



**Renaissance Charter High School for Innovation**

**Meeting of the Board of Trustees**

**January 19th, 2016 at 6:15pm**

**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, Ivan Fraser, and Eboni Kirkland were present, constituting a quorum for the purpose of conducting business. Also present were Stephen Falla Riff (Executive Director), Terence Joseph (Principal), Dru Collins (Vice Principal), Pablo Torres (Director of Student Life & Community Engagement), Debbie DaGiau (Associate Director of Finance & HR), Lola Barbarash (CSBM), and Mike Jolley (Consultant and Advisory Committee member), as well as Mary Zulack and Elaine Sun from the Lawyering in the Digital Age Clinic of Columbia Law School, Shalia Stockstill (Enrichment Week Coordinator), Gerardo Vega (Innovation teacher), and Yusef Abdul-Sabar (Innovation teacher).

**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**

After the Board reviewed Mr. Jelley motioned to approve the minutes from both November 2015 meetings, Ms. Kirkland seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

**4. Presentation - Enrichment Week 2016**

Ms. Stockstill presented to the Board on Innovation's preliminary plans for Enrichment Week 2016 to be held the week of March 13th. She introduced teachers Yusef Abdul-Sabar and Gerardo Vega who spoke about the student trips to Brazil and Spain they hoped to include in the week's activities as well as some of the learning goals. Ms. Stockstill distributed a project budget showing a shortfall for these international trips and raised the question of Board, student, and teacher fundraising. Mr. Sarkissian and Mr. Jelley agreed that the Board could potentially help with fundraising in future years through an event or other activities but that it was unlikely that there would be enough time this school year to raise any additional funds beyond those allocated in Innovation's project.

## **5. Basecamp Demonstration**

Prof. Zulack provided a brief update on the work that the students of the Lawyering in the Digital Age clinic have been doing for the Board. Ms. Sun provided a tutorial to the Board on using Basecamp software including calendar management and syncing Basecamp with their mobile devices for possible use in committee project management and for keeping track of deadlines. Ms. Sun also offered to provide onsite technical assistance on the system to Committees of the Board and to individual Board members if necessary.

## **6. Board Project Updates**

Mr. Jelley reported on behalf of the Community Schools working group that Boys Town will be shooting a video about their collaboration with Innovation including footage of staff members and families. He also reported that some of the working group members will be attending the upcoming national community schools conference. The Board also discussed applying for community schools funding in the future.

## **7. Review of Quarter Two Budget-to-Actual Report**

Ms. Barbarash from CSBM provided an overview of the FY2016 second quarter budget-to-actual report including revenue from IDEA funds from the previous year. Ms. Barbarash and Ms. DaGiau also discussed the likelihood of higher healthcare costs in the coming year and the impact of the anticipated increases on Innovation's budget.

## **8. Update: Recognition of Nixon Peabody**

Mr. Falla Riff discussed plans with the Board to honor the contributions to Innovation made by founding Board Chairperson Frank Saia and pro bono legal services provided by Nixon Peabody. He distributed some draft language for a plaque and discussed honoring Mr. Saia during 2016 graduation.

## **9. Mid-year Update: School Performance Metrics**

Mr. Joseph presented to the Board on the school's performance to date during the 2015-16 school year. He reviewed credit accumulation data, DOE School Quality Guide data, and NYC School Survey data. After fielding questions from the Board he discussed areas of success and areas of growth as well as their connection to Innovation's strategic plan and possible interventions.

## **10. Executive Session: Personnel Issue**

Mr. Fraser made a motion to enter into Executive Session to discuss a personnel issue related to Vice Principal Dru Collins. Mr. Sarkissian seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

**[REDACTED]**

After discussing this personnel issue the Board took no formal action. Mr. Sarkissian made a motion to exit the Executive Session, Mr. Fraser seconded the motion, and it was passed unanimously.

**11. Other New Business**

No other new business was discussed.

**12. Adjournment**

Mr. Sarkissian made a motion to adjourn, Mr. Jelley seconded, the motion passed unanimously and the meeting was concluded.