants will also provide a SWOT analysis regarding enrollment and space; academics and school climate; and discipline, among other things.

As of now the meeting with our consultants is on April 23<sup>rd</sup>, in which the trustees, leadership team and consultants will be present to discuss research and analysis results.

### **Board Development** – Presented by S. Kumahia

We had a conversation with Jacki Jenkins Scott and were impressed with her experience. She now has a consulting firm that advises organizations on better governance. Given her experience with boards, we think it would be helpful to work with her. She has also been supportive of the school at events, etc.

Shearer and Buckmire: We agree that it was a great meeting and believe it would be beneficial to work with her.

S. Kumahia: Motion to accept JJS Advising Consulting's Proposal to work with the school and board of trustees on board development.  
Seconded by L. Bispham. So moved.

## **Committee Updates**

### Academic

No new updates.

### Governance and Nomination

#### *Nomination of Vice Chair*

Lupita Bispham discussed as possible nomination to fill vacant Vice Chair role. We need a quorum, which we do not have now. The vote will be done at the next BOT meeting along with the nomination and vote of the clerk position.

### Parents of Renaissance

Family formal dance was amazing; there are pictures on the school's Facebook page.

Community service project at Cradles to Crayons with Ms. Lee – 9 students went and their project serviced about 300 children.

Parent movie coming up: "Boss Baby" will be featured.

### Events

Waffle brunch: May 4<sup>th</sup> at 11am - Teacher/Staff Appreciation Week; Board members will come to serve staff.

Next Wednesday, March 28th will be the second "It's a Guy Thing" event. The first event had a big turn out and so this time it will be extended to community members as well.

Conference: Coalition of Schools Educating Boys of Color is in Boston this year. It is a 3-day conference – F. Shearer will send out information

### Adjourn

L. Bispham: Motion to adjourn at 9:39 a.m. So moved.