

**Boston Renaissance Charter Public School
Board of Trustees
Special Meeting of the Board – FY19 Budget Proposal
Conference Call Meeting
April 25th, 2018, 8:00am**

Participants:

Board of Trustees: Edwine Alphonse, Lupita Bispham, Stacia Copeland, Aaron Kesler, Senam Kumahia, Fred Lowery, Kelly Williamson

BRCPS Staff: Alexandra Buckmire (Head of School), Phil Littlehale (CFO), Franklin Shearer

Meeting Called to Order at 8:08 by Senam Kumahia (Chair)

Edwine Alphonse, Treasurer –

- This meeting has been called to vote on the proposed budget, sent to Board members on April 23rd.
- We are waiting for DESE to provide the final tuition amount for SY19; when the official tuition amounts are released, the budget will be updated. We should have that number by early May and be able to have the final budget for the May 16th Board meeting.
- However, today we need to review the budget that was presented by Phil at the Finance Cmte. meeting on April 23rd because the school needs to post job openings and make operational decisions. Any changes to the budget will be presented and another vote will be taken on the final version.
- Please refer to the documents provided, Phil has included graphs in the first few pages to illustrate some of the major changes in revenue and expenses, including state and federal tuition reimbursements and grants, along with salaries and benefits. The graphs show changes over the last several years, from FY13 through FY18.
- You can see revenues are increasing but not keeping pace with increases in expenses.
- Right now, we have projected an operating loss of approximately \$300k, you can see on Line 8 of the budget. This is because we are budgeted at 99% of revenues. This loss may change, pending the tuition reimbursement amount to be announced by DESE.

Phil Littlehale, CFO:

- The graphs provide an overview, and all the details are provided in the budget, particularly the changes in this FY19 budget compared to FY18.
- With projected increases in tuition reimbursement, revenues are up, but expenses are also up.
- We see continued annual increases in the cost of health insurance benefits; this budget shows an increase in the cost of benefits at just 8% over the current year, which we were able to secure after negotiating with the carrier.

E. Alphonse – After reviewing the documents, are there any questions or concerns?

F. Lowery – The budget shows Professional Development costs down 50%, why such a large reduction in spending on professional development for staff?

A. Buckmire – That number has been reduced because we found a large portion of those funds were being used for out of state conferences and related travel. Conferences were being attended by administrators, not teachers, and we felt those funds were not being used in a way that will best support teachers and students. We are committed to providing quality professional development, and we want to target funds to ensure they are being used to support teachers and, ultimately, impacting students.

P. Littlehale – We showed some of these figures to the staff at a recent All Staff meeting so they could see what we are dealing with in terms of the rising cost of benefits.

K. Williamson – This 8% increase for health benefits seems to be a win, as we have had double-digit increases in recent years and we know the costs of benefits keeps going up.

P. Littlehale – Yes, the increases in the cost of health benefits have been between 14% and 22% in recent years, so we were happy to be able to get them to agree to 8% without making changes to the plan we offer to employees.

E. Alphonse – This is a good projection for the coming year, but it is just a projection. The finance committee and school leadership monitors the finances monthly to see how we are doing against our projections. This is a good picture of what the budget will look like, and we will update the Board as the new fiscal year progresses.

K. Williamson – What is the review process going to look like after DESE announces the tuition amount? Will that be the only line item to change, or will other changes be made?

A. Buckmire – The only line item that will change will be the revenue/tuition line. When we receive the tuition rate from DESE we will present an updated budget for the board to approve.

S. Kumahia – Motion to approve the budget as presented

K. Williamson – Second

Vote – All Trustees voted in favor, none opposed. There were two abstentions – S. Copeland and A. Kesler.

Meeting adjourned at 8:26am