



**Renaissance Charter High School for Innovation
Agenda for Meeting of the Board of Trustees
May 20, 2013
410 East 100th Street, New York, NY 10029**

Agenda:

- 1. Roll Call**
- 2. Filing of Notice of Meeting**
- 3. Review of April 29th Board Minutes**
- 4. Charter Revision Updates**
- 5. Executive Session: Commercial Leasing Updates**
- 6. Conflict of Interest Disclosure Forms (not all have been signed/submitted)**
- 7. Announcement of SPED Conference on June 1st**
- 8. Introduction of new parent trustee (and on-boarding process)**
- 9. Principal Meeting with Borough President**
- 10. Executive Session: Personnel Issue**
- 11. Other Business**
- 12. Public Speaking**



**Renaissance Charter High School for Innovation
Minutes for Meeting of the Board of Trustees
April 29, 2013
410 East 100th Street, New York, NY 10029**

Agenda:

1. Roll Call

Sona Karia, Frank Saia, Leanne Sajor, George Sarkissian and Nicholas Tishuk were present for the meeting. Matt Boyle, the School Designer and Members of the School Management Team Rita Tishuk, Director of Communications and Development, Terence Joseph, Director of Teaching and Learning, Pablo Torres, Director of Community Engagement and Stephen Falla Riff, General Counsel and Director of Operations attended the meeting. Also present were the Columbia Law School students David He, Chris Choi, and Andrew Wark for a brief presentation.

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 March 18th Board Minutes

Mr. Saia motioned to approve, Mr. Tishuk seconded and, by unanimous vote, the Board approved the minutes from the March meeting.

4. Non-Material Change to the Charter

Mr. Tishuk explained that during his discussion with the NYCDOE charter office, it was raised that Innovation is required to make a minor, non-material change regarding the school's location before applying for a material Charter Revision. He shared that the charter officially includes language related to the original proposal for CSD30, the same copy since 2009. The school has since completed all the required paperwork and hearings for the new location and has been serving the East Harlem community for the past 3 years and needs to update the information on the document. Mr. Tishuk proposed a resolution to make this non-material change to the charter. Mr. Sarkissian motioned to approve the resolution, Mr. Saia seconded, and the resolution was approved by unanimous vote.

5. Presentation by Columbia Law Students

Mr. Falla Riff introduced Chris Choi, David He and Andrew Wark, who worked with Innovation for the entire academic term to review the legal requirements for the charter revision. The team from Columbia Law School created a memo that summarized their findings, which included information on established associate degree plans in NYC high schools, media reports, and documents from the NYS Board of Regents regarding CTE and multiple pathways programs..

Mr. Sarkissian asked how much information was available concerning the High Schools with CTE and STEP programs that they listed in their memorandum. David responded that there was no specific information on their websites.

Mr. Tishuk thanked the Columbia Law School team for their research on education law, which was very helpful in drafting the charter revision.

6. Material Change to the Charter

Mr. Tishuk explained that the school is proposing a charter revision that would offer our students a Multiple Pathways approach towards graduation and an opportunity to obtain a Career and Technical Education (CTE) endorsement on their diplomas. This revision would provide our students 4-6 years to graduate with a Regents Diploma and a CTE designation. Mr. Tishuk explained that studies show that students who are similar to the students at Innovation benefit from a Multiple Pathways program that includes a CTE component. Mr. Tishuk also stated that there is no other charter school in New York State that has a CTE program and Innovation would be the first one. Ms. Karia asked why no one has done this with charter schools. Mr. Tishuk explained that most charter schools serve a younger population and also applying for a CTE program can be arduous.

Mr. Tishuk shared that our authorizers are supportive of this possible revision. Mr. Tishuk is trying to make the June 17th Board of Regents meeting for presentation of the proposal.

Mr. Sarkissian commented that most CTE programs take three years to develop, primarily to create the curriculum. Mr. Tishuk explained that if Innovation were a DOE school, that would be the case but for charter schools, the process is different. Charter schools are accountability-based, and therefore need not develop the curriculum in advance.

Ms. Sajor asked about the timeline for implementation if the revision were approved. Mr. Tishuk responded that it would start in September if everything works out according to plan. Ms. Sajor inquired where Mr. Tishuk plans to get expertise and training for teachers and support staff. Ms. Tishuk mentioned the partnership with Vaughn College for

Aeronautics and Technology. They would provide curriculum and expertise in the incubating stages of the program. Mr. Tishuk shared his long-term vision in investing in the program, and hiring staff for it.

Mr. Tishuk proposed a resolution to make material changes on the charter to support the CTE, multiple pathways program. Prior to a vote on the resolution, Mr. Falla Riff explained the charter revision process, which includes a submission of a charter revision application to the DOE, and a public meeting before the approval of the revision by the DOE. After some discussion, and upon motion duly made and seconded, the Board unanimously approved the resolution.

7. Executive Session: Update on Commercial Leasing Matter

Mr. Nicholas motioned to move to an executive session. Mr. Saia seconded and the motion carried unanimously. Mr. Tishuk invited Matt Boyle, Pablo Torres and Terence to stay for the discussion.

Minutes taken at an executive session are private, pursuant to the Open Meetings Law.

8. Executive Session: Personnel Issue

Mr. Tishuk moved to the eighth item on the agenda, another executive session, to discuss a personnel matter.

Minutes taken at an executive session are private, pursuant to the Open Meetings Law.

The executive session was concluded and the board returned to the regular session.

9. Other Business

There was no other business to be discussed.

10. Public Speaking

There were no public comments.

11. Adjournment

Mr. Saia motioned to adjourn, Mr. Sarkissian seconded, the motion carried unanimously and the meeting was concluded.