



**Renaissance Charter High School for Innovation
Agenda for Meeting of the Board of Trustees
November 26th, 2012
410 East 100th Street, New York, NY 10029**

Agenda:

- 1. Roll Call**
- 2. Filing of Notice of Meeting**
- 3. Review and Adoption of September Board Minutes**
- 4. Presentation of Audited Financial Statement by Accountants**
- 5. Report on the results of literacy assessments and academic performance**
- 6. Introduction to the Columbia Law School Clinic Team and Basecamp Tutorial – how to use Basecamp in connection with committee work**
- 7. Signing of the Innovation Conflict of Interest Policy Annual Disclosure Form**
- 8. Board Meeting Schedule**
- 9. Other business**
- 10. Public Speaking**



**Renaissance Charter High School for Innovation
Minutes for Meeting of the Board of Trustees
September 24rd, 2012
410 East 100th Street, New York, NY 10029**

Agenda:

- 1. Roll Call**
- 2. Filing of Notice of Meeting**
- 3. Review of July Board Minutes**
- 4. Report on the new school year from the Principal**
- 5. Presentation on Amending the Code of Conduct to include the Dignity Act and Proposed Regulatory Change**
- 6. Board Retreat Charter and Work Plans**
- 7. On Boarding New Parent Contact**
- 8. Public Speaking**

1. Roll Call

Frank Saia called the meeting to order. Leanne Sajor, Nicholas Tiishuk, Sona Karia, and George Sarkissian were present. Also present was Stephen Falla Riff, Innovation High School's Director of Operations and Legal Counsel.

2. Filing of Notice of Meeting

In accordance with the law, a notice of the meeting was published on the school's website, sent via fax to the New York Times newspaper and also posted publicly at M99 School Building where Innovation HS is located at 410 East 100th Street New York, NY 10029.

3. Review of July Board Minutes

The Board reviewed the minutes and Ms. Sona Karia motioned to approve. Mr. Tishuk seconded and the Board approved the minutes from the July meeting.

4. Report on the new school year from the Principal

Mr. Tishuk explained a few changes in the school for the 2012-2013 academic year, including the creation of the Learning Center to provide more individualized academic support for the students. Innovation HS also has more support staff to help with the expansion, this includes people on the student support team and staff members to help with classroom transitions. Mr. Tishuk is also looking to use the professional

development time in the morning more effectively with the expansion of the staff.

Mr. Tishuk explained that Ms. Rita Tishuk, Director of Development and Communications, spearheaded a literacy initiative throughout the school. She brought in Ellen Richer as a consultant to create a program with the Learning Center team. Mr. Tishuk shared that there is a lot of growth in our students' academic performance and Innovation HS is building vital programs to support that growth. Mr. Tishuk will provide a deeper evaluation of the school's academic performance at the next meeting.

5. Presentation on Amending the Code of Conduct to include the Dignity Act and Proposed Regulatory Change

Mr. Falla Riff explained that the Dignity Act is a New York Statue to create provisions that help prevent bullying or harassment. It is designed to address instances of harassment and bullying in schools and to provide a procedure for reporting and responding appropriately to these acts. Mr. Falla Riff amended the student handbook, the staff handbook and now the Code of Conduct for the Board of Trustees. Article IX has been changed to reflect the language and regulations of the Dignity Act, and Deborah DaGiau, Innovation's Associate Director of Finance and Human Resources, is now also the school's coordinator for the Dignity Act.

Mr. Saia motioned to approve, Mr. Sarkissian seconded and the board unanimously approved the amendment of the Code of Conduct to include the Dignity Act. This will be posted on the school's website as required by the law.

6. Board Retreat Charter and Work Plans

Mr. Saia reported on the Educational Support Committee's plan. Mr. Tishuk and Ms. Tishuk's review will be done with the Annual Report and this will include a Bonus and/or a Salary Adjustment depending on the evaluation. Mr. Sarkissian advised the committee to work closely with Ms. Gauthier to help determine which data points could be useful for the evaluation.

Ms. Karia also briefly reported on the next steps for the Finance committee, she will reach out to the committee to review the report before presenting to the whole board.

Mr. Sarkissian presented his notes from the Fundraising and Career Tracks committees. The Careers Tracks committee will create internship opportunities and seek certification programs for Innovation students. The success of the initiative will be determined according to the number of students it serves and the partnerships it effectively cultivated. Mr. Sarkissian reported that fundraising goals will primarily focus on building

partnerships and critical supporters of the Innovation HS. In the discussion of committee memberships, Mr. Saia appointed Leanne Sajor as the Chair of Board Governance committee and Mr. Nicholas Tishuk as the chair of Fundraising committee.

7. On Boarding New Parent Contact

Ms. Sajor told the board that our PTO's parent candidate, who would serve on the board of trustees to represent Innovation's parents, decided to forfeit their application. Mr. Tishuk urged the board to start the process again with the PTO since parents expressed interest in having a representative on the board. Ms. Sajor will be working with Mr. Tishuk and Innovation's Parent Coordinator to create next steps.

8. New Business

- A. Mr. Falla Riff announced that he will be working with Columbia Law Students for a legal clinic with Innovation HS. These law students are taking a class called "lawyering in the digital age" and will be working closely with Stephen Falla Riff and Leanne Sajor on Board Governance.
- B. The board went into an executive session.

9. Public Speaking

There were no public comments.

10. Adjournment

Mr. Sarkissian motioned to adjourn. Mr. Saia seconded and with the unanimous decision of the board, the meeting was adjourned.