

**Boston Renaissance Charter Public School
Board of Trustees
May 11, 2016**

Attendance:

S. Kumahia, A. Kesler, A. Faturoti, L. Bispham, H. Raymond, S. Dibinga, E. Alphonse, S. Copeland, K. Williamson, Dr. Harris

Absent: Rayna Briceno

Guests: A. Buckmire, F. Shearer, P. Littlehale, C. Fisher, M. Taylor, M. Albama

Call to order: 8:13 am

No Public comment: Nicole Silva and Tara Carroll (Coaches for the lower school). We just wanted to be a part of the board meeting to see what it was like.

Review of 3/9/16 Board Meeting Minutes

S. Kumahia: Motion to approve minutes. Seconded by E. Alphonse. All in favor. Motion approved.

Interim Executive Director Report

Presented by Dr. Harris:

Academics – Teachers and leadership have come together with great enthusiasm for testing, MCAS starts today and everyone feels good about it

Budget – We are trying to finalize this, hopefully by next week we should have something for submission.

Climate and Culture – There's still some anxiety in this area and we need to make executive decisions because we will have to reorganize and move people around to ensure the right people are in the right positions.

The National Charter School Conference at the end of the month in Tennessee, if anyone is interested let Monique Taylor know.

Head of School Report

Presented by A. Buckmire:

Climate and culture of the school has significantly improved.

MCAS testing: we have completed ELA and almost finished with math; science starts today; transition has been smooth with testing.

Last week was the teacher staff appreciation week. We had a brunch on Friday to show our appreciation of staff and some board members made waffles – thank you for that.

We would like to acknowledge Mrs. Albama's first internal job fair. 55 people have registered and it's happening tomorrow. All positions have been advertised and so there will be people here interested in all of the positions.

Wonders Program: we are in the process of a pilot literacy curriculum for grades 3 to 5.

We are currently working with a consultant around strategic planning to get feedback about visioning for the school in the next 3 to 5 years. We had a meeting last night with Dr. Harris and Jacqui Lindsay to base our visioning from the survey results, so we are looking forward to coming up with a plan.

S. Kumahia: For this June's retreat a portion of our meeting will be dedicated to the visioning process to focus on strategic planning for this year and a 3 to 5 year plan to come up with a more comprehensive approach for this and coming years.

Finance Update

Presented by E. Alphonse

Met with Mrs. Fisher and CFO about financials. We anticipate over \$800k in surplus after payout and salary adjustment.

Budget – There will be two big changes in the budget - we may have a deficit of 200k because of the changes in tuition reimbursement and there has been a significant adjustment in the health insurance and premiums increasing. We are going to investigate with different insurance providers to see if we can get better quotes. The 17% increase in health insurance is on top of the 22% increase last year.

S. Kumahia – We should talk to staff about their preferences in health insurance and we should have a report soon as to what our options are for health insurance.

Updates: Governance and Nomination; Parents of Renaissance; Upcoming Events; other updates

Governance and Nomination

S. Kumahia: No one has been nominated yet to the board. We should make sure there is a strong foundation before adding on more members.

Dr. Harris: Consider doing quarterly meetings to get heads of businesses on the board since they're too busy for making monthly meetings.

S. Kumahia – We could look into flexible options once we have those people on board, but with the transition it has been important to meet frequently in order to see how school is doing.

Parents of Renaissance

S. Dibinga: Parents that were initially disappointed feel a lot better about the changes that have taken place in the school.

On June 4th there will be a school family day in which there will be a cookout and games, etc.

Building

H. Raymond: Met with architect about STEM program – takes a year to plan it and another year to build.

Dr. Harris: We have an opportunity to build our science program through the STEM program.

Leadership

S. Kumahia: the Board had a conversation that it would be best for Dr. Harris to stay as Interim Executive Director through the next school year and he agrees with this decision and is willing to do so.

S. Kumahia: Motion to have Dr. Harris serve as interim Executive Director now and through the end of the following school year, 2017. Motion seconded by A. Faturoti.

Signatories for Accounts

S. Kumahia: Motion to provide Philip Littlehale with custody of the following accounts: Operating, School Lunch, Covenant Reserve, Money Market, Interest Reserve and Equity Account and such signatures are to be in conjunction with Dr. Harris' signature. Motion seconded by A. Faturoti.

S. Kumahia: Motion to add the following individuals as signatories to the Lunch and Operating Accounts: Philip Littlehale, Edwine Alphonse and Dr. Harris. Motion seconded by A. Faturoti.

Salary increases for paraprofessionals and support staff

S. Kumahia: Motion to authorize finance committee, along with the leadership of school, to work on appropriate salary increases. Motion seconded by H. Raymond.

Upcoming events

- Staff talent show planned for June 16th, probably in the afternoon and there will also be a 6th grade talent show the same day
- Sunday, June 5th – Cotillion, 1st Ladies and Young Kings event, time to be announced

S. Kumahia: Should we keep a Google calendar for all of these events?

A. Buckmire: We have an online calendar that we can send to you all with the school's information.

- The school's graduation is on June 10th at 1:00 pm
- STEM night is on May 25th
- Next week, staff members are going to the 10th Annual COSEBOC convention (Coalition of Schools Educating Boys of Color).

S. Kumahia: Motion to adjourn at 9:17. Seconded by A. Faturoti. All in favor.