



**Renaissance Charter High School for Innovation
Meeting of the Board of Trustees
May 21, 2019, 6:00 pm
410 East 100th Street, New York, NY 10029**

Meeting Minutes

1. Roll call/sign in

Chair George Sarkissian and Board Secretary Latoya Massey were present in person, Vice Chair Sona Karia, Board Secretary Latoya Massey and Trustee Jared McShall attended the meeting via Zoom video conference, constituting a quorum of the members of the board. Also present were Stephen Falla Riff (Executive Director), Terence Joseph (Principal), Ira Yasbin (Assistant Principal), Pablo Torres (Director of Student Life & Family Engagement), Jason Forde (Associate Director of Strategic Planning and Communications), Jamilah Abdul-Majid (ELL Teacher), Yusef Abdul-Sabur (History Teacher), Daysi Polanco (ELL Teacher), Board Candidates Gicel Adon and Ramon Perdomo.

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 The Renaissance Charter High School for Innovation ("Innovation") is located, at 410 East 100th Street New York, New York, 10029.

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

Unredacted and redacted minutes were reviewed by the Board. A motion was made to accept the minutes as drafted and the motion was seconded and unanimously passed.

4. Review of Academic Accountability Dashboard (10 minutes, Associate Director of Strategic Planning)

Mr. Forde reviewed overall school enrollment data with the Board and revealed that current enrollment numbers have remained steady during the semester. Mr. Forde also reviewed the projected graduation data for the cohort of 2015 and revealed the following:

- Projected 4 year Graduation Rate - 78.3%
- Projected 5 year Graduation Rate - 91.67%
- Graduates with a Regents Diploma 85%
- Graduates with a Local Diploma 15%

For Innovation's Special Education students review of the graduation data revealed the following

- Projected 4 Year Graduation Rate - 75.8%

- Projected 5 Year Graduation Rate - 84.8%
- Graduates with Regents Diploma - 45.5%
- Graduations with Local Diploma - 54.5%

For the Accountability Sub Group, that Innovation has been currently identified as a Targeted Support School (TSI), Black males, the following was reported:

- Projected 4 Year Graduation Rate - 63.3%
- Projected 5 Year Graduation Rate - 83.3%
- Graduates with Regents Diploma - 70%
- Graduations with Local Diploma - 23.3%

All data is represent all time highs for the school.

Next steps: Final June graduation numbers will be calculated and compiled once regents are completed and will be presented at the July Board Meeting

5. DOE Annual Site Visit Review (10 minutes, E.D., Principal)

Principal Joseph and the SMT reviewed the feedback given by Innovation’s Authorizers as part of the DOE Annual Site Visit. Based on the site visit, Authorizers identified the progress being made towards increasing academic rigor and student engagement in the classroom, however, also noticed areas of opportunity within Innovation’s co-teaching model to increase engagement and co-teaching synergy with increased improvement in lesson planning and classroom control. Authorizers also provided feedback to SMT regarding their preliminary assessment on the likelihood of renewal. Authorizers assessed the best Innovation would receive is a 3 year renewal, based on observed progress. SMT pointed out that Innovation should be assessed based upon the progress being made by the entire student population, including our large group of at-risk and over-aged under-credited students.

Next Steps: SMT will review Authorizer feedback and incorporate those notes into school planning.

6. Planning Process, 2019-2020 (20 minutes, SMT)

Principal Joseph reviewed the current status of Innovation’s planning process for the 2019-2020 School year. He acknowledged that the current school year has had many challenges in regards to staffing, personnel changes and staff morale. These sentiments were echoed by teachers, Ms. Polanco and Ms. Abdul-Majid. Ms. Polanco expressed her challenges in communication and the execution of various personnel issues that has impacted her while at Innovation. Ms. Abdul-Majid also expressed her concerns for having clear communication with Management and Leadership teams to ensure that faculty and staff are on the same page to provide a quality education to Innovation students and their families.

Members of the SMT acknowledged the communication and execution challenges that were mentioned and looked to resolve those issues as part of the planning process for the upcoming school year.

In order to effectively plan for the upcoming school year, Principal Joseph explained that this year, summer school will not be hosted at Innovation. Instead, SMT, SLT and Department Chairs, Counseling and other needed staff will spend the summer reviewing all policies and procedures to ensure that programming changes, scheduling and other student related activities are adequately planned in preparation for all staff to return on August 12th.

Next Steps: Principal Joseph will continue his planning and preparation with SMT and SLT to identify programming and finalize staffing needs to inform the budgeting process.

7. Board Candidate Review (10 minutes, Board Chair)

Board Candidates Gicel Adon and Ramon Perdomo were introduced to the Board by Mr. Forde. Gicel Adon - Introduced herself and detailed her desire to be on the Board of Trustees at Innovation. Ms. Adon is currently an Assistant Principal at a DOE school in District 9 in the Bronx. As part of her Board Project, Ms. Adon worked with Innovation Associate Director of Pathways, Jesse Matthews, to determine effective strategies for keeping students on track towards graduation. Ms. Adon noted that she could see the good work that is being attempted and done at Innovation and it made her excited at the prospect at becoming a Board Member to continue assisting in the work.

The Board asked questions regarding her experience involving improving school results, her ties to the Harlem community and her desires to be on the Board of Innovation. Ms. Adon provided recommendations for school improvements as well as stated her interest in being apart of the school community.

Board Secretary Massey and Trustee Singleton had to leave the meeting which removed the quorum for the purpose of conducting official business of the Board.

Ramon Perdomo - Mr. Perdomo introduced himself and expressed his interest in being on Innovation's Board of Trustees as a Community Representative. Mr. Perdomo was born and raised in the East Harlem area and currently works in a public school in their Special Education Department. For his Board Project, Mr. Perdomo met with Special Education Department Chair, Kristen Anghari to discuss the challenges in Special Education and the recruitment and retainment of Special Education Teachers. Mr. Perdomo provided his recommendations to the Board for their review.

Next Steps: Follow up conversations with Ms. Adon and Mr. Perdomo will be scheduled and they will be asked back to the July Board Meeting to continue their candidacy process.

8. Executive Session - FY'20 Budget Review & Discussion (30 minutes, SMT)

Deferred

9. Executive Session - HR Matter (E.D., 5 minutes)

Deferred

10. Public Speaking (5 minutes)

None

11. Adjournment

Mr Sarkissian motion made, seconded and unanimously approved, and the meeting was adjourned.