

APPROVED



Boston Renaissance Charter Public School

Minutes

Board of Trustees Meeting

Date and Time

Wednesday September 15, 2021 at 8:00 AM

Location

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/94774151599?pwd=d3g1RTQweIQrVEIGVmlmRmwvSVFBQT09>

Meeting ID: 947 7415 1599

Passcode: 9X38h4G7

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, Lower School Director (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 Sep 15, 2021 at 8:11 AM.

C. Welcome and Public Comment

II. Staff Member Introduction

A. Kendra Lueken, Lower School Director

Ms. Lueken is the lower school director. She has been at the Renaissance for 11 years. She started at the Renaissance as an ESL (English Language Learner) lead teacher. She has been the lower school director for six years. Lower grades have always been her passion.

The vision of the lower school is in line with the whole school vision, supporting the whole child both academically, socially and emotionally. This also focuses on the students being citizens, community leaders, and independent learners and thinkers. Building a partnership with parents is important. The student achievement follows the partnership through school, home and the community.

When looking back at the last school year, COVID impacted everything. It has impacted our hiring, teacher stress, and student stress. The school has begun work with the DESE Accelerated Learning Road Map. We have enrolled in the 3-year professional development. MTSS (multi-tiered system of supports) Academy. Focused on UDL (Universal Design for Learning). We will be fully implementing our WIN (What I Need) blocks in K1-2. During this block each student will receive exactly what they need. It is specific to each student. Data collection will occur in 4-week cycles. There will be small group intervention and enrichment. This will be based on progress monitoring, assessments, etc. Looking at data for each student will involve both reading and math specialists, coaches, teachers, and administrators.

Professional development areas for teachers will be in Universal Design for Learning and Keys to Beginning Reading. This focuses on Science of Reading. This is a practice that proves to show results.

Ms. Buckmire shared that Ms. Lueken has a strong voice and is thoughtful when looking at how to adapt to learning. She has worked really hard to find the best developmental practices. These are the key components of her work.

III. Approve Minutes

A. Approve Minutes

E. Alphonse made a motion to approve the minutes from June 16, 2021 Board of Trustees Meeting on 06-16-21.

C. Engerman seconded the motion.

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

Roll Call

E. Alphonse Aye

S. Dibinga Aye

A. Buckmire Aye

M. Gardner Aye

B. Keith Aye

Roll Call

C. Engerman Aye
F. Lowery Absent
K. Williamson Absent
R. Clarke Jr. Aye

B. Approve Minutes

E. Alphonse made a motion to approve the minutes from June 23, 2021 Executive Session on 06-23-21.

C. Engerman seconded the motion.

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

Roll Call

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

C. Approve Minutes

E. Alphonse made a motion to approve the minutes from June 30, 2021 Board of Trustees Meeting on 06-30-21.

B. Keith seconded the motion.

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

Roll Call

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

D. Approve Minutes

C. Engerman made a motion to approve the minutes from August 18, 2021 Board of Trustees Meeting on 08-18-21.

E. Alphonse seconded the motion.

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

Roll Call

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

IV. Head of School Update

A. Head of School Update

Ms. Buckmire started by thanking the board for her contract extension. When speaking on the school opening she shared that things have been going OK. The challenges with COVID continue to impact us. Morale is not as high as it typically is. In the spring, everything was mapped out for us (ie. schedules, days structured, etc.) All plans were thoughtful and strategic. We had 60% of students in person. It is challenging with 1000 students, especially the social distancing piece.

It is having ripple effects. Like other schools, we are having a difficult time filling some positions. The busing situation has been challenging. There has been a lot of traffic on Hyde Park Ave due to all the parents picking up their children and dismissal is taking longer. All of this is impacting students and families. But, we are doing the best we can.

Mental Health referrals have been higher than they normally would be at this time, but not sure if it is due to the student anxiety about COVID or staff level of anxiety which could be making them call for assistance more than they normally would. As Ms. Lueken stated, we have enrolled in a 3-year professional development. MTSS (multi-tiered system of supports) Academy. Focused on UDL (Universal Design for Learning). This focuses on how to design lessons for all students. Year 1 is known as Exploration. This focuses on learning and recognizing the need, planning and creating teams, learning about the resources available, and training the staff. Year 2 will be the initial implementation. We will have 20-25% of our staff as early adopters. The goal of this training is to self-sustain after year 3. We will have a trainer assigned to our school who will train others. There will also be monthly coaching sessions. This along with Keys to Literacy, which the school has been using for years, will support the WIN blocks that the whole school will be implementing.

Jack Moynihan, applied for a grant through Liberty Mutual, which we received and will be used towards our after school tutoring programs.

We will be hosting a Virtual Family Day for all families. We usually have an in-person family day which in the past was very successful but due to COVID we will be hosting it virtually.

BRCPS Choir will be restarting this year. It will be held after school.

We will be reaching out to our Sunshine Committee to find some ways to safely bring joy to the staff.

V. Finance Update

A. Finance Update

Alexandra Emery, CFO, stated that it is still early in the fiscal year. The audit started last week and she is hoping for a draft by October 4th. The new truck has been purchased.

VI. Committee Updates

A. Academic Excellence

There are no updates due to the beginning of the school year.

B. Development

Jack Moynihan, Director of Development, shared that the foundation stride is starting. The outreach strategy continues. We are in the beginning stages of strategy planning for the annual funding. Hoping that choir events will help in creating a buzz. Looking for partnerships that are revenue generating. Programmatically strategizing in how to reach out. Also, refreshing the school's website, hoping this will catch attention of others as well.

C. Parents of Renaissance

The family center is reopening.

D. Governance & Nomination

No updates

E. Facility

No updates

VII. Schedule SY21-22 Meeting Times

A. Schedule SY21-22 Meeting Times

Ms. Warwick will email a proposed committee meeting schedule for SY21-22, giving special attention to time conflicts for board members who sit on multiple committees.

VIII. Board Member Annual required documents for DESE

A. Board Member Annual required documents for DESE

For Board members who have not filled out their required ESE Financial disclosure for 2020, please do so ASAP, they were due 9/1/2021.

IX. 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 10:00 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,
M. Gardner