



RENAISSANCE ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOL OF THE ARTS
Board of Trustees
Wednesday, July 15, 2020 at 12:30 PM

Location: Zoom Conference Meeting
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:** Tom Merkel, Amy Reingold, Alan Caine, Bert Brinkerhoff, Steve Gordon, Aaron Rosen, Natalie Washington, Linda Dickey
- **Members Absent:** Cheryl Hayward
- **Others Present:** Donna Marie Cozine, Harry Marino, Nan Westervelt, Cait Loury

Steve Gordon welcomed all who were present to the meeting, which was held virtually due to the COVID 19 pandemic.

Steve Gordon called the meeting to order at 12:30 p.m.

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 77.7 to approve Consent Agenda for Items listed below:**
- **(Motion to approve: July 17, 2020 Agenda.)**
- **Motion to approve: 77.8 Minutes from June 17, 2020 Board Meeting.)**
- **Motion to approve:** Alan Caine **Seconded:** Aaron Rosen
- **Ayes: 7 Nays: 0**

Chief Educational Officer Report [Dr. Donna Marie Cozine]

Dr. Cozine updated the board on the process of the charter renewal. Dr. Cozine informed the board that they will have a draft in the next week to review and the board will need to vote on the application at the next board meeting. The application is due on Friday, August 14th. Dr. Cozine explained the guidelines that have been provided for

schools for reopening in September. Dr. Cozine reviewed the draft plan that the reopening committee has created and demonstrated it's alignment to the mandatory guidelines. Dr. Cozine informed the board that the plan is due on or before July 30th. Dr. Cozine cautioned that if RCSD doesn't provide busing, and that RA's plan will be 100% virtual, it needs to be flexible, contingent on RCSD.

Academic Committee Report [Tom Merkel]

- Committee chair, Tom Merkel, reviewed a one page data visualization that captures the progress of one cohort over time.
- He and Dr. Cozine reviewed the assessments and explained that each data point was a different assessment result based on students who would be considered at or above grade level by the assessment criteria.
- Board members provided feedback on how to make the graph more easily interpreted.
- Tom explained that he has not yet shown this to the academic committee and will do so at the next meeting.
- Tom shared the Similar Schools list that RA will be compared to in the charter renewal and discussed how the school will supplement information in Benchmark 1 to create a comprehensive picture of RA's academic progress.

Development Committee Report [Ms. Amy Reingold]

The Reach for the Stars event will not be happening this coming school year. We will lose deposit money. Alan inquired as to why wouldn't we get money back during the pandemic. Amy states we haven't asked for the money back. Nan states they will be discussing launching an annual campaign earlier and requests if you have any names to please submit them for asks. Nan advised that there will be updates to the RA website and we would like to get headshots from the Board, and a bio.

Finance Committee Report (Mr. Bert Brinkerhoff)

Bert Brinkerhoff stated that there was no report, fiscal year end. Bert advised auditors will be coming out in August. Craig Eichmann, Harry Marino and Bert will be preparing next week.

Human Resources Committee Report [Ms. Natalie Washington]

Asked the Board to submit talking points before meetings in a document prior to meetings and she is looking for a new member. Asked that members submit financial statements.

CEO job description, correction made under Manage and Leadership. DMC requested language under qualifications be edited. Alan inquired about wording around Summary and DMC explained board governance. Natalie explained the variances in meets and exceeds expectations. Nan stated the Board is responsible for the whole organization, Alan disagrees, states the Board gives that responsibility to the CEO. DMC suggests to come back to it.

████████████████████ – tabled w. edits

- **Motion to approve: N/A Seconded: N/A**
- **Ayes: N/A Nays: N/A**

There was no vote today and Natalie advised we will not bring it to the next Board meeting either as we will be going over the COO description, and asked members to write down suggestions.

Governance Committee Report [Dr. Aaron Rosen]

Results of Self-Assessment.

Aaron Rosen advised that it's time to recruit new Board members, please give him any suggestions. The self-assessment results were shared with the State. Aaron emailed Cheryl & Linda to go over some of the issues and set up meetings with them. Steve asked again if the results were forwarded to the State, Donna Marie confirmed. Make sure minutes indicate that we went over it. Aaron wants to spend time with the new members as they joined at an odd time.

Old Business

Strategic Planning

Donna Marie asked for a Board member to help on this because Lou is no longer on the Board. Steve thought Tom Merkel had mentioned wanting to assist with the strategic planning, he will check with him as Tom needed to leave the meeting early.

New Business

Motion to Approve **77.9** Enrollment Preference for students with disabilities (SWDs) for the 2020-2021 recruitment season.

- **Motion to approve: Alan Caine Seconded: Steve Gordon**
- **Ayes: 6 Nays: 0**

Motion **78.0** to approve the submission of RA's reopening plan, as presented to the Board (today, Wednesday, July 17, 2020), and subject to such changes as the leadership team of the school shall deem necessary or appropriate to comply with applicable rules and guidance of NYSED.

- **Motion to approve: Alan Caine Seconded: Tom Merkel**
- **Ayes: 7 Nays: 0**

Public Comments

None.

Notation: Moving August BOT meeting to August 12th.

Adjournment

Motion 78.1 to approve adjournment:

- **Motion to approve: Alan Caine Seconded: Natalie Washington**
- **Ayes: 6 Nays: 0**