

APPROVED



Boston Renaissance Charter Public School

Minutes

Board of Trustees Meeting

Date and Time

Wednesday January 20, 2021 at 8:00 AM

Location

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

ID: 96675583051

Password: 3TS6fOPpnZ

MISSION

The mission of the Boston Renaissance Charter Public School is to nurture and develop academic, social and emotional competence while building confidence, character and citizenship among its students.

Trustees Present

A. Buckmire (remote), B. Keith (remote), C. Engerman (remote), E. Alphonse (remote), F. Lowery (remote), K. Williamson (remote), L. Colon (remote), M. Gardner (remote), R. Clarke Jr. (remote), S. Dibinga (remote)

Trustees Absent

None

Guests Present

J. Moynihan (remote)

I. Opening Items

A. Record Attendance

B. Call the Meeting to Order

L. Colon called a meeting of the board of trustees of Boston Renaissance Charter Public School to order on Wednesday Jan 20, 2021 at 8:06 AM.

II. Staff Member Introduction

A. Jessica Buttner, School Social Worker

Jessica is from the school's mental health department. Has been with the school for 8 years and is part of a team of 7 professionals serving the social-emotional health of the students.

This year they've created a lot of support services directly addressing the challenges of COVID-19 and remote learning, including internet safety resources, local and national hotlines for stress, ways to address the needs of students who have social-emotional health on their IEPs remotely.

III. Approve Minutes

A. Approve Minutes December 11, 2020 & November 18, 2020 Board of Trustee Meetings

L. Colon made a motion to approve the minutes from Board of Trustees Meeting on 12-11-20.

C. Engerman seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

L. Colon made a motion to approve the minutes from Board of Trustees Meeting on 11-18-20.

C. Engerman seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

IV. Head of School Update

A. Head of School Update

Update on school reopening plan. One of the main focuses is pool testing. The school applied for a 6 week testing program that the state will fund. One challenge is getting families to consent to their children being tested.

Delayed reopening which was scheduled for January 25th to March 2021. This is a similar timeline to BPS.

Vaccines for teachers and educators is grouped in Tier 2 for Massachusetts. Original timeline for Tier 2 vaccine rollout was February but is now delayed to likely April.

V. Finance Update

A. Finance Update

Phil presented the Q2 financial forecast for the school's budget, which is attached to the agenda as a meeting handout. Bottom line is the year will end in the green.

School had 2 students (siblings) that enrolled at BPS 2 years ago, but family maintained their seats at the charter school, which they legally could do. School has been financially responsible for these students for 2 years. School has reached a settlement agreement with BPS to resolve this financial responsibility.

Grant updates - school received a \$100,000 grant to spend on COVID-related expenses. school will pay for testing, air filters, and PPE. School will also receive another round of federal funds, SR2 (received SR1 funding in spring 2020). Will

have some limitations on what it can be spent on, but it can be spent through 2023.

VI. Committee Updates

A. Parents of Renaissance

Sub-committee reached out to Tamari R., the school's family engagement coordinator, for a meeting

B. Academic Excellence

Sub-committee proposed new way to present data to the board. Will focus on sub-group of children and follow their growth over the course of a couple of years, which will serve as a sampling of the larger school's performance, but will show the personalized nature of learning and growth. They chose students that are representative of the entire school population. One from each grade level, some that are on IEPs, some that are ESLs, and some that are receiving an intervention(s) that the school offers.

Marjorie presented to the board the main interventions and enrichment programs that the school has, which include 1) What I Need groups, 2) Reading Support Teachers, 3) Reading & Math Specialists, 4) Child Study Team, 5) ESL, 6) Special Education Settings (i) inclusion room, (ii) resource room, (iii) substantially separate room.

Sub-committee presented the profile of the students selected and provided a summary of their testing results from the Fall and a short overview of what support they receive or programs they participate in.

Christine presented the iReady data from the past year, which is summarized and included in the agenda's documents.

MCAS testing will be conducted this year, late April through May. Will face challenges of families that will not bring their students in person for the testing.

C. Governance & Nomination

At last meeting, sub-committee worked on succession planning draft. Will be available to share with the full board at the March meeting.

Lupita raised the possibility of amending the term limit, which is currently two 3 year terms. Board discussed reason for limits. Brian asked what the purpose of term limits are. Board discussed its possibly to prevent an entrenched board of the same individuals governing the school for a long time. Alexandra mentioned some charter school boards permit the concept of board members for life. Some boards, not necessarily in the charter school context, impose sabbatical requirements for board members so that they step away for a bit before they're eligible to serve another term. Kelly asked what the norm is in other charter schools. Alexandra offered to do research and present at the next meeting a summary of 5 or so MA schools' policies for term limits.

D. Facility

Facility has no major issues to report. Covid-19 Test site on the school's property across the street is going really well. Its a testing site through April. Brian asked if the testing site is a revenue stream for the school. It is not, but the state pays for all expenses of operating the site, including snow removal and power.

E. Development

Foundation board discussion. In 2013, amendment to bylaws that foundation board could fundraise on behalf of all charter schools in Boston, not just the Renaissance. Spoke with Rosa about making amendment to limit it once again to be fundraising just for the Renaissance. Spoke with Rosa about recruitment and who could join the board. Question of whether Jack can join the board. Building a donor database system, which is 95% complete.

How can board members help the development sub-committee's efforts? Think of who you know and who you can connect to Alexandra and Jack, to the school.

VII. Board Action Planning

A. Board Action Planning

Received two pieces of feedback from Laurie L on the board's action plan that was worked on during the December board meeting.

1. Onboarding work - Initiative 3.1 work should it be under Initiative 3.4 instead? Discussed it being a joint effort

2. Initiative 3.3 - need to add target deadlines for action items. Team working on Initiative 3.3 will send dates to Lupita to update the document

VIII. Closing Items

A. Adjourn Meeting

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 10:02 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,
K. Williamson

Documents used during the meeting

- January 2021.pdf
- Q2 FY21 Financials 01 14 2021.pdf
- Copy of BoT Academic Excellence 1.20.21 (1).pdf
- SY21 Board Action Planning.pdf