

APPROVED



# Boston Renaissance Charter Public School

## Minutes

### Board of Trustee Meeting

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#### Date and Time

Wednesday September 18, 2024 at 8:00 AM

#### Location

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

ID: 83158758018

Passcode: 226815

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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), Haley MacDonald (remote), Karen Silva (remote), Kris Lane (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 Sep 18, 2024 at 8:03 AM.

### C. Welcome and Public Comment

Welcome Karen Silva, 6th grade teacher.

## II. Finance Update

### A. FY24 Audit Presentation & Acceptance

K. Cherry made a motion to approve the FY24 Audit.

B. Keith seconded the motion.

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

#### Roll Call

K. Davis Kernizan Aye

C. Barrett Aye

B. Keith Aye

C. Engerman Aye

R. Clarke Jr. Aye

D. Morris Aye

A. Buckmire Abstain

K. Cherry Aye

M. Gardner Aye

S. Dibinga Aye

Kristoffer Lane and Haley MacDonald, from Daniel Dennis & Co. presented the Fiscal Year 2024 audit report. They have audited the combined financial statements of the School and the two Foundations.

They reviewed the independent auditors report, Summary of Audit Results, Financial Ratios and Historical Results. The financial records were in very good shape. An unmodified opinion on the financial statements, no material weaknesses, a clean audit.

Summary of Audit report reviewed : Unmodified Opinion on the Combined Financial Statements , which is a clean opinion.

Compliance & Internal Control over financial reporting and on compliance & other matters; Reported there were no material weaknesses over financial reporting and no reportable instance of non-compliance.

Major Programs: ESSER and Title I. Issued an unmodified opinion in respect to the directive material compliance requirements applicable to those programs. Also reported no instances of noncompliance.

Financial Ratios: The school is considered a no risk audit for FY24, all the ratios are low risk. Very good financial profile based on these ratios. Overall very good results, It was an excellent audit, the most efficient audit they've been involved with for FY24.

The Final Audit report is due to DESE November 1st.

### III. Approve Minutes

#### A. Approve Minutes May 15,2024

B. Keith made a motion to approve the minutes from Board of Trustee Meeting on 05-15-24.

M. Gardner seconded the motion.

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

##### Roll Call

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

#### B. Approve Minutes May 31,2024

B. Keith made a motion to approve the minutes from Board of Trustee Meeting on 05-31-24.

C. Barrett seconded the motion.

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

##### Roll Call

K. Davis Kernizan	Aye
C. Barrett	Aye
C. Engerman	Aye
R. Clarke Jr.	Aye
B. Keith	Aye
A. Buckmire	Aye
S. Dibinga	Aye

**Roll Call**

M. Gardner Aye  
K. Cherry Aye  
D. Morris Aye

**C. Approve Minutes June 13,2024**

B. Keith made a motion to approve the minutes from Board of Trustee Meeting on 06-13-24.

M. Gardner seconded the motion.

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

**Roll Call**

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

**IV. Head of School Update**

**A. Head of School Update**

The video project we worked on last year yielded a beautiful video that will last for several years. Board members Cheryl Barrett and Marjorie Gardner are in the video as well an alumnus.

We have had a great start to the new school year. We have a lot of wonderful new staff that have great energy. Want to thank the Board for approving the new salary schedule last year. It helped with our hiring. There are positions that we were able to fill this year that were empty all last year, especially some special education positions.

The site visit for our charter renewal is October 23rd. They'll be here one day for a visit. They will be doing focus groups and classroom visits. Part of the Charter renewal is there will be a board focus group which will take place October 20th. Following the visit they will put together a summary of review (SOR) and submit that to the school. We are allowed to make factual corrections. The recommendation for renewal is presented to the Commissioner, who makes a final determination.

The Commissioner of Education will visit the school on November 5th. If any board members would like to join the visit please do.

We received our embargoed MCAS results. We have started analysis and action planning. We cannot share publicly until Tuesday, September 24. Recommend an October board meeting to go over the full results as well as comparative data.

Family Day was a huge success with hundreds of families in attendance. Several partners, including PTW, Greater Roslindale Community Health Center were in attendance in addition to several vendors.

Our new Lower school director Lori Gover will attend the next board meeting. Shatara Patterson, the assistant director, has been the interim Upper School Director and is continuing that role until Rachel Beck returns at the end of November.

