

APPROVED



# Boston Renaissance Charter Public School

## Minutes

### Board of Trustee Meeting

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#### Date and Time

Wednesday January 15, 2025 at 8:00 AM

#### Location

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

ID: 87061615852

Passcode: 610644

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#### MISSION

The mission of the Boston Renaissance Charter Public School is to nurture and develop academic, social and emotional competence while building confidence, character and citizenship among its students.

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#### Trustees Present

A. Buckmire (remote), B. Keith (remote), C. Barrett (remote), C. Engerman (remote), D. Morris (remote), K. Cherry (remote), K. Davis Kernizan (remote), M. Gardner (remote), R. Clarke Jr. (remote), S. Dibinga (remote)

#### Trustees Absent

*None*

#### Guests Present

A. Emery (remote), D. Warwick (remote), David Conrady (remote)

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#### I. Opening Items

**A. Record Attendance**

**B. Call the Meeting to Order**

B. Keith called a meeting of the board of trustees of Boston Renaissance Charter Public School to order on Wednesday Jan 15, 2025 at 8:03 AM.

**C. Welcome and Public Comment**

**II. Approve Minutes**

**A. Approve Minutes**

B. Keith made a motion to approve the minutes from Board of Trustee Meeting on 11-20-24.

C. Engerman seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

**Roll Call**

K. Davis Kernizan	Aye
C. Barrett	Absent
S. Dibinga	Absent
A. Buckmire	Aye
D. Morris	Aye
C. Engerman	Aye
R. Clarke Jr.	Aye
K. Cherry	Aye
M. Gardner	Aye
B. Keith	Aye

**III. CAO Update**

**A. CAO Update**

Reviewed the Mid Year Aimsweb benchmark data. Looking at the data from this year and looking back for the last 2 years. We had some good growth and positive improvements over the 2023-2024 school year. We saw an increase in our student growth percentile (SGP.)The most significant improvements in SGP are in K2 and 1st grades in tier 1-3 math and reading, 3rd grade tier 2 reading ,4th grade tier 1 math, 5th grade tier 1-3 math and 6th grade tier 1-3 math and reading.

Reviewed mid year i-Ready Reading data. Highlighting some of our I ready growth we've seen for the winter looks at where students were in the fall compared to the winter. 3rd, 4th, 5th & 6th grades are on track to reach stretch growth (150%+) So there's a lot of great growth that you can see in most grade levels.

Board member asked: For the students showing growth, are they making growth toward their grade level? Yes, this is showing at grade level.

Some of the adjustments that we've seen with this data is a lot of classroom observations by curriculum Coordinators, Instructional Coaches, Directors, Assistant Directors and Intervention Coordinators. They have identified areas of improvement: Inconsistent delivery of intervention groups, Inconsistent use of prescribed intervention, Adjustments to the level or pacing of interventions, improved use of blended learning platforms & they have provided additional coaching, modeling and training on intervention. Adjustments in US math to provide more days to focus on missing skills and Increased use of fluency practice for grades 3-6

Both the Lower School and Upper School have a focus in January & February on increasing the rigor in classrooms through Increased student discourse and student engagement and the use of higher level thinking questions. Curriculum Coordinators are supplying lesson plans for teachers and utilizing monthly PLC time to identify specific strategies and higher level questions to promote deeper understanding of content. The academic team is conducting regular classroom observations to monitor fidelity of the tier 1 curriculum.

MCAS preparation: The goal set for proficiency for all students; ELA for SY25 is 35% (150 students) and Math goal for SY25 is 27% (116 students). Along with our other tier 1 support and interventions we are helping students prepare for the test by helping them understand the test and focusing on some of the different components they're asked to complete.

For all students In Math: Additional instructional time to focus on targeted standards, weekly MCAS aligned problems & Biweekly constructed response questions. For all students In ELA: Biweekly constructed response questions, monthly unit essay, Writing standards aligned with MCAS & Essay questions. For all students in Science: 1-2 constructed response questions and 1 longer informational writing .

ALP ELA and Math will begin in February and early March. It will focus on MCAS Prep for students that score at proficiency or within 20 points of meeting proficiency. Also meeting with grade level teams to identify students for morning help or targeted lessons on early release Fridays.

## **IV. Finance**

### **A. Finance Update**

Reviewed the Q2 Financials and forecast :

- Updated projected tuition posted by DESE 12/24/24 - we are est. at 938 students which we are above now, but lower than their last projection moneywise. Not concerned even with BPS ESSER Spending likely impacting the above foundation number, as we conservatively budgeted for that impact

- Copier lease expires in Feb - that number for liability will increase once a renewal contract is signed or a new contract with new vendor
- Staffing seems to be in a much better place this year vs last year. We are keeping positions filled. Hard to fill position stipends and sign-on bonus for those positions appear to have had somewhat of an impact
- Salaries low vs budget based on hiring below what was budgeted for.
- Most lines which appear to be over spent for the YTD % due to either an offset for grant funding or due to timing of top of the year front loaded billing.
- Daycare has a projected injection of money due to a grant we received. This will offset our loss.
- Need to keep in mind the surplus calculation for DESE, closer to the end of the year. Want to be strategic within our spending and have discussions surrounding capital project needs .
- Additions to our fixed assets include some purchases of tables, chairs, pull up spaces and a refrigerator for the kitchen. Ipads for intervention use
- Nutrition funding right now is just a little lower due to the state needing to approve the funding for the free state funded meals.

