



**RENAISSANCE ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOL OF THE ARTS**  
**Board of Trustees Meeting – Annual Organizational Meeting**  
**Wednesday, January 20, 2021 at 12:00 PM**  
**Location: Zoom Conference Call**  
**Meeting Minutes**

**Mission:** *The mission of the Renaissance Academy Charter School of the Arts is to provide children an enriched and rigorous education through the humanities and arts integration leading to success in college, careers and life.*

**Welcome/Call to Order and Introductions**

- **Members Present:** *Natalie Washington, Tom Merkel, Amy Reingold, Linda Dickey, Cheryl Hayward, Kristian Walker, Bert Brinkerhoff, Steven Gordon*
- **Members Absent:**
- **Others Present:** *Dr. Cozine, Kito Johnson, Nan Westervelt, Dr. Lousy, Harry Marino, [Allison Wyatt, Ron Rapatalo at 1 PM]*

**Welcome Kristian Walker as a new member at large to RA BOT (Steven Gordon)**

**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 83.8 to approve the consent agenda for the items listed below**

- Motion 83.9 To Approve Special Meeting Minutes from December 16, 2020
- Motion 84.0 To Approve minutes from December 16, 2020 Board Meeting (Upper Management Changes)
- Motion 84.1 To approve Special Meeting Minutes from January 12, 2021 (FFCRA/FMLA)

**Motion to approve:** Natalie Washington

**Seconded:** Amy Reingold

**Discussion:**

**Ayes:** 8      **Nays:** 0

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

**[**Dr. Cozine advised that Renaissance staff and students are once again back in the building. Dr. Cozine also informed the Board of the attendance issues the Teachers had encountered. As a result, we have decided that they will teach their own classes in

person and virtually. Dr. Cozine advised the Committee that although we are in the yellow zone and are not required to COVID test, we will continue to test for a month to keep in practice. Dr. Cozine discussed our parent involvement activities this past December. We held a Fa La La Learning session as well as a Math night for our families. Renaissance is still continuing to deliver meals to our families. The financial management responsibilities of Renaissance have been switched to Robin Blew and our billing is up to date. As we move forward we will use billboards and buses as advertisements to target ELL students and students with disabilities, the cost will be around \$5000. Natalie Washington inquired about using Facebook as a platform to inform potential parents of our services and if we currently had anyone to “man” the website. Dr. Cozine advised that we use Apptegy (Thrillshare) that pushes to all of our communications platforms and we will have one of our new staff members manage it.

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

Tom Merkel advised that the Academic Committee met last Friday and he has added levels of assessment to the Student scoring chart, a work in progress. The general trend of students growth is moving up. Dr. Cozine spoke about 3 forms of assessment, Diagnostic, Formative, and Summative. Amy Reingold asked how Dr. Cozine thought the RA students were surviving, she replied, “our students have more support than most, we constantly check in on our students' physical and mental states.” We need to meet our students where they are, we’ve never been in a pandemic before. Dr. Cozine is hopeful that the State will give the kids another year before testing them.

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

Nan Westervelt advised that the date of the RFTS event will be Thursday April 22, 2021, time is TBD. Nan also advised that we have received \$8524 in donations but our goal is \$10,000. Cheryl Hayward inquired if there was a specific amount required from Board members to donate, Nan stated no. Years ago the Board agreed it would ask all members to give to the best of their ability. Dr. Cozine interjected that 100% board giving, at whatever level, is optimal because many grantmakers ask for the percentage of board members contributing and the total amount.

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

Harry Marino reviewed the financials with the Board and advised we are in a healthy position financially.

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

Natalie Washington advised of the mid year evaluation of the CEO coming in mid February. HR Works is completing an audit of all of the HR requirements, policies & documentation. Luis Martinez has resigned the committee and he will be helping to find a replacement. At 1PM we will hear from Edgility in regards to the CEO search.

#### **Governance Committee Report [Linda Dickey]**

Nothing to report out today. Linda Dickey is the new Chair.

#### **Old Business**

None

### **New Business**

Dr. Cozine suggested that the Board take on an expanded role in relation to our facility. She suggested the board establish an ad hoc Facility Committee that meets quarterly with the Operations Manager and CEO.

### **Governance Chair Announcement**

Linda Dickey has accepted the role as the Governance Chair

### **New Vice Chair Announcement**

Natalie Washington has accepted the role as Vice Chair

**Board Member School Visits:** Cheryl Hayward is going to be coordinating with Dr. Cait Lory and reach out to teachers about having a Board member visit their classroom

**Motion 84.2 to approve** Election of Steven Gordon's Chair term on the Board – January 13, 2021 – January 13, 2024

**Motion to approve:** Cheryl Hayward     **Seconded:** Amy Reingold

**Discussion:**

**Ayes:** 8     **Nays:** 0

**Public Comments:** No members of the public attended the meeting.

**Edgility Presentation:** Edgility, the CEO search firm, reported on the search process and their actions and progress so far. The team has facilitated individual interviews with faculty, staff, leadership team, and members of the search committee; focus groups with parents and faculty and distributed a survey to RA parents and staff. A detailed report was shared with the Board and members participated in an interactive session to articulate the priority qualities and characteristics most important for the new Chief Education Officer.

### **Adjournment**

**Motion [84.3] to approve adjournment at 2 PM:**

- **Motion:** Tom Merkel **Seconded:** Linda Dickey **Discussion:**
- **Ayes:** 7 **Nays:** 0