



Renaissance Charter High School for Innovation

Special Meeting of the Board of Trustees

June 15th, 2015 at 7:30

410 East 100th Street, New York, NY 10029

Meeting Minutes

1. Roll Call

Chairperson Frank Saia called the meeting to order. Board members Jon Jelley, Sona Karia, George Sarkissian, and Eboni Kirkland were also present, constituting a quorum for purposes of conducting business. Also present were Stephen Falla Riff (Executive Director), Mike Jolley (Development & External Affairs Coordinator), Terence Joseph (Principal), Dru Collins (Vice Principal), and Pablo Torres (Director of Student Life & Community Engagement)

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

3. Finalized 2015-16 Board Meeting Calendar

After discussion of any possible schedule conflicts, the Board planned to meet on the third Tuesday of most months at 6:15 p.m., with allowances for holidays. As per the schedule previously distributed by Mr. Jolley, the Board will conduct a minimum of 12 meetings and Mr. Jolley will send a calendar invitation for each meeting.

4. Board Composition and Recruitment

The Board and School Management Team discussed recruitment of additional Board members. Mr. Falla Riff suggested adding 2-5 more members with the goal of also adding an Educational Accountability Committee. Mr. Saia asked the Board to reach out to their personal and professional networks to identify candidates, as discussed at the Board retreat. He also asked Ms. Kirkland to serve as the point person for follow-up on Board recruitment. The Board discussed several possible candidates and agreed that the first priority would be to add someone with a school leadership or policy background. With these qualifications in mind, Mr. Falla Riff agreed to reach out to Laurie Price and to the Coalition of Community Charter Schools.

5. Discussion of Board Expectations for 2014-15 Reporting

The Board discussed their expectations for reporting from the School Management Team. Mr. Jelley asked for reporting on any metrics necessary for the charter renewal process or otherwise identified in the charter. Mr. Joseph suggested periodic

reporting aligned to regular school occurrences such as the Regents exams and other required milestones/deadlines. Mr. Sarkissian also asked that the School Management Team report back on any special projects such as documentation of Innovation's Career and Technical Education track record.

6. Board Retreat Follow-up

The Board discussed their recent retreat, primarily strategic planning. Mr. Saia discussed the advantages of bringing on a consultant to guide the creation of a strategic plan but also noted that this would require a significant investment of time and resources. The Board and School Management Team discussed obstacles to timely completion of a strategic plan as well as advantages and disadvantages of retaining a consultant.

Mr. Joseph suggested that he could generate a strategic plan building on his previous work on Innovation core values, especially given the limited time and resources. Mr. Saia agreed that Mr. Joseph should continue his efforts but should also obtain feedback from key members of the Board, including Mr. Jelley, and also from a consultant. Mr. Falla Riff agreed to reach out to the Acceleration Group, to Laurie Price, and to JPS Solutions about a possible consulting engagement focused on hands-on support for Mr. Joseph. Mr. Jolley agreed to look into pro bono support from the Taproot Foundation and previous volunteers from Deloitte.

7. Other new business

No other new business was discussed.

8. Adjournment

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