



**Renaissance Charter High School for Innovation
Meeting of the Board of Trustees
May 17th, 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, Sona Karia, and Ravneesh Sachdev were 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), Debbie DaGiau (Associate Director of Finance & HR), Shalia Stockstill (Enrichment Week Coordinator), 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 minutes from the previous Board meeting. Mr. Sachdev seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

4. Fiscal Year 2017 Budget

In her capacity as Treasurer and Chair of the Finance & Audit Committee, Ms. Karia informed the Board that she and the Committee had determined the services of independent auditor Loeb & Troper and financial consultants Charter School Business Management to be satisfactory. The Committee recommended that Innovation continue to retain the services of both companies in Fiscal Year 2017.

Recommendation from Finance & Audit Committee

Ms. Karia stated to the Board that the Finance & Audit Committee has reviewed the draft Fiscal Year 2017 budget in detail and recommends adoption by the Board.

Discussion and Q&A

Mr. Falla Riff and Ms. DaGiau reviewed changes from the Fiscal Year 2016 budget including possible savings to offset increase in health insurance costs and answered questions. Mr. Falla Riff will report back to the Board about possible adjustments to Innovation's healthcare plan and associated savings after meeting with Innovation's insurance agent.

Vote on Approval of Fiscal Year 2017 Budget

Mr. Sachdev made a motion to approve the Fiscal Year 2017 budget as presented. Mr. Jelley seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

5. Fundraising for Enrichment Week 2016-17

Ms. Stockstill discussed the \$20,000 reduction in the Enrichment Week budget for Fiscal Year 2017 and requested that the Board attempt to make up this reduction through fundraising. The Board committed to a fundraising goal of \$20,000 and discussed the possibility of foundation or corporate sponsorship, fundraising through an event, and soliciting individual donors through their networks. Ms. Stockstill offered to assist them by providing information about Enrichment Week and Ms. Karia offered to reach out to her hotel and airline contacts.

6. 2016-17 Board Meeting Schedule

The Board agreed that, in general, Board meetings could be held on the third Tuesday of every month in the 2016-17 year. Mr. Jolley will draft and circulate a calendar of 2016-17 meetings for final approval.

7. Review of Academic Interventions for At-risk 12th Grade Students

Mr. Joseph provided the Board with a review of academic interventions intended to support students approaching graduation or struggling with Regents exams. He discussed afterschool remediation, Regents prep, credit recovery through blended learning, and academic planning in advisory. He also discussed the challenges of low student attendance at some of this programming and the absence of some key staff. Mr. Joseph also discussed state-level changes to graduation requirements and support for new Innovation teachers.

8. Discussion of June 18th, 2016 Annual Board Retreat

Mr. Falla Riff and Mr. Jelley provided an overview of their recent attendance at a Board Serve NYC event, stating that it would serve as a good foundation for recruiting new Board members. The Board also discussed the possibility of conducting a self-assessment in the future and the upcoming meeting with the Acceleration Group in preparation for the annual Board retreat. Mr. Sarkissian asked the Board to suggest any topics they would like to discuss at the retreat.

9. Overview of Boys Town, Omaha Visit

Mr. Falla Riff and Mr. Jelley provided an overview of their visit to the Boys Town headquarters in Omaha, which included a visit to their model school. They discussed Boys Town's "well-managed school" model and possible partnership with some Boys Town researchers interested in working with Innovation.

10. Executive Session: Personnel Review Matter

Mr. Jelley motioned to move into executive session for the purpose of discussing a personnel matter. Ms. Karia seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

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Mr. Jelley motioned to come out of Executive Session. Ms. Karia seconded and the motion passed unanimously with the Board having taken no formal action.

11. Other New Business

No other new business was discussed.

12. Adjournment

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