

APPROVED



Boston Renaissance Charter Public School

Minutes

Board of Trustees Meeting

Date and Time

Wednesday January 19, 2022 at 8:00 AM

Location

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/98052755683?pwd=dFF4V3MzZ0MwQUVwU2I5cWNnSVdkUT09>

Meeting ID: 980 5275 5683

Passcode: VxXjl0lk

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), E. Alphonse (remote), K. Williamson (remote), M. Gardner (remote), R. Clarke Jr. (remote), S. Dibinga (remote)

Trustees Absent

C. Engerman

Guests Present

A. Emery (remote), D. Warwick (remote), J. Moynihan (remote), Kevin Cherry (remote)

I. Opening Items

A. Record Attendance

B.

Call the Meeting to Order

B. Keith called a meeting of the board of trustees of Boston Renaissance Charter Public School to order on Wednesday Jan 19, 2022 at 8:09 AM.

II. Approve Minutes

A. Approve Minutes

E. Alphonse made a motion to approve the minutes from Board of Trustees Meeting on 11-17-21.

B. Keith seconded the motion.

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

Roll Call

| | |
|---------------|--------|
| F. Lowery | Absent |
| A. Buckmire | Aye |
| M. Gardner | Aye |
| E. Alphonse | Aye |
| S. Dibinga | Aye |
| R. Clarke Jr. | Aye |
| K. Williamson | Aye |
| C. Engerman | Absent |
| B. Keith | Aye |

III. Board Nominations

A. Nomination of new board member Kevin Cherry

B. Keith made a motion to nominate Kevin Cherry to serve as a new member to the Board of Trustees for a 3-year term.

K. Williamson seconded the motion.

Kevin was a former CFO at the Renaissance. He was highly involved when Renaissance was moving to our current building. He also worked in finance at BPS. He has school finance experience. When Kevin worked at the Renaissance, he was a fully contributing member of the Leadership Team. He cared deeply for the school and the students. Kevin has a lot to contribute to our school.

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

Roll Call

| | |
|---------------|--------|
| M. Gardner | Aye |
| K. Williamson | Aye |
| C. Engerman | Absent |
| B. Keith | Aye |
| F. Lowery | Absent |
| A. Buckmire | Aye |
| E. Alphonse | Aye |
| S. Dibinga | Aye |
| R. Clarke Jr. | Aye |

B. Re-election of Kelly Williams

B. Keith made a motion to Re-elect Kelly Williamson's term for another term.

E. Alphonse seconded the motion.

Kelly has been a great board member. She is valuable and we would love her to continue with us. Her professional knowledge around real estate and law is valuable.

Kelly stated that the school has become an important part of her involvement in the city. She is honored to stay on the board for another term. She looks forward to serving another term.

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

Roll Call

E. Alphonse Aye
M. Gardner Aye
F. Lowery Absent
A. Buckmire Aye
B. Keith Aye
C. Engerman Absent
S. Dibinga Aye
R. Clarke Jr. Aye
K. Williamson Abstain

IV. Head of School Update

A. Head of School Update

Covid

Before Thanksgiving break, we were not seeing evidence of school spread. After Winter break, based on our pool testing, cases have been on the rise and there is evidence of spread in classrooms. With DESE approval, we quarantined 3 classrooms (K1, 3, 6) because pool testing revealed that spreading was occurring in those rooms. Staff cases have risen as well and we are utilizing everyone, who is able to cover in classrooms.

The Leadership Team met and decided not to adopt the new CDC guidelines for quarantining and are following the prior guidelines. We believe that there are too many chances for spread. This was communicated to staff and families as we returned from winter break. There has not been any push back from families. They have been cooperative and there has been an increase in parents consenting to pool testing.

We continue our weekly pooled testing and Test and Stay program. DESE announced today another option to remove the contact tracing that is done at schools and allow for at home testing for students and staff. We will be reaching out to CIC Health, who do our testing, to see what they think makes the most sense for our school community.

Academic Conditions

Our academic conditions have been extended to December 2024 due to MCAS being canceled in 2020. If the school meets the condition before the deadline, the commissioner may consider removing the condition before December 2024.

V. Finance Update

A. Finance Update

Last finance meeting there was a discussion about staff retention and morale. Teachers are leaving the teaching profession in general. Education seems to be taking a really big hit because of the pandemic. We were and still are, having an extremely hard time filling vacancies. Some of our newly hired instructional coaches are covering classroom positions. This isn't exclusive to us, but education in general, is suffering. Edwine and Brian had suggested looking into some kind of compensation to see what we could do about staff retention. They believe that showing the staff appreciation makes sense. Many corporations are providing

adjustments and bonuses to staff, due to the rising prices of things. It makes sense for us to do the same. This little financial gesture can show them our appreciation.

When looking at our financial dashboard, we are where we should be. According to projected tuition, from what DESE told us, we were expecting a decline, but that was not the case.

B. Staff Appreciation

E. Alphonse made a motion to Approve staff appreciation stipend.

B. Keith seconded the motion.

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

Roll Call

F. Lowery Absent

E. Alphonse Aye

C. Engerman Absent

R. Clarke Jr. Aye

B. Keith Aye

M. Gardner Abstain

K. Williamson Aye

A. Buckmire Abstain

VI. Committee Updates

A. Parents of Renaissance

No Update.

B. Academic Excellence

We welcomed Katie O'keeffe as the new Lower School Data & Assessment Coordinator and we welcomed back Christine Beckhusen from her maternity leave. Christine will now focus on the Upper School Data & Assessment.

Lower School

Benchmark Data was taken from the aimsweb Plus Fall Benchmark Assessment to create ELA and Math WIN groups, based first on tier and then skill. For students in Tier 2b and 3, Progress Monitoring occurred every 2 weeks using the Aimsweb progress monitoring probes as well as Number Worlds Assessments in Math. Students in Tiers 1 and 2a are monitored monthly via growth monitoring assessments on i-ready.

For WIN Cycle 3, progress monitoring will occur online using the Aimsweb platform for K, 1st, and 2nd. This will allow for tracking the Rate of Improvement and goals more clearly.

Overall, this has been a positive shift for teachers and students.

Upper School

Fall Benchmark Data was collected using iReady and Dibels. For the 1st 2 WIN Cycles, students were placed in groups for intervention or enrichment. For Cycle 3, students will be based on more specific tiers. Then we will look at their skills. Teachers assign pre, mid, and post assessments for each cycle. These assessments are based on the skill and curriculum used in each specific group. For WIN Cycle 3, students will be separated into more specific groups. The assessments used will be more streamlined and data will be tracked more efficiently.

C. Governance & Nomination

We are still looking for members to join the board. We are hoping to have another new potential trustee before the next meeting.

D. Facility

We have a brief update on the improvements for the potential building across the street. Met with a OPM (project manager). He gave a presentation with ideas around the new building. We have also reached out to some other charter schools who have recently added to their schools.

The strategy group we are interested in is involved city. They are great relations with government and neighborhood.

E. Development

We are using the Boomerang System as our new content management system. It is able to allow us to look back as far as FY2016 from the donor perspective. We are looking to develop an Ambassador Program which will bridge the connection between the school and its contingents. It will welcome Alumni support.

We are redesigning the website and have identified some foundations and will begin reaching out to them.

VII. 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 11:44 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,
M. Gardner