



**Renaissance Charter High School for Innovation
Minutes for Meeting of the Board of Trustees
December 15th, 2014
410 East 100th Street, New York, NY 10029**

Redacted Meeting Minutes

1. Roll Call

Board Chairperson Frank Saia called the meeting to order. Board members Ivan Fraser, Sona Karia, and George Sarkissian were present, constituting a quorum for purposes of conducting business. In addition, Eboni Kirkland, voted onto the Board as the new Parent Representative, but awaiting final approval from the Department of Education (“DOE”), was present. Also present were Stephen Falla Riff (Executive Director), Terence Joseph (Principal), Dru Collins (Vice Principal), Mike Jolley (Development & External Affairs Coordinator), Pablo Torres (Director of Student Life & Community Engagement), Jesse Matthews (At-Risk Program Manager, Sean Pawelec (Science Dept. Chair and SEP Teacher), and Jon Jelley (Board Candidate).

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

3. Charter renewal update (Executive Director and Principal)

The New York State Board of Regents has deferred action on all charter schools up for renewal due to pending questions regarding each school and the DOE’s role as authorizer. Innovation’s School Management Team (“SMT”) will contact the DOE regarding the status of Innovation’s renewal application and will provide additional data, if needed, to aid in the Regents decision. The SMT will also provide additional data to supporters of Innovation. Mr. Saia asked SMT to also seek input from Board Member Stacey Gauthier regarding how to engage support for Innovation’s renewal.

4. Brief Discussion of Board member school visits (Development & External Affairs Coordinator)

Trustees will plan trips to Innovation during the spring term to visit classrooms and to meet teachers, staff and students. In addition, trustees were invited to attend the Collaborative School Governance (“CSG”) sessions that are held prior to Board meetings, where staff, student leaders, and parents discuss school-related issues and propose educational plans for the school.

5. Discussion of Board Retreat for the Spring

The Annual Board retreat will be planned for the spring, most likely for March or April. Mr. Jolley will send a survey to the Board concerning possible objectives and an agenda for the retreat. Potential consultants will be evaluated to ensure that the retreat advances the development and business of the Board.

6. Advisory Board Development (Sean Pawelec, SEP Teacher/Science Department Chair)

Mr. Pawelec described his background and current role at Innovation. The Board asked several questions regarding his interest in the Advisory Board. Mr. Pawelec recognizes that the Advisory Board could serve as a critical link between the school and the Board. He also has a strong interest in helping to create the Advisory Board’s charter and structure. Mr. Sarkissian motioned to approve Mr. Pawelec’s appointment and Ms. Karia seconded the motion, which carried unanimously. Mr. Saia motioned to approve Mr. Jolley’s appointment to the Advisory Board and Ms. Karia seconded the motion, which carried unanimously. The Advisory Board’s first meeting will be held in January.

7. Board Candidate Interview - Jon Jelley

Mr. Jelley ran the Residential program at Boys Town for 16 years, holding various positions, from Senior Director to COO to Executive Director. He now serves as the CEO of Boys Town New York and has grown the program threefold during his tenure. Mr. Jelley has experienced opportunities and challenges similar to the ones that Innovation faces, especially as Boys Town grew over the years to serve more children. Mr. Jelley voiced his shared commitment to the East Harlem community and his passion for his work. The Board asked several questions regarding Mr. Jelley's background, vision for Innovation, and why he desires to serve on the Board. Conflict of interest was also discussed in the context of the Boys Town New York relationship with Innovation. All parties agreed that the relationship would be separate and would not affect Mr. Jelley's decision making and viewpoints on the Board given the mutual goal of serving students. Mr. Jelley agreed that he would recuse himself from any deliberations about the partnership between Boys Town New York and Innovation.

8. Executive Session - Mr. Jelley's Board Candidacy

Mr. Saia motioned to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing Mr. Jelley's appointment to the Board, and Mr. Sarkissian seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

[REDACTED]

Mr. Saia motioned to move out of Executive Session, the motion was seconded by Mr. Sarkissian and unanimously approved.

8. Public Session - Jon Jelley's Board Candidacy

Mr. Fraser motioned to elect Mr. Jelly to Innovation's Board of Trustees, which was seconded by Mr. Sarkissian and passed unanimously. Mr. Jelley was informed about the DOE's on-boarding process for new Board members and that he will not be a voting member of the Board until he is approved by the DOE.

9. Executive Session - Executive Compensation (Principal and Executive Director)

Mr. Saia motioned to go into Executive Session and Mr. Sarkissian seconded, which was unanimously approved.

[REDACTED]

Mr. Saia motioned to go out of Executive Session and Mr. Sarkissian seconded, which was unanimously approved.

10. Preparation for January elections

Mr. Saia and Ms. Karia are up for reelection given the expiration of their 5-year terms. Both are very keen on serving on the Board for another five years. Mr. Fraser's also expressed interest in continuing to serve on the Board as a general member now that the Parent Representative position will be taken by Eboni Kirkland. January will be the annual meeting of the Board at which elections of trustees and officers will take p

11. Other new business

No other new business was discussed.

12. Adjournment

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