



**Boston Renaissance Charter Public School  
Board of Trustees Meeting  
Wednesday, May 16, 2018**

Attendance: S. Kumahia, L. Bispham, E. Alphonse, S. Copeland, A. Kesler, F. Lowry, B. Keith, S. Dibinga

Guests: A. Buckmire, P. Littlehale, F. Shearer, Lori Fresina (M&R Consulting)

Call to order: 8:07 a.m.

Review and Approval of Minutes:

S. Kumahia: Motion to Approve March 21, 2018 minutes with approved edits. Seconded by L. Bispham. So moved.

S. Kumahia: Motion to Approve Special Meeting of the Board – FY19 Budget Proposal, Seconded by E. Alphonse. So moved.

Public comment: No comment.

**Committee Updates**

*Governance & Nomination*

Election of Vice Chair

Nomination of Lupita Bispham as Vice Chair of the Board

S. Kumahia: Motion to elect Lupita Bispham as Vice Chair. Seconded by E. Alphonse. Approved by everyone. So moved.

*Academic*

A. Kesler: We have been busy with MCAS and would like to have a meeting in June before the end of the year. Math and ELA MCAS testing went very well.

*Finance*

E. Alphonse: The Fiscal Year 2019 Budget before you is the same one we reviewed in April of this year. The tuition has increased and so we will close the year at an estimated surplus of \$287k. If everything goes well we will have a slight surplus. With exception of two minor expense changes, nothing significant has changed.

If you look at the 2018 financial statement the surplus will give us an opportunity to spend on projects and the proposed bonus for the staff: a year-end bonus to all employees: \$1300 for all full-time staff and \$650 to part-time staff.

K. Williamson: What happens with the remainder of the surplus?

E. Alphonse: The rest of the surplus goes into reserve.

E. Alphonse: Motion to approve the 2019 budget with the updated tuition rate. Seconded by S. Kumahia. So moved by majority vote and two abstentions: A. Kesler and S. Copeland.

### *Parents of Renaissance*

S. Dibinga: “It’s a Guy Thing” event was wonderful – great turnout and feedback

On May 25<sup>th</sup> there will be an event for women, mothers, grandmothers, etc

Movie night was successful

International Day Cultural Carnival will take place on June 22<sup>nd</sup>

### **Guest Presentation by Lori Fresina – From M&R Consulting**

“How Public Charter School Board Members Can Effectively Influence Decisions Makers to Protect Funding and Autonomies”

Suggestions to building relationships with lawmakers:

- Send personal letters/emails
- Visit them in the district
- Invite them to visit the school
- Meet them at State House
- Attend one of their local events
- Make a point to get to know them personally – and for them to get to know you!

Tools we can use:

- MCPSA fact sheet on public charter schools
- Template for lawmaker meetings and potential questions
- Draft letter to legislators

### **Strategic Planning Process Draft – A. Buckmire**

Jackie Jenkins will facilitate board strategic plan priorities with board members

The idea is to come up with actions, start and completion dates, measures of success, and identifying individuals/groups responsible for actions

### *Strategic Priorities:*

1: Maintaining and Strengthening the School Model of Whole-Child Education – in agreement with draft strategy

- 2: Growth and Capacity building for the Board of Trustees - in agreement with draft strategy
- 3: Building the Boston Renaissance Foundation - in agreement with draft strategy
- 4: Enhance Overall Functioning of Organizational Model - in agreement with draft strategy
- 5: Optimize Grad Span and Develop Solutions to Space Challenges - in agreement with draft strategy

We want this plan to start the beginning of the next school year.

**Head of School Report** - Presented by A. Buckmire

Commissioner of Education coming to the school on Monday, June 11<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m.

Grades 3, 4 and 6 are officially finished with ELA and Math MCAS testing for this school year. Many students reported that they felt the test was fair. Fifth grade students will take the science portion on May 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Allison Spade, Upper School Director, wants to return to teaching and will be teaching our 6<sup>th</sup> graders next school year. We will begin interviews this week to fill in her position. All candidates are external.

Three Saturday make-up classes scheduled so far due to the snow days: 5/19, 6/2 and 6/16.

The school graduation for our sixth grade students will be on June 8<sup>th</sup> 1:00 p.m. Mrs. Dibinga will be speaking on behalf of the board at graduation.

Some teachers received non-renewal letters due to not passing the required state exams for their positions. If they pass their tests prior to their positions being filled they will be offered their positions again.

Entire staff participated in specialty classes for one day – it was a great experience.

**Finance & Operations Report** - Presented by P. Littlehale

If we could approve the capital plan for FY19 at the June meeting this year that would be great.

Adjourn

L. Bispham: Motion to adjourn at 9:57 a.m. So moved.