



**Renaissance Charter High School for Innovation  
Agenda for Meeting of the Board of Trustees  
March 20, 2012  
410 East 100<sup>th</sup> Street, New York, NY 10029**

- 1. Roll Call**
- 2. Review Board Minutes from February Meeting**
- 3. Sustainable Careers Initiative**
- 4. Discussion of Board Candidate**



**Renaissance Charter High School for Innovation  
Minutes for Meeting of the Board of Trustees  
February 28, 2012  
410 East 100<sup>th</sup> Street, New York, NY 10029**

**Agenda:**

- 1. Roll Call**
- 2. Review Board Minutes from January Meeting**
- 3. Audit Committee**
- 4. Defining Committee work and mission**
- 5. Discussion of June Regents Prep with School Management Team**

**1. Roll Call**

Sona Karia, Frank Saia, Leanne Sajor, and Nicholas Tishuk were present. Also present was Innovation High School's school management team; Terence Joseph, Nino Mitic, Rita Tishuk and Pablo Torres. Innovation's counsel, Steve Falla-Riff, was present with guests, Ryan Ponte, Ariana Zikopoulos and Mary Zulack.

**2. Review Board Minutes from January Meeting**

Mr. Saia motioned to approve. Ms. Karia seconded and unanimously approved with minor revisions.

**3. Audit Committee**

Mr. Falla-Riff advised Innovation to form an audit committee.

Ms. Karia planned to work with Mr. Falla-Riff, the accountants and Associate Director of Finance, Ms. Debbie DaGiau, to form the charter and work plan for the Audit Committee. The committee will meet quarterly once instituted.

**4. Defining Committee work and mission**

This item was tabled for this meeting. The agenda item will be revisited at the next board meeting.

**5. Discussion of June Regents Prep with School Management Team**

Mr. Tishuk provided an overview of the student population at Innovation High School including information on students coming in below grade level, students with emotional disturbance and learning disabilities. He explained that Innovation's students are the 7<sup>th</sup> lowest peer index out of 425 public high schools in NYC as defined by the DOE.

Mr. Tishuk reported that the school management team analyzed the data collected from the Mock Regents in January and had three data/professional development

days with the staff to design a new approach. The following changes were made to support learning based on the review of student readiness for June Regents exams:

-Mr. Tishuk hired additional staff members, one staff member is focusing on writing and another hire will focus on math/science with at risk, special-ed students.

-New courses: Writing Seminar 5 days a week and Themes of World History 3 days a week. These classes are designed to address student's approach to writing.

-Integrated writing model: Developed a new Innovation writing curriculum and model across all sophomore classes in English 10, Global History 10, Themes of World History and Sophomore Writing Seminar.

-Global Support and Data Driven Instruction: Additional push-in by an instructor, two days a week, in Global History. A new position of Data Coordinator will be spending two days a week focusing on data driven instruction to support sophomore classes in addition to teaching classes.

-Regents focus in Living Environment: Additional focus in living environment to utilize Regents style questions in classwork.

-Enhanced School wide Structures: Overall improvements in the school for transitions, student support team, after school, attendance committee and overall school culture.

-Enrichment opportunities: Developed additional enrichment activities for the highest performing students. For April we have three enrichment practicum programs which will take students for an Ecology program in Central Florida, a critical thinking program in New Orleans and college practicum in Western New York and Pittsburgh, PA.

Mr. Tishuk explained that a consistent healthy fiscal position allowed to create these changes and to invest in programs for the students.

## **6. Public Speaking**

Mr. Falla-Riff was excited about development opportunities for Innovation and commended the Innovation Team for their hard work.

## **7. Adjournment**

Frank Saia motioned to end, Mr. Tishuk seconded and the meeting was concluded unanimously.