



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

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 84.9 to approve March 17, 2021 Agenda

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

Discussion

Ayes: 6 **Nays:** 0

- Motion 85.0 to approve February 17, 2021 meeting minutes

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

Discussion

Ayes: 6 **Nays:** 0

Motion 85.1 to move from the table Motion 84.6 to approve the Hiring Policy.

Motion 85.1 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 to approve: Amy Reingold

Seconded: Tom Merkel

Discussion

Ayes: 6 **Nays:** 0

Chief Educational Officer Report [Dr. Donna Marie Cozine]

Dr. Cozine thanked the Board for the St. Patrick's Day treats that were homemade for the entire staff. Dr. Cozine discussed the waiver for NYS testing and that Dr. Loury is our testing coordinator. On Tuesday Dr. Cozine engaged in a 2 hour Team meeting to plan next year's budget, and advised that we would have a draft for Bert Brinkerhoff in late April. In regards to the Outreach efforts, Dr. Cozine advised we're killing it! Last Wednesday Dr. Cozine had 7 families complete applications for enrollment as we are trying to get ELA numbers up.

Academic Committee Report [Tom Merkel]

Tom Merkel reported out on the Diagnostic Performance Graph. Tom explained color coding on the graph, green-on target, yellow-approaching, red-a student could be at least 2 grades below. Tom discussed that all grade levels increased and the percentages in red decreased. Tom stated that from an academic standpoint, everything we're doing during the pandemic is working. Dr. Loury advised how proud they are of RA teaching professionals. They compared data to last year before the pandemic. Our kids are currently performing at the same level they were then, which proves we can keep our kids performing even with the barriers that were in place due to the pandemic. Amy Reingold gave a shout out to the RA staff. Amy advised that she had visited a few classrooms last week and the kids were great! Amy discussed how at one moment the computer screen froze during a virtual instruction and the kids waited patiently and quietly for the lesson to continue. Amy stated Teachers are Saints and she is proud of them.

Development Committee Report [Ms. Amy Reingold]

Nan Westervelt advised that she would love to have support distributing invitations for the RFTS event and went over some of the donations we've already received, such as Dr. Loury's father in the amount of \$500.00. Nan advised that we're selling T-shirts for \$10.00 and holding a silent auction. Amy Reingold offered to pick up any donations anyone has to donate. Tom Merkel inquired about what the monetary goal was to raise. Nan advised \$10,000 and year to date we are at \$4000 if we omit Konar's \$3000. Nan has also sent emails to previous sponsors and will be following up.

Finance Committee Report (Mr. Bert Brinkerhoff)

Bert Brinkerhoff stated that there was no report for this month as the new finance person is trying to catch up and as soon as that happens he'll report out.

Human Resources Committee Report [Ms. Natalie Washington]

Dr. Cozine advised that the HR Generalist is working on compliance. Steven Gordon briefly discussed that we recently had a mutual separation from the CEO search company. They were not meeting our expectations and as a result we are on more of a firm ground.

Governance Committee Report [Linda Dickey]

Linda Dickey reported that she is working to increase the numbers of the governance committee. Linda spoke about the recent tour she and Nan had given at RA for Suzette Smith, a potential Board member. Linda recommended Suzette and Steven seconded it. Linda also advised the committee that they, Kristian Walker, Nan and herself are working on enhancing Board training. Nan also suggested having 15 members on the Board instead of 11. Amy Reingold inquired about how Teachers have the time to teach virtually. Dr. Loury advised that there are 2 teachers in each classroom. They have 1 teacher step out to teach virtually for instance, during Arts Integration, which would keep 2 teachers remaining in the room. Dr. Loury advised that in trimester 3 we have 92 of our students coming back into the building. Dr. Loury also explained how the busing of our students operates. There are no two students in the same seat unless they are siblings. The students are also not sitting across from each other, they're diagonal. The Bus Terminal also only allows a specific amount of students on the bus at all times.

Old Business

None

New Business

None

Public Comments

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Adjournment

Motion [85.2] to approve adjournment:

- **Motion:** Amy Reingold **Seconded:** Bert Brinkerhoff
- **Discussion:**
- **Ayes:** 6 **Nays:** 0