



**Renaissance Charter High School for Innovation  
Meeting of the Board of Trustees  
March 22nd, 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, Ravneesh Sachdev, and Eboni Kirkland were also present, constituting a quorum for the purpose of conducting business. Also present were Stephen Falla Riff (Executive Director), LeRon Barrino (Dean of Discipline), 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, Andrew McKenzie, Kelly Landers Hawthorne, Bonnie Tong, and Josephine Bae.

**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 2/23/16 meeting of the Board, Mr. Jelley motioned to approve both sets of minutes, Ms. Kirkland seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

**4. Presentation: Lawyering in the Digital Age Clinic**

The students of the "Lawyering in the Digital Age" clinic presented to the Board on their plans to make brief videos that would serve as orientation and onboarding tools for new Board members in the future. This series of short videos and other materials would introduce new Board members to the structure and functioning of the Board, fiduciary duties, and other essential information. The Board then provided feedback and discussed possible next steps for the development of these materials.

**5. Report: Student Support Team**

Mr. Barrino presented to the Board on the changes to Innovation's approach to student discipline over the last few years, specifically the move away from a punitive approach to an approach emphasizing restorative practices. He discussed the components of this new approach including a significantly lower number of suspensions, more systematic mediation, and collaboration with teachers. He and Mr. Falla Riff discussed their approach to due process, systems for tracking IEP student disciplinary issues, and compliance. They also fielded questions from the Board and others in attendance.

## **6. NYSED Accountability Update**

Mr. Falla Riff informed the Board that Principal Terence Joseph will provide an update in the next meeting about Innovation's Focus District designation. He also informed the Board that Mr. Joseph did not visit Albany because the New York State Education Department ("SED") program on creating district improvement plans did not include charter schools. Accordingly, Mr. Joseph will be in touch with SED regarding the particulars of the improvement plan, including its contents and the deadline for its submission.

## **7. Update: Board Committee Activities**

Mr. Falla Riff updated the Board on the upcoming activities of the Finance & Audit Committee, which include audit planning and the generation and review of the Fiscal Year 2017 budget. He also discussed the upcoming activities of the Personnel Review Committee including performance review for executive staff for the current school year and the creation of a new performance review process to be used going forward.

## **8. Executive Session: Personnel Matter**

Mr. Jelley motioned to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing a personnel matter related to Vice Principal Dru Collins. Ms. Kirkland seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

**[REDACTED]**

Mr. Jelley motioned to exit executive session, Ms. Kirkland seconded, and the motion carried unanimously. The Board took no formal action related to this matter.

## **9. Other New Business**

The Board discussed possible dates for the annual retreat, concluding that June 18th could be an appropriate date. They discussed confirming the availability of Board members not present, possibly inviting former Board members Frank Saia and Stacey Gauthier to participate, and engaging Acceleration Group consultants to facilitate the retreat.

## **10. Adjournment**

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