



Renaissance Charter High School for Innovation
Meeting of the Board of Trustees
February 23rd, 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, Sona Karia, and Eboni Kirkland were also present, constituting a quorum for the purpose of conducting business. Also present were Stephen Falla Riff (Executive Director), Terence Joseph (Principal), Pablo Torres (Director of Student Life & Community Engagement), Sean Pawelec (Innovation Teacher), Jesse Matthews (Innovation Teacher), Ravneesh Sachdev (Board Candidate) and Mike Jolley (Consultant to the Board), as well as Mary Zulack and Columbia Law School students of the Lawyering in the Digital Age Clinic.

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 the redacted and unredacted minutes from the 1/19/16 meeting of the Board, Mr. Jelley motioned to approve both sets of minutes, Ms. Kirkland seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

4. Board Candidate - Ravneesh Sachdev

Q&A

Mr. Sachdev presented on his relevant past experiences and motivation for applying to join Innovation's Board of Trustees. He and Mr. Pawelec also discussed his volunteer service project

for the school and fielded questions from the Board about his alignment with the school's mission and other qualifications.

Executive Session: Discussion and Vote on Candidate

Mr. Sarkissian motioned to enter into Executive Session for the purposes of discussing Mr. Sachdev's candidacy for the Board of Trustees. Ms. Kirkland seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

[REDACTED]

Mr. Jelley motioned to come out of Executive Session, Ms. Kirkland seconded, and the motion passed unanimously. Mr. Jelley motioned to add Mr. Sachdev to Innovation's Board of Trustees, Ms. Kirkland seconded, and the motion passed unanimously. The Board informed Mr. Sachdev of their vote, the importance of Innovation's mission to the work of the Board, and the expectations of Board membership. Mr. Sachdev agreed to commit himself to meeting these expectations and accepted membership on the Board of Trustees. Mr. Sachdev will serve as a non-voting member pending his final approval as a Trustee by Innovation's authorizer, the Office of School Design & Charter Partnerships at the New York City Department of Education.

5. Introduction to Columbia Law School "Lawyering in the Digital Age" Students

Prof. Zulack introduced this semester's "Lawyering in the Digital Age" students and discussed their semester project, orientation materials and process for new Innovation Board members. Ms. Sun discussed next steps for the ongoing adoption of Basecamp software for managing the business of the Board, specifically the provision of technical assistance for Finance & Audit Committee members.

6. School Leadership Team Presentation

Mr. Matthews presented on the prevalence of at-risk students in the East Harlem community and Innovation's commitment and distinctive approach to serving these students. Mr. Matthews also fielded questions from the Board on Innovation's students and At-Risk programs.

7. Update on Reserve Account

Mr. Falla Riff updated the Board on the opening of an Innovation reserve account. He stated that the account would be opened with a balance of \$1 million at Innovation's current bank as previously resolved by the Board.

8. NYSED Accountability Update

Mr. Falla Riff provided an update on the designation of Innovation as a Focus District by the New York State Education Department (NYSED). Mr. Joseph discussed possible strategies for closer tracking of Innovation academic performance data in order to identify any performance issues experienced by specific student groups in the future. As a result of the Focus District designation, Mr. Joseph will be traveling to Albany to create a District Improvement Plan with the guidance of NYSED staff.

9. Executive Session: Personnel Matter

Ms. Karia motioned to go into Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter regarding Vice Principal Dru Collins. Ms. Kirkland seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

[REDACTED]

After discussing this personnel issue the Board took no formal action. Mr. Jelley motioned to come out of Executive Session, Ms. Karia seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

10. Annual Meeting of the Corporation and Elections

Members of the Board

Ms. Kirkland nominated Mr. Ivan Fraser for a new term of membership on the Board of Trustees, Mr. Jelley seconded, and the motion passed unanimously. Mr. Jelley motioned to elect Mr. Fraser for a new term of membership on the Board of Trustees, Ms. Kirkland seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Officers of the Board

Ms. Kirkland motioned to nominate a slate of candidates for Board Officer positions, including Mr. Sarkissian for Chairperson, Ms. Karia for Treasurer and Vice Chairperson, and Mr. Jelley for Secretary. Ms. Karia seconded and the motion to nominate the slate of candidates passed

unanimously. Ms. Kirkland motioned to elect this slate of candidates to the Board Officer positions, Mr. Jelley seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Committees of the Board

Mr. Jelley motioned to nominate a slate of candidates for the Committees of the Board including Mr. Sarkissian, Ms. Karia, Mr. Fraser, and Ms. Kirkland for the Executive Committee; Mr. Sachdev, Ms. Karia, Mr. Fraser, and Mr. Sarkissian for the Finance & Audit Committee; and Mr. Sarkissian, Mr. Jelley, and Ms. Kirkland for the Personnel Review Committee. Mr. Jelley motioned to elect the nominated slate of candidates for the Executive Committee, Finance & Audit Committee, and Personnel Review Committee. Ms. Kirkland seconded and the motion passed unanimously

11. Other New Business

Mr. Jelley motioned to add Ms. Stacey Gauthier to the Advisory Committee, in addition to her current position as Board trustee, noting that she might choose to resign from the Board following Mr. Sachdev's confirmation by the DOE, but wishes to maintain a formal and active role at Innovation. Ms. Kirkland seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

12. Adjournment

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