

DRAFT



Boston Renaissance Charter Public School

Minutes

Board of Trustee Meeting

Date and Time

Wednesday March 25, 2026 at 8:00 AM

Location

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

ID: 82913672936

Passcode: 034970

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.

Trustees Present

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

Trustees Absent

C. Barrett, K. Cherry

Guests Present

A. Emery (remote), D. Warwick (remote), Gina Matthews (remote)

I. Opening Items

A.

Record Attendance

B. Call the Meeting to Order

C. Engerman called a meeting of the board of trustees of Boston Renaissance Charter Public School to order on Wednesday Mar 25, 2026 at 8:06 AM.

C. Welcome and Public Comment

II. Approve Minutes

A. Approve 01.14.2026 Minutes

C. Engerman made a motion to approve the minutes from Board of Trustee Meeting on 01-14-26.

M. Gardner seconded the motion.

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

Roll Call

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

B. Approve 11.19.2025 Minutes

C. Engerman made a motion to approve the minutes from Board of Trustee Meeting on 11-19-25.

B. Keith seconded the motion.

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

Roll Call

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

III. CAO Update

A. CAO Update

CAO Academic presentation:

- Clarify alignment between i-Ready projections and MCAS outcomes.
- Address prior concerns regarding data interpretation and reporting consistency.
- Focus specifically on Winter i-Ready data (December benchmark) and growth projections.

Data Framework Overview

- Analysis compares:
 - Winter i-Ready proficiency projections
 - Typical growth vs. stretch growth trajectories
 - Student progress as of December
- Benchmark expectation:
 - By December, students should be ~50% toward annual growth goals.
- Key observation:
 - A significant portion of students are below expected mid-year growth, impacting projections.

Grade-Level MCAS Projections (ELA & Math)

Grade 3

- ELA: Projected at typical growth range
- Math: Slightly below typical growth
 - Concern: Only ~44% on track vs. desired 50%+

Grade 4

- ELA: Improvement over prior year
 - Projected between typical and stretch (closer to typical-high)
- Math: Low end of typical
 - Growth slower; targeted interventions underway

Grade 5

- Overall notable improvement vs. prior year (historically weakest cohort)
- ELA & Math: Projected low end of typical growth
 - Reduction expected in “Not Meeting” category
 - Still significant portion below growth targets

Grade 6

- ELA: High end of typical growth
 - Increase expected in “Meeting/Exceeding”

- Math: High end of typical growth
 - Stronger progress indicators across cohort

Key Systemwide Takeaways

- Overall trajectory is positive and improving
- Most cohorts projected within typical growth bands, with some variability
- Continued need to:
 - Accelerate growth for students below mid-year benchmarks
 - Strengthen consistency across math performance

MCAS Preparation Strategy

Testing Readiness

- Completed MCAS practice tests
 - Focus: Environment simulation, not scoring
 - Emphasis on:
 - Testing protocols
 - Student familiarity with conditions

Instructional Interventions

- Increased WIN (What I Need) additional supports with an MCAS focus
 - Shift from 1x/week → 2x/week for stronger impact
- Expanded leadership involvement in instruction:
 - Admin, coaches, coordinators directly supporting students

Academic Supports

- ELA
 - MCAS-aligned writing instruction embedded in pacing
 - Increased exposure to MCAS-style prompts
- Math
 - Professional development on constructive response
 - Ongoing PLC collaboration and modeling
- Science (Grade 5)
 - Targeted review including multi-grade standards

Student Skill Development

- Typing fluency initiative (typing.com)
 - Addressing barrier in written MCAS responses
- IXL Math Challenge (Grades 3–4)
 - Incentivized skill-building with rewards system

Extended Learning

- Completion of Book Club + Writing Workshop
 - Pre/post writing assessments collected
 - Results to be analyzed and reported
- Focus group:
 - Students near “Meeting Expectations” threshold
 - Goal: push into proficiency band

Reflection (CAO)

- CAO expressed confidence in overall trajectory
- Key strategic shifts:
 - Alignment of curriculum to MA standards and MCAS rigor
 - Emphasis on instructional quality over test prep alone
- Highlight:
 - Lower School has gains in foundational skills (multi-year effort now showing impact)
- Organizational belief:
 - “MCAS readiness is K–6 responsibility,” not limited to tested grades

Board Discussion

- Question raised on overall progress since CAO transition
 - Response: Positive trajectory; systems now aligned for long-term success
- Inquiry regarding resource needs
 - CAO confirmed no additional resources required at this time
- Emphasis on:
 - Maintaining aligned expectations
 - Continuing momentum through instructional consistency and targeted supports
- Appreciation expressed to CAO for comprehensive update

IV. HOS Update

A. HOS Update

- MCAS preparation is underway:
 - First practice test completed last week.
 - ELA MCAS scheduled to begin April 6.
 - Instructional teams continue to focus on ensuring student readiness through targeted academic support and ongoing preparation.
- Voices of Influence Breakfast:
 - Successfully held last week with strong attendance.
 - Attendees included board members (Devon, Rocklin, Cheryl and Marjorie).
 - The keynote address was delivered by Senator Liz Miranda.

