



Renaissance Charter High School for Innovation
Special Meeting of the Board of Trustees
October 20th, 2015 at 7:30pm
410 East 100th Street, New York, NY 10029

Meeting Minutes

1. Roll Call

Interim Acting Chairperson George Sarkissian called the meeting to order. Board members Jon Jelley, Sona Karia, Ivan Fraser, and Eboni Kirkland were also present, constituting a quorum for the purpose of conducting business. Board member Stacey Gauthier was not present. Also present were Stephen Falla Riff (Executive Director), Pablo Torres (Director of Student Life & Community Engagement), Debbie DaGiau (Associate Director of Finance & HR), and Mike Jolley (Consultant and Advisory Committee member).

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. Board Recruitment Updates

Mr. Falla Riff gave an update on Ravneesh Sachdev, candidate for the Board, noting that he is scheduled to visit the school on October 30th. The Board discussed possible service projects for Mr. Sachdev for the next phase of his candidacy, including possible support to the Community Schools Project and to the Software Engineering Program

4. Strategic Planning Update

Mr. Falla Riff noted Principal Terence Joseph was ill and unable to attend the meeting, and asked the Board to revisit this item in the November meeting.

5. Strategy for Staff Retention

Mr. Falla Riff and Mr. Torres noted that staff raised concerns about Innovation's performance evaluation system in exit interviews. They gave an overview of changes to the performance evaluation system and suggested that the Personnel Review Committee of the Board also be involved in future changes and discussion. Ms. Karia asked that the Board be consulted by the School Management Team about cost-of-living adjustments and other salary

questions in the future. Mr. Falla Riff noted that Mr. Joseph would also present on this item in more detail in the November meeting.

6. Update - Local Assistance Plan Designation

Mr. Falla Riff reviewed the reasons for Innovation's designation as a Local Assistance Plan school by the New York State Education Department. He informed the Board that the School Management Team would complete the required diagnostic self-assessment form, which could then be reviewed by the Board. He noted that Mr. Joseph and Vice Principal Dru Collins would present a more detailed plan to the Board in the November meeting.

7. Board Projects Planning

The Board reviewed projects determined in the recent retreat. Mr. Jelley gave an update on the progress of the Community Schools project as well as possible involvement from Deloitte volunteers. The Board discussed involvement from Board candidate, Ravneesh Sachdev, and possible partnerships.

8. Other New Business

No other new business was discussed.

9. Adjournment

Mr. Fraser motioned to adjourn and Mr. Jelley seconded. The motion carried unanimously and the meeting was concluded.