Our biggest challenge has been bus transportation with Boston Public Schools (BPS) although it's not a Renaissance specific issue. This is a big issue for our families, parents affected are very upset by it, but we're working through it. Board member asked for more information regarding the transportation issues. Boston Public Schools (BPS) has a new phone AP they launched this year, which is not working very well. When it does work correctly it works great. It will enable the parents to actually track their buses and that the student is on the bus. But the challenges that we've been having is buses don't show up on the AP and buses are frequently late. We're somewhere between 6 to 10 buses that are late every afternoon to school. Some buses are late getting home, sometimes not getting home until 6, 7 o'clock at night. It's not just our school, the mayor and the superintendent at Boston have made announcements that it's going to get better.

The staff were welcomed back this school year with an amazing opening convocation with renowned speaker Kurt Faustin. We are in talks with Mr. Faustin about a pilot for self-care in education. Want our staff to understand that their their mental health matters and how their well-being directly impacts our students well-being. Board member M. Gardner was in attendance and shared she enjoyed the presentation and felt staff were engaged. He really gave us something to think about. Board member shared they've heard him speak multiple times and can imagine the impact. Another board member shared: sent him a nice note of thanks. He often gets called in for these one offs which can be really inspirational. Happy we are in conversation about making this a little bit more programmatic.

## **V. CAO Update**

### **A. CAO Update**

#### **CAO Update:**

Review of EOY I-Ready Data & 3 Yr Cohort Data

Reading: K2 - 2 grade students in the 1 -20th percentiles made 50 - 75% of annual growth.

K2 - 1 class average growth under 1 year, K2 - 6th students in 61-99 percentile making more than 1 year of growth. 5th & 6th students making above grade level growth.

Students needing intensive support (1-20th percentile) are not making annual growth. Gaps form in grades K2 & 1 and continue to increase for lower than average learners. Math: K2 - 5th grade students in 1-20th percentile not making annual growth. K2 & 1 under grade level. Most students in 61-99th percentile have at least 130% growth. Students needing intensive support (1-20th percentile) are not making annual growth. 3-Year Cohort I-Ready data: Similar trends that are present in 2023-2024 data is seen in 3 yr trends. Once students are behind in K2; gaps generally get larger. Despite exceptional growth in 5th and 6th grades; gaps are too large to close.

DESE Turnaround Practices report outlines six key steps to significantly improve school academic performance

### **Identify Key Aspects of BRCPS School Improvement Plan**

- SY25 focuses on
  - Laying the foundation for solidifying tier 1 instruction,
  - Establishing common data and accountability systems to monitor student progress,
  - Expanding use of effective instructional strategies and student engagement strategies.
- Integrating learning supports for all learners; especially MLL & SwD,

Board member asked a question about accountability; How are we ensuring that the progress monitoring is being done appropriately and consistently throughout the grade levels.

We found we did not have a clear, consistent use of assessments, and part of that is, not everyone's using the same assessment. That's 1 of the pieces we're trying to align. Also monthly data meetings, we're meeting with teachers to really look at the data.

Board member asked: Are we going to streamline more of the math and reading interventions?

Yes, working with our curriculum coordinators. We're putting that together, we have some interventions with Lexia and I ready and ST Math. And when we have those intervention meetings narrow down the dosage piece. It's really identifying, defining those pieces.

Board member asked: Are we making sure that when looking at that data, we're going to pull students that need more challenging work, more enrichment?

Yes. There's been a significant focus on those that aren't a grade level yet. But we do have a good amount of students that are above grade level, so identifying them and using adaptable programs. Iready is an adaptable program that will enrich students. Lexia is very similar.

Board member asked: What about the parents/guardians? The new math for example can be confusing to parents. Is there anything that we can do to help parents?

Yes, that's part of that parent and school connection that we want to build upon, helping parents understand curriculum. How they can help support students outside of school and listen to parents and find out what their needs are. Also, our new Lower school Director Lori Gover will be scheduling a couple of parent nights.

Board member asked: Will they also do something similar for upper school grades? Yes

**Establish collaborative teaming structures to improve instruction.**

We're looking at creating a robust teaming structure that's focusing on instructional supports, using classroom visits to help provide feedback and to help identify areas where we can provide more support to teachers. we're trying to build a collective learning organization by establishing a schedule, structure, and strategic use of resources that allow for the ongoing collaborative teaming necessary to ensure a schoolwide focus on curriculum, instruction, and assessment.

