



**RENAISSANCE ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOL OF THE ARTS**  
**Board of Trustees Meeting – Monthly Board Meeting**  
**Wednesday, February 17, 2021 at 12:30 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:** Linda Dickey, Steve Gordon, Tom Merkel, Natalie Washington, Amy Reingold, Cheryl Hayward, Bert Brinkerhoff, Kristian Walker
- **Members Absent:**
- **Others Present:** Dr. Cozine, Kito Johnson, Nan Westervelt

**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 84.4 to approve February 17, 2021 agenda

**Motion to approve:** Natalie Washington **Seconded:** Amy Reingold

**Discussion**

**Ayes:** 8      **Nays:** 0

- Motion 84.5 to approve January 20, 2021 meeting minutes

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

**Discussion**

**Ayes:** 8      **Nays:** 0

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

Dr. Cozine fielded questions regarding the status of students returning to the building and those 100% virtual. One question focused on if students could return 100%. The

board learned that current CDC guidelines would prohibit all students attending 5 days a week. Dr. Cozine applauded the Board and staff's representation during the State Education Department re-authorization site visit.

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

Tom Merkel reported out that we have a solid plan and provided figures about the cost of the Navigator Program for next year for K-4, Nav Math extension, 5-6, Nav ELA, 3-6. The new CEO will need to take the Relay training.

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

Board members will receive Reach for the Stars sponsorship letters and invitations to send to prospective sponsors and event participants. The virtual event planning is moving along and the April 22 RFTS virtual fundraising event will showcase our school from 7 to 8 PM. Board members were also reminded that the annual campaign continues all year long and board member contributions are appreciated.

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

The finances are in good shape overall. The Finance Committee will be starting the budget process soon, keeping an eye on expenses.

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

Board members will be invited to attend a class in the near future. The CEO search is moving along. The interview committee will begin first round interviews in early March. Dr. Cozine provided the Board with some suggestions for vetting the finalists.

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

The Governance Committee is continuing to look for prospective Board member candidates and asked for current Board member recommendations. Achieving diversity in the composition of the Board is a priority.

#### **Old Business**

None

#### **New Business**

Dr. Cozine advised that RA had purchased a playground that needs to be assembled and it will cost \$60,000 and she is looking for donations, cement, mulch, etc...

**Motion 84.6** to approve hiring policy revisions. The process was updated to create a system that would ensure that employment is not extended to an individual until *after* fingerprint clearance has been secured for the NY TEACH system.

Motion: Tom Merkel   Seconded: Amy Reingold

**Seconded:** Tom Merkel