



RENAISSANCE ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOL OF THE ARTS
Board of Trustees Meeting
Wednesday, November 18, 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:** Tom Merkel, Natalie Washington, Steven Gordon, Bert Brinkerhoff, Amy Reingold, Cheryl Hayward, Linda Dickey
- **Members Absent:** Aaron Rosen
- **Others Present:** Dr. Cozine, Craig Eichmann, Nan Westervelt, Kito Johnson, Harry Marino, Kristian W.

Meeting began @ 12:33 P.M.

Alan Caine Remembrance: Dr. Donna Marie Cozine & Steven Gordon

Moment of silence for Mr. Alan Caine

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 80.9 to Motion to approve: November 18, 2020 Agenda:

Motion to approve: Tom Merkel **Seconded:** Linda Dickey

Ayes: 7 Nays: 0

Motion 81.0 to approve: October 21, 2020 Board Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve: Tom Merkel **Seconded:** Linda Dickey

Ayes: 7 Nays: 0

Chief Educational Officer Report [Dr. Donna Marie Cozine]

Dr. Cozine discussed the onsite testing RA completed yesterday, November 17th. Out of the 27 tests that were administered, all 27 were negative. We will be testing staff today November 18th at noon and if we are below the rolling average, staff will not be required to test on Monday November 23rd. We would also like to vote on a motion to go to remote learning on Monday.

Dr. Cozine explained that as the Covid numbers increased, our parents began keeping their students' homes. In some classes there were only five students total. It makes more sense to go virtual. Our concern is that the Covid numbers will continue to spike after Thanksgiving with all of the family gatherings and college students returning home for the holidays. Dr. Cozine advised that she would like to transition into 100% virtual on RA's terms instead of Governor Cuomo's. Some of the requirements they are putting on schools is causing them to close in the county. However, our staff reports unless we go into the orange zone.

Cheryl Hayward inquired if our families have the required equipment to go virtual. Dr. Cozine advised that all of our students have Chromebooks, but we may need more hotspots.

Tom Merkel inquired about the support for our Special Ed students. Dr. Cozine advised that all of them have a virtual learning plan specifically designed to meet their IEP needs during a 100% remote environment.

Academic Committee Report [Tom Merkel]

Tom Merkel shared information on the data visualization that the committee has been working on and that it indicates that students are improving over time. Internal data shows an upward trend on the grades 3-6 interim assessments.

Development Committee Report [Ms. Amy Reingold]

The Board Development Plan will be drafted by February 2021. The Plan will link board education training to the critical strategic issues that are most important to the success of the school. It will target board development activities that the 2020 self-assessment results indicate that board members knew about but wanted further information, provide multiple training avenues for board development, provide new board members with a board "mentor", and offer opportunities for board members to attend conferences and/or workshops.

Finance Committee Report (Mr. Bert Brinkerhoff)

Bert Brinkerhoff discussed 1 pager with 7 key financials. Bert advised that data points were updated, and we anticipate meeting all metrics.

Motion 81.2 to approve the 990-tax return

Motion to approve: Tom Merkel **Seconded:** Bert Brinkerhoff

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

Human Resources Committee Report [Ms. Natalie Washington]

Motion 81.3 to approve the Vendor Evaluation Rubric Form:

Motion to approve: Tom Merkel **Seconded:** Linda Dickey

Ayes: 7 Nays: 0

Motion 81.4 to approve the CEO Evaluation Matrix (draft):

Motion to approve: Tom Merkel **Seconded:** Bert Brinkerhoff

Ayes: 7 Nays: 0

Governance Committee Report [Dr. Aaron Rosen]

Nan Westervelt advised in Aaron Rosen's absence that he is working on providing mentors for new Board members. Steven Gordon assured the committee that Aaron is all over it. Nan also advised that we are still waiting on the background clearance for our newest candidate.

Pre-Renewal Meeting Overview/Discussion (Steven Gordon, Donna Marie Cozine & Nan Westervelt)

Dr. Cozine discussed her October PowerPoint. Dr. Cozine will meet with Cheryl Hayward concerning Benchmark 9 the Corrective Action Plan, on Monday to prep her for the meeting. Dr. Cozine informed the Board that RA has contracted with Schola for \$5000 to help in the recruitment of our Special Ed and ELL families. Dr. Cozine advised that there has been a rubric created around detention. In regards to our academic performance, currently there is not enough State data to gage our performance. Under Benchmark 2 Teaching and Learning, we will provide new surveys. Dr. Cozine also went over RELAY.

Motion 81.6 to approve RFF

- **Motion to approve:** Tom Merkel **Seconded:** Cheryl Hayward

Ayes: 7 Nays: 0

Old Business

None

New Business

Motion to vote on going virtual from November 23rd, through December 31st.

Motion 81.7 to approve Renaissance Academy going 100% virtual

- **Motion to approve:** Tom Merkel **Seconded:** Steven Gordon
- **Ayes:** 7 **Nays:** 0

At the December Board meeting, we can decide whether to extend or not.

Public Comments

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Adjournment

Motion 81.5 to approve adjournment:

Motion to approve: Tom Merkel **Seconded:** Amy Reingold

Ayes: 7 **Nays:** 0