

Boston Renaissance Charter Public School
Board of Trustees
May 17, 2017

Attendance:

Edwine Alphone, Shaumba Dibinga, Lupita Bispham, Aaron Kesler, Senam Kumahia, Harold Raymond, Stacia Copeland, Kelly Williamson

Guests: Alexandra Buckmire, Phil Littlehale, Monique Taylor, Franklin Shearer

Call to order: 8:11 a.m.

Review and Approval of Minutes:

S. Kumahia: Motion to Approve March 8, 2017 minutes. Seconded by K. Williamson. So moved.

S. Kumahia: Motion to approve April 12, 2017 minutes. So moved.

Public comment: No comment.

Head of School Report – Presented by Ms. Buckmire

- As previously discussed, we now have two assistant directors, which are new positions, to support the school directors. We also have a compliance officer to work with Ms. Copeland.
- On May 1st we had a full day retreat with the Instructional Leadership Team and it was an extremely positive day. The feedback was highly positive and the plan was communicated to all staff on May 5th at the all staff meeting. The feedback has been positive thus far; teachers are excited to have more support in classroom and feedback on instruction.
- Special thanks to S. Dibinga, S. Kumahia and L. Bispham for coming to waffle brunch on May 5th in celebration of Teacher Appreciation Week. Ten themed gift baskets were created and raffled off each day to celebrate the work that teachers and staff do.
- BRCS reunion for years 2006-10 will meet at Boston Bowl this week and it should be a good turnout of alumni.
- The school received a generous donation from Century Bank to support the school trip to Washington D.C. and opening of Professor Charles J. Ogletree Center for Debate and Discourse. The Ogletree event was outstanding. It was a student-led program and they did a wonderful job. We will visit Century Bank on May 15th to present a picture from the White House.

- E. Alphonse: I attended and it was great to see how well students did.
- A. Buckmire: We are in the middle of talking about a debate league within charter schools and so hopefully there will be progress on this front.
- Students are still testing for MCAS. Testing will continue this week until the end of this month.
- Student spotlight on leadership: A third grade student, Tamil Burnett drafted a petition earlier this year and circulated it among her peers, requesting that students have casual dress days on all half-day Fridays. With nearly 200 signatures Tamil and her peers made the case for themselves and we changed our policy and will now allow uniform-free half-day Fridays for all students that began in January. The money collected is being donated to St. Jude's hospital and being presented on June 5th. St. Jude's is thrilled.

Finance & Operations Report – Presented by Phil Littlehale

- Awarded contract for flooring – will start and completed this summer
- In process of changing company that hosts website, F. Shearer working on this
- Plans/changes to parking lot – work in progress with architect
- Looking at adding additional temporary office space. The two assistant directors need new office space. This will be figured out in terms of budget.
- S. Dibinga: What about space for a parent center? P. Littlehale: Maybe in the future
- Budget – updated with 2018 tuition, increase of 2.6%. We are projecting breaking even. Additional flexibility in the budget due to the increase in the tuition, which will probably be used with the needed temporary office space.
- No finance subcommittee meeting in May, but will have one in June to vote on capital budget for next year – will have this ready for the next meeting for a vote.
- Field work for audit will start last week of May and should go well.
 - E. Alphonse: Meeting with auditors prior to their audit?
 - P. Littlehale: We can do it – I'll set it up.
 - S. Kumahia: Everyone from the board is invited to attend this meeting.
- Offering health insurance to unmarried domestic partners of employees has come up. We did offer it before but didn't transfer it over when we switched health insurance companies. S. Kumahia asked me to look into other charter schools and see what they do – vast majority do not cover it but some do.

- S. Kumahia: What's the effect on budget/money?
- P. Littlehale: It's hard to say because not sure how many staff involved and some already have it.
- A. Buckmire: I think it would be good for marketing and it would speak to our commitment to staff.
- S. Kumahia: I know of some schools who do provide it.
- P. Littlehale: From a budget standpoint we can handle it.
- K. Williamson: Have there been requests?
- A. Buckmire: Some requests have come through.
- S. Kumahia: Motion to change benefits package to include domestic partnerships for health insurance. Seconded by K. Williamson. All in favor and approved.

Committee Updates

Academic Committee

A. Kesler: We postponed our meeting.

Governance and Nomination

S. Kumahia: I have a list of about ten different people to potentially join the board, including someone whom I met at the Mentoring Breakfast. I will send out resumes, etc. for the Board's review.

Parents of Renaissance

S. Dibinga:

- Parent-staff social – June 2nd from 7-10pm
- Parent workshops will be held before school ends
- Parents with children in choir were really happy about watching the film “Hidden Figures” last week. Monique Taylor was a huge part of it – many thanks to her.

Future Events

BRCS Alumni Reunion, years 2006 to 2010 at Boston Bowl this week

June 6th - 8:30am Specialty Team Showcase

June 9th - 1:00pm Sixth Grade Graduation

Adjournment - S. Kumahia: Motion to adjourn at 10:03 a.m.