



**Renaissance Charter High School for Innovation  
Meeting of the Board of Trustees  
April 16, 2019, 6:00 pm  
410 East 100th Street, New York, NY 10029**

**Agenda (REDACTED)**

**1. Roll call/sign in**

Chair George Sarkissian was present in person, Vice Chair Sona Karia, Board Secretary Latoya Massey and Trustee Jared McShall attended the meeting via video Zoom conference, constituting a quorum for the purpose of conducting business. Also present were Stephen Falla Riff (Executive Director), Terence Joseph (Principal), Ira Yasbin (Assistant Principal), Pablo Torres (Director of Student Life & Family Engagement), Jason Forde (Associate Director of Strategic Planning and Communications), Lola Barbarash (CSBM Representative), Carmen Fisher (Foreign Language Department Chair), Danielle Martin (Guidance Counselor), Yusef Abdul-Sabur (History Teacher), Damen Heyward (Expressive Arts Teacher) and Shawn Smith (Expressive Arts 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, New York, 10029.

**3. Review and Approval of Prior Board Meeting Minutes (5 minutes, Chair)**

Minutes for the March Board Meeting minutes were reviewed by the Board. A motion was made to accept the minutes and the motion was seconded and passed unanimously. Mr. Sarkissian requested that next steps for agenda items be explicitly stated in meeting minutes moving forward.

**4. Vanguard Mailings (5 minutes, ED)**

Executive Director, Mr. Falla Riff explained the importance of the Vanguard Mailing lists to distribute information regarding Innovation to families for recruiting purposes. Mayor DeBlasio is considering eliminating the use of the Vanguard mails which will impact charter schools ability to market their schools to community families which could adversely impacting charter schools' ability to enroll students.

Next Steps: Mr. Falla Riff and Mr. Forde are scheduled to attend a rally in support of charter access to Vanguard mailing lists which will be at City Hall.

**5. Columbia Law School Governance Project (10 minutes, CLS Students)**

CLS law student, Anya Lang, presented a PowerPoint presentation demonstrating the new Orientation Binder prepared for our board and for new trustees as part of our on-boarding procedure. The Board reviewed the contents and provided feedback to the Ms. Lang.

Next Steps: The Columbia Law School students will revise the contents of the new On-Boarding Binders and deliver them to the Innovation prior to the June Board Meeting.

**6. Review of Third Quarter Financial Report (15 minutes, CSBM Representative)**

CSBM Representative, Ms. Barbarash, reviewed the Third Quarter Budget to Actuals with the board and confirmed that with the reduced cuts made this year, Innovation is projected to be close to recovering school's projected losses at the beginning of the school year.

Next Steps: Ms. Massey requested to receive information regarding the spending for comparisons to other high schools for how much is being spent in various categories because she thinks that our spending is running high.

**7. Review of Academic Accountability Dashboard (10 minutes, Associate Director of Strategic Planning)**

Mr. Forde reviewed the enrollment, transfer and attendance data with the Board for Innovation based on data received by April 1st. Mr. Torres mentioned that attendance data for the prior month needs to be reviewed for accuracy due to a reporting issue during Enrichment Week Period.

Data regarding projected graduation rates for the current school year will be available after the completion of the fifth marking period and presented at the May Board Meeting.

Mr. Torres provided an update of Innovation Enrollment Lottery, which was executed prior to the April Board Meeting. Mr. Torres reveal that 6% of lottery pool came from District 4, which is a decline from previous years. Ms. Massey suggested intensive direct outreach to all schools in District 4 and beyond. Ms. Massey also recommended that the outreach for upcoming year should start in September. Mr Smith mentioned there will be opportunities to speak with families at NYCHA Tenant Association meetings.

**8. Executive Session - Discussion and vote of Board Member Candidates (10 minutes)**

Mr. Sarkissian made a motion to go into executive session to discuss Board Candidates. Ms. Karia seconded the motion and the Board moved into Executive Sessions.

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**9. Public Speaking (5 minutes)**

None

**10. Adjournment**

