



**Renaissance Charter High School for Innovation  
Meeting of the Board of Trustees  
December 12th, 2017, 6:00 pm  
410 East 100th Street, 3rd Floor New York, NY 10029**

**REDACTED Meeting Minutes**

**1. Roll Call**

Chairperson George Sarkissian called the meeting to order. board members Sona Karia, and Eboni Kirkland were also present in person, and board member Jon Jelley was present by videoconference, pursuant to Open Meeting Law Section 103(c) , constituting a quorum for the purpose of conducting business. Candidate for the board LaToya Massey was present. In addition, present were Stephen Falla Riff (Executive Director), Terence Joseph (Principal), Jason Forde (Development & External Affairs Manager), and Innovation staff members Danielle Martin, Hillary Goldstein and Yusef Abdul Sabur.

**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, New York, 10029.

**3. Review and Approval of Prior Board Meeting Minutes**

After the Board reviewed the redacted and unredacted minutes from the 11/14/17 meeting of the Board, a motion to approve both sets of minutes was made, seconded and unanimously passed.

**4. Executive Session: Discussion of School Safety Matter**

A motion was made, seconded and unanimously passed to go into executive session discuss a school safety matter involving a potential criminal offense.

**[REDACTED]**

Following discussion of the safety matter, a motion was made, seconded and unanimously passed to come out of executive session.

## **5. EarthWatch Partnership Update**

Benjamin Caraballo, Innovation LEAP Coordinator and AP Biology teacher, used a PowerPoint presentation to describe the bee pollinator research conducted by his students during their EarthWatch trip to Costa Rica. The EarthWatch partnership is now in its third year. The program cost is \$39,275 and Mr. Caraballo is seeking to raise \$12,000 by May. He is seeking a venue - ideally with a garden - to hold a fundraiser. Mr. Caraballo will follow up with Ms. Karia and Mr. Sarkissian regarding fundraising ideas and venues.

## **6. Charter Renewal Update**

Mr. Falla Riff described the recent two day charter renewal visit by the DOE, including classroom observations and meetings with the school leadership that provided insights into our program. The charter renewal public hearing took place on December 5, 2017, and students, staff and parents provided compelling statements in support of renewal. A date must be chosen for the board to meet with the DOE charter renewal team to discuss the role of the board and the charter renewal process. Mr. Falla Riff asked the board to review the PowerPoint presentations and other materials that set forth the case for charter renewal. He also discussed the role of the board in the renewal process and how the board exercised its fiduciary capacity by reviewing the case for charter renewal and providing feedback.

## **7. Presentation of Board Candidates: LaToya Massey & Jared McShall**

Board Candidate Latoya Massey, a former Principal and currently an educational consultant, presented her on-boarding project: her work with Principal Joseph on teacher professional development, including an examination of Innovation strategies and practices in co-teaching, teacher professional development and retention. She and Mr. Joseph answered questions from the board regarding the project. Ms. Massey pledged to make herself available on an ongoing basis to support the work of the Principal. The board was reminded that at its November meeting Jared McShall already made his presentation regarding his on-boarding work with Innovation's SpEd Department Chair and SpEd Coordinator, which involved reviewing best practices in working with students with disabilities and their families. Mr. McShall is a PHD Clinical Psychologist affiliated with Montefiore Hospital, specializing in the clinical treatment of families. He has also pledged to continue to provide support to Innovation's families and students, and to our counseling and SpEd programs.

## **8. Executive Session: Discussion & Vote on Candidates**

A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously passed to go into Executive Session to discuss the potential appointments of Ms. Massey and Mr. McShall to the Board.

**[REDACTED]**

A motion was made, seconded and unanimously passed to come out of Executive Session. Mr. Sarkissian made a motion to nominate and elect Ms. Massey and Mr. McShall as trustees of the board. The motion was seconded by Ms. Kirkland and unanimously approved. Ms. Massey and Mr. McShall will serve as non-voting members of the board pending final approval from Innovation's authorizer, the Office of School Design & Charter Partnerships at the New York City Department of Education.

**9. Other New Business**

None

**10. Public Speaking**

None

**11. Adjournment**

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

Respectfully submitted,

David Jon Jelley  
Secretary of the Board