

RENAISSANCE ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOL OF THE ARTS
Board of Trustees
Wednesday, November 13, 2019 at 12:30 PM
Location: 299 Kirk Road Rochester, New York
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:** Steve Gordon, Natalie Washington, Lou Spiro, Tom Merkel, Aaron Rosen, Alan Caine, Amy Reingold
- **Members Absent:** Bert Brinkerhoff
- **Others Present:** Donna Marie Cozine, Craig Eichmann, Harry Marino

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 73.4 to approve Consent Agenda for Items listed below:**
- **(Motion to approve: November 13, 2019 Agenda.)**
- **(Motion to approve: Minutes from October 16, 2019 Board Meeting.)**
- **Motion to approve:** Aaron Rosen **Seconded:** Tom Merkel
- **Ayes: 7 Nays: 0**

Chief Educational Officer Report [Dr. Donna Marie Cozine]

Dr. Cozine reviewed the plans for increasing benchmark achievement. Dr. Cozine is working closely with our building principal on areas of professional growth for teachers. The Konar Foundation visited last week and were very impressed with what they saw and with how we have grown with their assistance.

Upcoming Board Presentations on KDE

- December: Arts Integration
- January: More Time on Task AND Extensive Support for Our Students and Their Families
- February: A Focus on Numeracy and the 8 Mathematical Practices
- March: A Disposition for Learning AND Character Education
- April: A Focus on Literacy and Language

Academic Committee Report [Tom Merkel]

Mr. Merkel reported that the committee has met. Interim assessments in ELA and math have begun, results have been reviewed and analyzed. The academic committee has been briefed on the results and plans to continue to address the standards to close the gap between our current data and our goal.

Development Committee Report [Ms. Amy Reingold]

Fall Campaign - \$9,025 has been raised to date. Ms. Reingold reports that we purchased Donor Perfect and Greater Giving software which will streamline the process for fundraising. We are partnered with ROC the Day so donors can designate our campaign.

Our book fair will be Barnes & Noble in Greece this year on Sunday, 12/15. Board members are encouraged to volunteer.

Reach for the Stars committee continues to meet to plan the 4/24 Gala.

Governance Committee Report [Dr. Aaron Rosen]

- **Motion 73.5 to approve the following slate of officers to fill vacant positions:**

Louis Spiro – Vice Chair

Natalie Washington - Secretary

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

- **Ayes: 7 Nays: 0**

Roll call:

Steven Gordon – YES

Bert Brinkerhoff - ABSENT

Louis Spiro - YES

Natalie Washington - YES

Aaron Rosen - YES

Thomas Merkel - YES

Amy Reingold - YES

Alan Caine – YES

Aaron Rosen reported that we have one perspective member, Linda Dickey completing her paperwork at this time. Ms. Dickey comes highly recommended by Dr. Marilyn Grant.

Dr. Rosen reported on attending a recent Town Hall meeting that provided resources for potential future grants to offset costs of special programs that would benefit the school and the board. The Town Hall was hosted by David Frank from NYSED. Ms. Reingold was underwhelmed with the attendance and information provided at this meeting.

Finance Committee Report (Alan Caine)

Mr. Caine provided an overview of the finance committee's report which covered the following four topics:

- Financial Executive Summary – Mr. Marino reviewed the summary and provided clarification on how monies are calculated and received. We are in favorable standing and keeping expenses below budget.
 - Nichols Loan Status – we are paying down this loan and will make a determination in June if we are able to pay it off entirely by June 30th. Loan payments will be made monthly.
 - Revised Budget – total variance is an increase in net income used to apply the difference to the outstanding loan to Nichols team. The increase in income is due to our being our own food serve operator.
 - Status of Quickbooks Online transition is in process.
- **Motion 73.6 to approve the Revised Budget for 2019-2020**
 - **Motion to approve:** Steve Gordon **Seconded:** Tom Merkel
 - **Ayes: 6 Nays: 0**

- **Roll call:**

- Steven Gordon – YES
- Bert Brinkerhoff - ABSENT
- Louis Spiro - YES
- Natalie Washington - YES
- Thomas Merkel - YES
- Amy Reingold - YES
- Alan Caine – YES
- Aaron Rosen (n/a – left meeting early at 1:30 p.m.)

Human Resources Committee Report [Ms. Natalie Washington]

Ms. Washington reports that the committee met and discussed ways and means for the committee to support reviews of salary, gap analysis and comprehensive review of benefits as these items relate to the Rochester City School District and other charter schools.

Old Business

Strategic Plan [Lou Spiro]

Mr. Lou Spiro will work cooperatively with a sub-committee to executive a strategic plan. Mr. Spiro prepared and provided a flow chart outlining an annual approach. Mr. Gordon suggested that he, Dr. Cozine and Mr. Spiro sit down to further discussion.

New Business

Dr. Cozine and Mr. Lou Spiro attended a NYS Charter School Advocate group meeting. We are not currently a member of this group. Mr. Spiro suggested that we continue to foster relationships with local leaders and parents to grow much-needed support for our school.

Public Comments

Adjournment

Motion 73.7 to approve adjournment:

- **Motion to approve:** Alan Caine **Seconded:** Louis Spiro
- **Ayes:** 6 **Nays:** 0

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES WILL BE HELD ON 12/4/2019 @ 12:30 PM