

APPROVED



Boston Renaissance Charter Public School

Minutes

Board of Trustees Meeting

Date and Time

Wednesday November 17, 2021 at 8:00 AM

Location

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/97894185963?pwd=bkZVNG1kdXdPU08vVVM5TEhSTW5aZz09>

Meeting ID: 978 9418 5963

Passcode: 91h0y1oV

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), M. Gardner (remote), R. Clarke Jr. (remote), S. Dibinga (remote)

Trustees Absent

F. Lowery, K. Williamson

Guests Present

A. Emery (remote), D. Warwick (remote), J. Moynihan (remote), Kendra Lueken (remote), Rachel Beck (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 Nov 17, 2021 at 8:14 AM.

II. Approve Minutes

A. Approve Minutes

B. Keith made a motion to approve the minutes from Board of Trustees Meeting on 09-15-21.

A. Buckmire seconded the motion.

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

Roll Call

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

B. Approve Minutes

C. Engerman made a motion to approve the minutes from Board of Trustees Meeting on 10-18-21.

M. Gardner seconded the motion.

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

Roll Call

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

III. MCAS Presentation & School Academic Recovery Plan

A. MCAS Presentation & School Academic Recovery Plan

We would like to start the meeting by introducing our new Upper School Director. Rachel Beck has been at Boston Renaissance for 11 years. She started as a Resource Room Paraprofessional and then a maternity coverage for 2nd grade. Ms. Beck then taught 4th grade for 5 years. She was then the Literacy Coach and the past 4 years she was the Upper School Assistant Director. This year she is the Upper School Director. She shared that she is looking forward to continuing the work that has been started by herself and the former Upper School Director.

School Year 2021 MCAS Data

Rachel Beck, Upper School Director and Kendra Lueken, Lower School Director, attended the meeting to present School Year 2021 MCAS Data. Before presenting the Data, Ms. Beck shared that the teachers worked extremely hard last year during the pandemic. The data that is being presented today was presented to teachers in a way that gave them time to process all the information. It was presented as a Data Analysis Walk. As teachers looked at data they recorded noticings and wonderings. The teachers looked at BRCPS data as compared to the state, as compared to the entire upper school, and then as compared to individual grade levels. Since 3rd grade is the first testing year, they did an i-ready comparison. The major focus was; What is BRCPS going to do? When looking to compare 2021 to 2019 (no test in 2020) we did not compare individually. Although it is important to note that the student performances were similar whether the test was taken remotely or in-person. This is true for both BRCPS and the state.

We do have targets (set by the state) that we need to hit on the 2022 MCAS Data. We will be looking at the lowest performing groups at each grade level. Math took a much larger hit in learning loss than ELA.

In grades K2-6, we have implemented WIN Blocks. This is a dedicated time of the day where enrichment and intervention are taught. The tiering that is used to determine the groups is based on data. During this time, the focus is on building foundational skills and providing enrichment opportunities. Currently, we are implementing cross-curricular project based activities for enrichment. WIN Block is data-driven and the focus is on measuring progress.

We have been adjusting curriculum to ensure strong instruction. David Bill, our Science coordinator, wrote and received a grant for a new Science Curriculum, Project Lead the Way, which is being implemented in 5th grade. There has also been a Science program implemented in 6th grade. In the Upper School Science is taught in a 45 minute block daily. We are also looking at our Math Curriculum and we are researching and looking to pilot some different Math Programs in some classrooms. We are sustaining our curriculum in Literacy. In the Upper School, we have taken a more novel-based approach with culminating tasks and more culturally-based books. We have content leads in grades 3 and 4 for Math and ELA and we are using a cycle system where we collect certain assessments to monitor progress. We are also looking vertically for alignment with a more systematic approach that is data-driven and allows us to build on each other. In grades K2-4, we have specialists analyzing data.

We have also started our Professional Development UDL-Universal Design for Learning .

We will have 1-to-1 coaching for teachers and we will be utilizing the RST's (Reading Support Teachers) in the inclusion classrooms, which is something we have not been able to do in the past. Students who are struggling will receive 30 minute intervention daily in small groups. During these small groups, reteaching, practicing, and or previewing new material will take place. WIN Blocks will be used to solidify foundational skills, which will allow better access to core curriculum. According to the DESE Acceleration Road Map, we need to teach Grade Level Standards. Win Blocks will allow us to take the time to ensure students receive the extra support that may be needed.

We received a Liberty Mutual Grant, thanks to Jack Moynihan, our Director of Development . This will be used for After School Tutoring. We will be looking to work with the lowest 20% in grades 3-6. This will be for both Math and ELA.

Kendra Leuken, Lower School Director, shared, in the Lower School, the focus has been on building independent and social-emotional skills. With the younger students being out of school during the pandemic building routines and habit was so important. We have seen great gains in the students just from being back in the building. There is positive improvement and teachers have shared how much the students independence has grown since the younger students have been back in the school routine again.

IV. Head of School Update

A. Head of School Update

The school is continuing their PD on Multi-Tiered System of Supports. We have our 2nd whole school PD this Friday. Along with the professional development, we have a consultant from the state who is working with us along with coaching for our instructional coaches. The PD that is happening this Friday, allows time for teachers to work on lesson planning using the Universal Design for Learning Framework.

We have also developed a Teacher Diversification Professional Learning Community. This is a committee that is going to look at staffing and ways that the school can work to diversify staffing and recruitment.

Our Afterschool Accelerated Learning Program (ALP) has started. Currently there are 52 students enrolled. January 27th will be the last day for the Math portion. February 1st, the ELA portion of the program will begin.

Choir has started up once again. They practice afterschool Mondays, Tuesday, and Wednesdays.

We have partnered with Greater Roslindale Medical and Dental Center and we will be holding a vaccination clinic here at school, Wednesday, November 17th. This is open to families who would like to get their children vaccinated as well as adults who would like to receive their vaccination or booster.

We are continuing our weekly conversations about ways to build up morale for teachers. The pandemic continues to affect our staffing and teacher morale. The leadership team continues to discuss this and has been brainstorming some ways to help boost the morale.

V. Finance Update

A. Finance Update

Alexandra Emery, CFO, stated that she has no financial concerns at this time. When looking at September and October, there was a dip in enrollment, but as of last week enrollment is back up. This did have a small impact on tuition. In December, we will receive revised tuition rates.

VI. Committee Updates

A. Parents of Renaissance

Rocklyn Clarke, stated that there are no updates.

B. Academic Excellence

Marjorie Gardner stated that the committee met last month. Rachel Beck and Kendra Leuken presented the MCAS data presentation.

After Data was presented, it was explained that the lowest performing groups at each grade level will be looked at closely. Focus will be developing a better plan to

support these students. Our WIN Blocks will be implemented K2-6. These will include enrichment as well as interventions.

C. Governance & Nomination

Brian Keith shared that they are continuing to look to add to the board membership.

D. Facility

Craig Engerman shared that Alexandra Emery has joined the Facility Committee. We are at a stand still with the building across the street.

E. Development

Jack Moynihan shared that Rachel Doherty has been hired as a Development Officer.

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 9:15 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,
M. Gardner