- Event highlighted as a meaningful opportunity to engage community members and strengthen relationships.
- Received several small donations.
- Development efforts:
 - The new Development Director is initiating strategies focused on small gift fundraising as part of broader development planning.
- Ongoing work between HOS, CFO and HR Director regarding staff compensation:
 - Exploring potential salary proposals for teachers and paraprofessionals.
 - Budget analysis in progress to determine feasibility.
 - Possible presentation to the board at next meeting (may occur in a special meeting prior to the May meeting)
 - Considering an end-of-year staff appreciation gift (pending budget review).

V. Finance

A. Finance Update

CFO presented an updated financial forecast, noting that there have been minimal changes since the prior review of Quarter 2 (Q2) financials at the January meeting. The balance sheet remains unchanged, and the update primarily reflects adjustments to the Profit and Loss (P&L) projections.

- Enrollment and Revenue Assumptions
 - Current student enrollment is 940 students.
 - Tuition revenue projections are based on the most recent figures provided by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) as of December 26.
- Contracted Services
 - Savings realized due to the hiring of an in-house psychologist, reducing reliance on contracted services.
- Personnel Costs
 - Salary savings resulting from:
 - Vacant positions filled at lower-than-budgeted rates.
 - Unfilled roles, including WIN (What I Need) tutors.
- Operational Efficiencies
 - No significant cost overruns identified.
 - Several budget lines are trending below projected expenditures.
- Depreciation and Amortization
 - Slight increase due to recent capital additions being depreciated.
- Financial Position Summary
 - Overall financial performance remains strong.
 - The organization is operating within budget, with favorable variances contributing to the projected surplus.
 - No material financial risks or concerns were identified at this time.

VI. Committee Updates

A. Governance & Nomination

No committee update today.

B. Academic Excellence

No committee update today. CAO covered the academic update.

C. Facility

Current Facility Operations

- The 1415 Hyde Park Avenue facility continues to operate smoothly.
- Ongoing efforts include:
 - Securing quotes for parking lot improvements, including blacktop resurfacing and striping.
- Acknowledgement was given to Dwayne Veale for continued diligence in maintaining facility operations.

Capital Project / Construction Update

- The Committee has selected Turva as the Owner's Project Manager (OPM).
 - Turva will oversee and guide the construction process moving forward.
- Progress has been made in the architect selection process:
 - The project has been narrowed to three finalist firms:
 - CBT
 - CSS
 - Vance (noted connection to prior HMFH leadership involved in the original building design)
- The selection process is being facilitated by the City of Boston Designer Selection Board (DSB):
 - The DSB manages a qualifications-based selection process, meaning cost is not a determining factor at this stage.
 - The school will participate in interviews and provide input; however, final selection authority rests with the DSB.
- A meeting with the DSB is scheduled for April 1:
 - The Committee will present a set of questions to the finalist firms.
 - Final architect selection is anticipated shortly thereafter.

Project Outlook

- The project has gained meaningful momentum, marking a transition from planning to active progression.
- Upon architect selection:

- The next phase will include selection of a construction contractor.
- Craig Engerman expressed appreciation for the efforts of:
 - Allie Emery, Dwayne Veale, Katie Kernizan and Facilities Committee members, acknowledging their sustained efforts in advancing the project.

Board Discussion

- Clarification was provided regarding Katie's role, noting her limited involvement due to potential conflict considerations, while still contributing valuable expertise.
- No additional questions or requests (e.g., office space needs or design requirements) were raised by attendees.

D. Parents of Renaissance

No committee update today.

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 8:46 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,

C. Engerman

C. Engerman made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

M. Gardner seconded the motion.

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

Roll Call

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

Documents used during the meeting

- Academic Presentation for Board, March 2026.pdf
- BOT Update March 18, 2026.pdf

- FY26 Q2 Updated Finance Report.pdf