



RENAISSANCE ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOL OF THE ARTS
Board of Trustees Meeting – Monthly Board Meeting
Wednesday, March 29, 2023 4:30 - 6:00 PM
Location: 299 Kirk Road
DRAFT 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 TIME: 4:36 PM

Members Present: Tom Merkel; Ann Seigler; Mike Osborn; Steve Morse

Members Absent: Kristian Walker; Mark McDermott

Others Present: Dr. Cait Loury; Craig Eichmann; Nan Westervelt

Kudos & Celebrations:

- Ann Seigler's son received a Leadership Award at the University of Albany.
- Tom Merkel witnessed his granddaughter learn to walk at 14 months.
- The entire Board congratulated Dr. Deasure Matthew on being appointed Rochester City School District Acting Chief of Schools. Dr. Matthew submitted her resignation as a Renaissance Academy Charter School of the Arts (RA) Board member and Chair. The Board thanked her for her tireless work on behalf of the RA students.

● **Motion #105.2 to elect Ann Seigler as Board Chair.**

- **Motion:** Tom Merkel **Second:** Mike Osborn
- **Discussion:** The Board thanked Ann Seigler for assuming the Board Chair position after the resignation of Dr. Deasure Matthew.
- **Ayes:** 5 **Nays:** 0 **Abstentions:** 0

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

❖ **Motion #105.3 to approve consent items: 3/29/23 Agenda and #105.4 to approve 2/15/23 Regular Meeting Minutes and 2/15/23 Executive Session Minutes**

❖

- **Motion:** Tom Merkel **Second:** Cheryl Hayward
- **Discussion:** None
- **Ayes:** 3 **Nays:** 0 **Abstentions:** 2

❖ **CEO Report Highlights - Dr. Cait Loury - [5 Minutes]**

- State testing: ELA April 19 & 20; Math May 3 & 4; Preparing for the tests is occurring and is called "Crescendo"--not "Test Prep"
- In addition to the Organizational Overview on the Dashboard, the interactive Academic portal is now available. Dr. Loury provided the Board with a tutorial on

how to use the ELA and Math dashboard to access information on achievement indicators for academic proficiency and trends toward proficiency.

- A board member requested the addition of fundraising information be added to the Organizational Overview.
- The SED Mid-Year Site Report from last May was received and Dr. Loury provided an overview of the results—indicating the status of each Benchmark area. The next step is to read the entire report and provide factual corrections to SED.
- RA has received 587 applications for 75 openings. Dr. Loury reported on the extensive efforts to increase ELL and SPED applications.
- In collaboration with A Magical Journey Thru Stages, the RA students will perform Lion King, Jr.-- the first musical production ever at the school—on Thursday, March 30 at the RBTL's 200 seat small theater. Thirty students are involved in the production.
- Dr. Loury thanked several Board members for their contributions of money and food to the March Gladness— a month-long team building and morale building effort for the staff.

❖ **Finance Committee Report - Mr. Tom Merkel [5 Minutes]**

- The Monthly and YTD Financial Report as well as the Balance Sheet was presented to the Board for discussion. The reports and discussion indicate that Renaissance Academy Charter School of the Arts is in a healthy financial position.
- The Financial Committee is meeting in extra sessions to review and discuss the proposed 2023-24 Budget (and 4-year projected Budget Plan). The proposed budget will be forwarded to the Board prior to the April meeting for their review and discussion. The final budget vote will occur in May.

➤ **Motion #105.5 to accept the updated (red-lined) Renaissance Academy Charter School of the Arts Financial Policy & Procedures Manual.**

- **Motion:** Mike Osborn **Second:** Cheryl Hayward
- **Discussion:** The red-lined updates were discussed.
- **Ayes:** 4 **Nays:** 0 **Abstentions:** 1

❖ **Academic Committee Report - Mr. Mark McDermott [5 Minutes]**

- Academic Committee information was discussed during the CEO report.
- The committee continues to focus on students on the “bubble” and measurement takes place on a regular basis.

❖ **Resource Development Committee Report - Mr. Mike Osborn [5 Minutes]**

- The annual campaign has generated nearly \$16,000 YTD.
- Metrics were provided that indicate the return on investment for the annual campaign is significant. The committee will discuss the efficacy of increasing direct mail opportunities.
- The April 28 Reach for the Stars benefit has secured ~\$22,000 in sponsorships, donations and admissions.

❖ **Governance Committee Report - Mr. Mike Osborn [5 Minutes]**

- The quarterly Governance Committee will be held on April 13 at 8:30 AM
- The Board briefly reviewed its identification and recruitment priorities.
- The spring Board Retreat will be held on Saturday, April 15.

- ❖ **Ad Hoc Strategic Planning Committee Report - Ann Seigler [5 Minutes]**
 - The committee is narrowing the areas of focus and proposing short and long term goals.

- ❖ **Human Resources Committee Report - Ann Seigler [5 Minutes]**
 - The next meeting will be on April 12.

- ❖ **Old Business**
 - Board and committee members were thanked for their donations to the Shamrock Race during March Gladness.

- ❖ **New Business**
 - A report on the outcomes of the monthly E3 charter board convening session was presented and discussed. The topics included:
 - Transportation
 - Resources & Facilities
 - School Choice Fairs (Collaboration with RCSD is under discussion.)
 - Charter Champions (A non profit organization that helps with staffing.)
 - Along with other charter school Board members, two RA Board members attended a meeting with the Mayor of Rochester. The purpose was to increase the Mayor's awareness of charter schools in Monroe County.

- ❖ **Motion # 105.6 to Adjourn.**
 - **Motion:** Tom Merkel **Seconded:** Steve Morse
 - **Discussion:** None
 - **Ayes:** 5 **Nays:** 0 **Abstentions:** 0

Adjournment - TIME: 6:24 PM