



**Renaissance Charter High School for Innovation
Meeting of the Board of Trustees
January 17th, 2017, 6:15 pm
410 East 100th Street, New York, NY 10029**

Meeting Minutes

1. Roll call

Board Chair George Sarkissian called the meeting to order. Board members George Sarkissian, Jon Jelley, Ravneesh Sachdev, Sona Karia and Eboni Kirkland were present, constituting a quorum for the purpose of conducting business. Also present were Stephen Falla Riff (Executive Director), Jason Forde (Development & External Affairs Manager), Terence Joseph (Principal), Pablo Torres (Director of Student Life and Community Engagement) and Innovation Guidance Counselor Danielle Martin and Innovation Students Dasany Gonzalez and Dominique Smith.

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 email to the New York Times and posted publicly at the M99 School Building where Innovation High School is located at 410 East 100th Street New York, NY 10029.

3. Review and Approval of Prior Board Meeting Minutes (5 minutes/Chair)

The Board reviewed the meeting minutes from the December, 13th Board meeting. Mr. Sarkissian made a motion to approve the minutes from the Dec 13th meeting, Mr. Jelley seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

4. Review of Innovation Calendar of Events (5 minutes/Development & External Affairs Manager)

Jason reviewed the Innovation Event Calendar for the Board with the upcoming events for Innovation High School. Ms. Karia volunteered to help prepare students to prepare for an upcoming Advocacy Day for Charter Schools on February 7th in Albany, NY.

5. District Charter Collaborative Overview (5 minutes/Director of Student Life & Community Engagement)

Pablo reviewed the Innovation progress of participating in the District Charter Collaborative and reviewed the scheduled events Innovation is a part of regarding restorative disciplinary practices in our District.

6. Status of Q2 Budget to Actuals Report (3 minutes/ Exec. Dir.)

Will be moved to Feb

7. Update on Board Member Candidate Search (5 minutes/Development & External Affairs Manager)

Interview for Donald Ruff scheduled for 1/18 with SMT. 3 more candidates have been identified and schedule.

8. Annual Board Retreat: Recap of Part I & Planning for Part II (30 minutes/ E.D., SMT, DEAM)

Recap - SMT participated in the the retreat and the Board heard SMT desires and aspirations for the short and long term progression of Innovation High School. From SMT input the Board was able to better understand how they should be involved going forward. Based on this input the Board has decided to expand the board to be able to support the school and be more directly engaged with Innovation community.

Part 2 of the Board retreat will be in March. Time and place TBD.

9. Executive Session: Personnel Matter (15 minutes/ Exec. Dir.)

Ms. Karia motioned to go into executive session and was seconded by Mr. Jelley.

Steve reviewed an issue regarding a teacher-student impropriety that occurred during the Winter Break and gave an update what happened and how the matter was handled. Based on the findings of the investigation, SMT decided to terminate the employment of the teacher.

Board raised questions on what messaging has been communicated to the faculty and staff regarding policies regarding student-teacher relationships, social media management. New policies regarding appropriate student-teacher interactions, social media and investigative policies when issues such as this arise.

Mr. Jelley made motion to come out of executive session, seconded by Mr. Sarkissian

10. Other New Business

None

11. Adjournment

Ms. Karia made motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Jelley.