



**RENAISSANCE ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOL OF THE ARTS**  
**Board of Trustees Meeting – Annual Organizational Meeting**  
**Wednesday, October 21, 2020 at 12:30 PM**  
**Location: Zoom Conference Call**  
**Meeting Minutes**

**Mission:** *Renaissance Academy Charter School of the Arts will provide children an enriched and rigorous educational experience through the infusion of the humanities and arts rooted in a culture of high academic standards leading to success in college and careers.*

**Welcome/Call to Order and Introductions**

- **Members Present:** Natalie Washington, Steven Gordon, Bert Brinkerhoff, Amy Reingold, Alan Caine, Aaron Rosen, Cheryl Hayward, Linda Dickey, Tom Merkel
- **Members Absent:** Aaron Rosen
- **Others Present:** Craig Eichmann, Kito Johnson, Dr. Loury, Nan Westervelt, Harry Marino, Jean Beutner

**\*Cheryl Hayward joined the meeting at 1:04 p.m., Aaron Rosen left the meeting at 1:15 p.m., Tom Merkel joined the meeting at 1:30 p.m.**

**Approval of Consent Agenda Items**

**[Note: Single items can be removed from the list and considered separately at the request of a Board of Trustees member]**

**Motion 80.0 to Motion to approve: October 21, 2020 Agenda:**

- **Motion to approve:** Amy Reingold    **Seconded:** Alan Caine
- **Ayes:** 7        **Nays:** 0

**Motion 80.1 to approve: September 23, 2020 Board Meeting Minutes**

- **Motion to approve:** Amy Reingold    **Seconded:** Bert Brinkerhoff
- **Ayes:** 7    **Nays:** 0

**Motion 80.2 to approve: October 14, 2020 Board Meeting Minutes – Approval of Minutes from Special Board Meeting.**

- **Motion to approve:** Amy Reingold    **Seconded:** Alan Caine
- **Ayes:** 7    **Nays:** 0

### **Chief Educational Officer Report [Dr. Donna Marie Cozine]**

Dr. Lounsbury discussed the key takeaways of her report. Benchmark 1: Student Performance, and flexible grouping, to meet diverse needs. Currently we have no NYS data to show growth due to COVID-19. Dr. Lounsbury expressed the dedication and diligence RA is implementing in order to collect data points to show growth even without State data. The first Friday of the month, the academic committee will meet. Dr. Lounsbury reported that our program is strong and we have met Benchmarks 3, 5, 6, and 7. June 2021, we are on track to meet Benchmark 4. Dr. Lounsbury advised that Dr. Cozine encourages that Benchmark 9 be completely understood prior to Site visit. In regard to Benchmark 10, Recruitment, Enrollment, and Retention, Dr. Lounsbury reported that due to Kindergarteners coming in without IEP's and 6th graders going out without IEPs, inhibits students from being classified at the start of school as it takes a year to be classified.

### **Academic Committee Report [Tom Merkel]**

In Tom Merkel's absence due to technical issues, Steven Gordon advised that there may be State cutbacks but cautioned not to over react.

### **Development Committee Report [Ms. Amy Reingold]**

Nan Westervelt advised that the 2020 sponsors for the Reach For the Stars event are being contacted to consider contributing their sponsorship dollars to support RA. The RFTS committee will be activated to plan a virtual event in April 2021.

### **Finance Committee Report (Mr. Bert Brinkerhoff)**

Jean Beutner from Hevron & Hevron reported that the audit was complete. Jean spoke about there being no issue with credit card receipts other than we didn't always know what a purchase was actually for. Alan Caine asked about a pre approval process for credit card usage, but Jean explained that wouldn't really be an option because typically the person that the card is issued to is the owner of that card. Jean also cautioned around employee gifts/spending, it is frowned upon by the State.

Bert Brinkerhoff advised that the September Financials have been distributed and things are in good shape. Bert advised that we are now capped at 506 students that we can bill for, currently we are over. The discussion over the budget prompted another revision and as a result we need to approve the revised budget. Bert advised that we'll start looking at a Contingency Budget as well. The motion to approve the revised budget will be Motion 80.7. On the agenda motion 80.7 was to approve the Governance Committee's recommendation to approve Kristian Walker as a candidate. Per Nan Westervelt, cannot approve as of yet because there needs to be a criminal background and fingerprinting check completed.

### **Motion 80.3 to approve the Completed 2019-2020 Audit**

- **Motion to approve:** Bert Brinkerhoff    **Seconded:**
- **Ayes:** 8        **Nays:** 0

### **Human Resources Committee Report [Ms. Natalie Washington]**



