



**RENAISSANCE ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOL OF THE ARTS**  
**Board of Trustees Meeting – Monthly Board Meeting**  
**Wednesday, June 16, 2021 at 12:30 PM**  
**Location: Zoom Conference Call**  
**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** (Natalie Washington, Vice Chair, was presiding officer in the absence of Steven Gordon, Chair)

- **Members Present:** Kristian Walker; Amy Reingold; Linda Dickey; Tom Merkle; Natalie Washington; Bert Brinkerhoff
- **Members Absent:** Steven Gordon; Cheryl Hayward
- **Others Present:** Dr. Donna Marie Cozine; Jill Shahan; Nan Westervelt

**1. Approval of Consent Agenda Items – (87.0 & 87.1)**

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

- a. **Motion to approve consent items 87.0 (June 16, 2021 Agenda) & 87.1 (May 19, 2021 meeting minutes)**

**Motion:** Amy Reingold      **Seconded:** Linda Dickey

**Discussion:** Natalie Washington requested that Agenda be revised to remove Items #7 and #9.

**Motion 87.2 to change motion 87 to approve the agenda as presented was made by Amy Reingold and seconded by Linda Dickey**

**Ayes: 6      Nays: 0**

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

Dr. Cozine presented highlights of her final written report as CEO. She provided extensive detail about the \$3.1 ESSER and GEER federal funds allocated to RA through SED "...to safely help reopen and sustain the safe operation of schools and address the impact of the coronavirus pandemic on the Nation's students." Dr. Cozine fielded questions from the Board about the details of the funding and the Board suggested several follow up actions. Other Federal funding will allow RA to run two

summer learning programs. All seats for students attending in the fall are filled. There is a 310 student waitlist.

**3. Academic Committee Report [Mr. Tom Merkel]**

Year-end student data is being culled, the Academic Committee will review it and a report will be available for the July Board meeting.

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

The Resource Development Committee raised ~\$34,566 gross income from annual and special gifts, the Reach for the Stars special event fundraiser, and grant funding. The approximate net income is \$29,487 (Expenses total \$5079.30).

**5. Finance Committee Report [Mr. Bert Brinkerhoff]**

Mr. Brinkerhoff reviewed the Monthly and YTD financial Report for the month ending May 31, 2021. Mr. Brinkerhoff presented the 2021-22 school budget and fielded questions. He stated that because RA will be receiving the \$3.1 ESSER and GEER grants, a revised budget will be submitted for review and approval.

**b. Motion #87.3 To approve the 2021-22 Budget**

**Motion: Tom Merkel; Seconded: Amy Reingold**

**Discussion: The Board asked questions and discussed various aspects of the 2021-22 budget.**

**Roll Call Vote**

<b>Kristian Walker</b>	<b>X Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
<b>Steven Gordon</b>	<b>N/A</b>	
<b>Cheryl Hayward</b>	<b>N/A</b>	
<b>Tom Merkel</b>	<b>X Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
<b>Linda Dickey</b>	<b>X Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
<b>Bert Brinkerhoff</b>	<b>X Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
<b>Natalie Washington</b>	<b>X Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
<b>Amy Reingold</b>	<b>X Yes</b>	<b>No</b>

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

Ms. Washington reported that the monthly meeting was rescheduled for June 28 and that the new Part Time HR Generalist will start work on June 28.

**7. Governance Committee Report [Ms. Linda Dickey]**

- a. Motion #87.3 to accept the 2021-2022 Slate of Officers was removed from the agenda.**

Chair - Natalie Washington  
Vice Chair - Tom Merkel  
Secretary - TBA (Kristian or Cheryl)  
Treasurer - Bert Brinkerhoff

b. Motion #87.4 was made to table the motion to accept the Slate of Officers.

