



**Renaissance Charter High School for Innovation
Meeting of the Board of Trustees
April 19th, 2016 at 6:15pm
410 East 100th Street, New York, NY 10029**

Meeting Minutes

1. Roll Call

Chairperson George Sarkissian called the meeting to order. Board members Jon Jelley, Eboni Kirkland, and Ravneesh Sachdev were also present, constituting a quorum for the purpose of conducting business. Also present were Stephen Falla Riff (Executive Director), Pablo Torres (Director of Student Life & Community Engagement), Terence Joseph (Principal), Lola Barbarash (Representative of Charter School Business Management), Debbie DaGiau (Associate Director of Finance & HR), Shalia Stockstill (Enrichment Week Coordinator), Danielle Martin (Counselor), Myrna Gatica (Teacher), Jamilah Abdul-Majid (Teacher), and Mike Jolley (Consultant to the Board).

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. Review and Approval of Prior Board Meeting Minutes

Mr. Jelley made a motion to approve the redacted and unredacted version of the minutes contingent on the correction of Mr. Sarkissian's title. Ms. Kirkland seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

4. Enrichment Week Presentation

Ms. Stockstill presented a slide deck with highlights of Innovation's 2016 Enrichment Week projects; she then introduced teachers and students who made presentations about the goals and outcomes of their Enrichment Week projects. These teachers and students also answered questions from the Board about their experiences engaging in the following Enrichment Week projects: Social Justice: New York to New Orleans; Cycle Harlem; and Discover Brazil.

5. Review of Third Quarter Budget-to-Actual Report

Ms. Barbarash reviewed the highlights of the third quarter budget-to-actual report with the Board. She noted that the school is performing well financially and is on track to operate at a surplus by the end of the fiscal year. She also noted that \$1 million in funds have been placed in a reserve account as per the

Board's resolution and that details regarding allocation of additional funds from the state are still pending. She and Ms. DaGiau also discussed the likelihood of a significant rise in healthcare costs for the upcoming year and its impact on the budget.

6. 2016 Regents Exams Performance

Mr. Joseph distributed data about Innovation's performance on the January Regents exams and reviewed important conclusions drawn from that data. He noted that scores were lower than expected and pointed to student challenges such as writing and literacy. He fielded questions from the Board and discussed plans for improving student performance on the Regents including input from the school's teacher leaders, changes to programming, student conferences, and smaller classroom ratios in some cases. The Board asked that Mr. Joseph provide longitudinal data in the future so Regents performance could be compared year over year. The Board also asked that Mr. Joseph follow up in the May meeting with additional data about Innovation seniors at risk of being retained and plans for supporting them.

7. NYSED Focus District Designation

Mr. Joseph discussed the designation of Innovation as a Focus District by the New York State Education Department (NYSED) and noted that this designation was attributed to the performance of Innovation's African American students. He reported that he was informed by NYSED that Innovation is not currently required to develop and submit an improvement plan but that adjustments would be made to the student information system to more closely track the performance of student population subgroups in alignment with NYSED indicators.

8. Assistant Principal Search

Mr. Joseph and Mr. Falla Riff informed the Board that the search process for a new Assistant Principal was underway. They noted that to date ten culture fit phone interviews have been conducted leading to the scheduling of five in-person interviews, which they hope will result in a final choice by July. They also discussed the involvement of other school stakeholders such as key members of the Board and the School Leadership Team. They then fielded questions from the Board about criteria used, including the School Building Leader certification.

9. Other New Business

Mr. Falla Riff distributed a one-page summary discussing the purpose of the Form 990 - Innovation's annual information tax return - to the Board, invited questions concerning the Form, and informed the board that the Form would be reviewed in more detail at the upcoming Finance and Audit Committee meeting

11. Adjournment

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