## V. HOS Update

### A. HOS Update

The school received the Draft SOR from DESE. It's a summary of the school's performance over the 5 year charter term, reflecting evidence compiled throughout the Charter term from sources, such as annual reports, site visits, and state assessments. It also has information from when they conducted their site visit. Factual corrections were submitted and a final document will be formulated and then it will become a public record. Evidence from the SOR is used by the commissioner of elementary and secondary education to make a renewal determination or recommendation based on the evidence.

We invited DESE Commissioner R. Johnston to visit the school and he came with A. Bagg from the Charter School office. Board members D. Morris and C. Barrett also attended. We had a nice discussion with lots of questions and then did a walking tour of the school. They had an opportunity to visit classrooms and speak with students.

Board member shared: It was an incredible visit. It's interesting to hear such consistency when visitors come to the school, the experiences that they get and the authentic representation of the school. The students were excited and the Staff were welcoming.

Board member shared: It was great to be able to show them our school and the hands-on interaction with the staff and students. Students were enthusiastic to sit with the commissioner and show their work.

Parent/Teacher Conferences were a great success, with a strong turnout from families.

Lower School Math Night in December was successful and had over 200 people attending. All students were able to either take a math activity bag home that night or the next day to continue working on skills. The lower school Literacy Night is being planned for January 23rd. Each child will receive a bag at their skill level to continue working on & a stretch bag for their growth in their ELA area. Homework folders have begun in all of the lower school. We are now instructing teachers on Tier 1 Rigor (discourse) throughout the lower school.

Upper school has completed the Aimsweb testing in Reading and Math and we are excited to see significant academic growth across multiple classrooms. Upper School Middle School Fair was a huge success and provided an invaluable opportunity for graduating students and their parents to meet with representatives from Boston-area public, private, and charter schools as they prepare to apply for 7th grade.

Our Black History Month celebration will be the mornings of 2/13 and 2/14 as well as an evening community performance on 2/13 with selections from specialty classrooms as well as a performance by Voices of Renaissance.

BRCPS will host a community Ailey Revelations Workshop produced by Boston's Celebrity Series on March 22nd. Voices of Renaissance will perform to open the workshop. This event will be open to the public as well as anyone from the BRCPS community.

The Choir has had a few off-site performances over the past few weeks, performed at the Lowell Mason House, and also at the Blake estates, which is an elderly housing complex just up the street.

Save the Date! April 17, 2025. We are celebrating two milestones: The 30th Anniversary of the founding of Boston Renaissance Charter School & the 25th Anniversary of The Voices of Renaissance Choir. We will be having an all day celebration at the school, each grade level is working on different ways to celebrate our 30 years. And that evening there will be a VOR performance. We have a lot of alumni coming back for the Choir celebration. It will be a big celebration so please mark your calendars.

## **VI. Committee Updates**

### **A. Academic Excellence**

The Academic committee met in December. Dr. Conradys CAO update covered the Academic meeting updates. He also is looking into last year's MCAS scores to see if the ALP program was beneficial. Most of our discussions were about the fall data. He did share with us the unit assessments that were given in the bridges math program for K through 5th. The kindergarten students are performing fairly well. This is the new math program that we started so hopefully, moving forward, these students who have this specific curriculum .we'll follow them and see that same growth. We'll hopefully see more growth grade by grade when we're looking at those cohorts of students.

### **B.**

## Facility

We're looking into getting estimates for 2-story modulars to replace the existing modulars at 1415 site. We're considering 2 options, summer installation and the least amount of disruption. There is a process and this still has to go out to bid. We also had HMFH come in and received information from them regarding a study to build at B Street site, down the line.

Parking lot, playground and surveillance upgrades to be put out to bid after the winter season. This work includes blacktop sealcoat, sealing of cracks, re-stripping and any necessary repair work. The playground repairs include replacing turf area next summer.

Board member asked: What is the age of the roof on the main building and if it would need a repair in the coming years? The age of the roof is the age of the building which is 14 years. It's a rubber roof and they are easier to patch. We have done some patch work up there, particularly around some of the rooftop units. As of right now the roof seems to be in good shape.

Board member asked : Is there room on the roof for solar panels with the HVAC units up there? I'm sure there is room for some solar panels.

Board member added: We would just need to double check that the roof is structurally reinforced for solar panels on our roof.

### C. Parents of Renaissance

The POR's next in person meeting will be January 28th at the school.

Lower school director L.Gover and our Transportation Coord. S. Cheltenham will attend this meeting to meet parents/Guardians and answer any questions they may have. The POR will also be reminding parents about student attendance and uniform policies.

We have two upcoming Roller Skating events at Chez Vous in March. The Lower school event will take place Sunday March 9th 12:-3:00pm & the Upper School event will take place Sunday March 16th 12:00-3:00 pm

## VII. Closing Items

### A. Adjourn Meeting

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 9:45 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,

B. Keith

B. Keith made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

C. Engerman seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

**Roll Call**

K. Davis Kernizan	Aye
M. Gardner	Aye
K. Cherry	Absent
S. Dibinga	Aye
D. Morris	Absent
R. Clarke Jr.	Aye
C. Barrett	Aye
A. Buckmire	Aye
C. Engerman	Aye
B. Keith	Aye

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**Documents used during the meeting**

- Academic Update January 2025 presentation.pdf
- FY25 Q2 12.31.2024 Finance Report.pdf
- BOT Update January 2025.pdf