Motion: Tom Merkel; Seconded: Bert Brinkerhoff

Discussion: None

Ayes: 6 Nays: 0

- Governance Report: The Board retreat will be in person and available by Zoom for people uncomfortable with participating in person. A Doodle Poll of dates will be sent to Board members and the dates will be finalized after the new CEO is on board. Jill Shahren will facilitate.

c. Jill Shahren, Empire Charter Consultants, facilitated a Board Education & Training Plan Session - Governance vs Management. The Powerpoint presentation will be sent to Board members.

#### 8. Old Business

a. Motion #87.5 to approve GEER (Governor's Emergency Education Relief Funds) and ESSER (Office of Elementary and Secondary Education Fund) grant budget.

Motion: Amy Reingold      Seconded: Tom Merkel

Discussion: None

#### Roll Call Vote:

Tom Merkel	X	Yes	No
Kristian Walker	X	Yes	No
Steven Gordon	X	N/A	
Amy Reingold	X	Yes	No
Cheryl Hayward	X	Yes	No
Linda Dickey	X	N/A	
Bert Brinkerhoff	X	Yes	No
Natalie Washington	X	Yes	No

#### 9. New Business

- a. The July 21 Board meeting will be held at the school. If needed, a Zoom link will be provided for those unable to come to the school.

**b. Motion #87.5 to approve the contract for the new CEO, Renaissance Academy Charter School of the Arts effective July 19, 2021 was removed from the Agenda.**

**c. Motion 87.6 to table approving the new CEO contract in a Special Meeting Executive Session was made.**

**Motion:Tom Merkel**  
**Discussion: None**  
**Ayes: 6 Nays: 0**

**Seconded:Amy Reingold**

**d. Motion # 87.7 to approve the contract for Robin Blew, Finance Consultant**

**\*Dr. Cozine noted that a detailed list of contracted financial services was provided to the Board prior to the meeting and vote.**

**Motion:Tom Merkel**  
**Discussion: None**

**Seconded:Amy Reingold**

**Roll Call Vote**

Natalie Washington	X	Yes	No
Tom Merkel	X	Yes	No
Kristian Walker	X	Yes	No
Steven Gordon		N/A	
Cheryl Hayward		N/A	
Linda Dickey	X	Yes	No
Amy Reingold	X	Yes	No
Bert Brinkerhoff	X	Yes	No

**d. Motion #87.8 to approve contract for The Marino Group, Finance Consultant**

**10. Motion:Amy Reingold      Seconded: Bert Brinkerhoff**

**Discussion:** The Board requested that The Marino Group Contract include the same language under item #4, "Consideration" as in the contract for Robin Blew.

**Roll Call Vote**

Natalie Washington	X Yes	No
Tom Merkel	X Yes	No
Kristian Walker	X Yes	No
Steven Gordon	X N/A	
Cheryl Hayward	X N/A	
Linda Dickey	X Yes	No
Amy Reingold	X Yes	No
Bert Brinkerhoff	X Yes	No

d. Dr. Cozine requested that the Governance, Academic, and Finance Committees submit their 2021-22 Goals/Outcomes to her for inclusion in the final report to SED as soon as possible. She also reminded all Board members that they must fill out, scan and/or send by mail their Financial Disclosure form which must be submitted to SED annually.

#### **11. Public Comments: None**

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**12. Recognition of Dr. Donna Marie Cozine:** Natalie Washington thanked Dr. Cozine for creating an extraordinary school. She called her a visionary whose vision and passion became a reality that has, and will, impact the lives of thousands of students. She commented that Dr. Cozine is dedicated to providing all children with an unparalleled education, has committed her life to making the lives of others better, and created and nurtured a school culture of excellence, creativity and compassion. She ended the tribute by saying, "No job was too menial for Dr. Cozine--she "got things done!"

As a small token of appreciation, the Board presented Dr. Cozine with several gifts.

#### **13. Adjournment**

**Motion [87.9] to approve adjournment:**

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

**Discussion:** None

**Ayes:**      6                      **Nays:**              0