We have a wide range of people on staff. So implementing differential support and professional development for all teachers. We have a great number of new teachers, and that are coming in that are just brand new to the teaching profession, or some that have come with experience, and so understanding where their needs are and supporting them. Also understanding the needs of our returning teachers And how do we continue to improve their skill base and help them develop more in the profession.

**Expanding Common plan time to 85 minutes twice each week.** (305 minutes per week & dedicated meeting time for instructional planning). In the past we've had 40-45 min but by the time teachers drop off & pick up students its really only 25 min to look at content and to do planning. So it makes it a bigger chunk of time for them to get more things done and really tease out some more in depth, conversations around instruction. The 1st part is where we're really talking about subject content meetings. And this is understanding and unwrapping what we are teaching.

**Establishment of PLCs, Professional Learning Communities, to create cycles of instructional improvement.**

Strategically planning instructional strategies and opportunities to engage students. How one class may differ from another class, and how to better support the students in those classes and then follow up each month. We'll have data meetings where we're ensuring the growth. And we'll have a team of people there to help to review, and also make action plans for students and teachers. So it's just not a teacher making a decision for one student. It's more of a team holistic look. Is it the right fit for intervention? Is it the right dosage? Are we making sure that the interventions are being done with fidelity?

Board member asked: When they have the extra planning Blocks are there agendas and is it being led by a coach or grade level lead?

Meetings are usually led by coordinators or the content lead. When we get to the professional learning communities, there's a specific set of criteria, following protocols and action plans that we have to follow.

Board member asked: What's the work that you've done getting adults to understand the importance of this? And what's the accountability measure to make sure that staff are using the time wisely?

We've met with both Lower School and upper school teams to understand what this will look like. Finalizing that information with our coordinator, so we can have a set agenda, so we can make sure it's going through to ensure Fidelity to the process. CAO will attend most of those meetings, or a director will be in most of those meetings, so we can make sure that people are buying into the process. From the conversations had with several teachers, they like the process.

Board member asked: what are the checkpoints that you have throughout the year where you can see what is working or not.

We have a debrief., what did or didn't go well. Is it a specific grade levels or more of a building wide support. It's then providing some of that differentiated professional development for that specific group or schoolwide.

Building Staff Capacity

Utilize walk through and unit assessment data to identify and offer differentiated professional development for staff.

## **VI. Board Consultant**

### **A. Board Consultant**

The Strategic Plan was finalized at the end of last school year. As agreed upon by the board in May, 2024, the board will work with a consultant to work on the board section as well as areas identified in the Board self assessment from SY 23/24. A consultant has been recommended and is currently reviewing our proposal and will get back to us.

Board member shared they have worked with the potential consultant, who has done a lot of work with Charter schools as well as consulting with a coalition of people working on improving conditions for teachers.

## **VII. Board Member Annual required documents for DESE**

### **A. Board Member Annual required documents for DESE**

Reminder to complete your annual required documentation from DESE. An email from DESE was sent to your BRCPS email address.

## **VIII. Committee Updates**

### **A. SY 25 committee meeting dates**

All Board meeting dates are on the website and invitations have been sent.

All Committee meeting dates are on the BRCPS website. Recommend at your first committee meetings you confirm your dates. Please notify Ms. Warwick 48 hours before any dates and time changes.

### **B.**



## Parents of Renaissance Update

The first Parents of Renaissance (POR) meeting will be on Monday. We have two movie nights scheduled to be held in October. One for lower school and one for upper school. This has been a successful event in the past.

## IX. 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 9:40 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,

B. Keith

B. Keith made a motion to to adjourn the meeting.

C. Barrett seconded the motion.

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

#### Roll Call

K. Davis Kernizan Aye

C. Engerman Aye

S. Dibinga Aye

K. Cherry Absent

D. Morris Aye

R. Clarke Jr. Aye

M. Gardner Aye

B. Keith Aye

A. Buckmire Aye

C. Barrett Aye

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## Documents used during the meeting

- Renaissance Exit Presentation.pdf
- BRCPS Draft 9-15 - Audited FS.pdf
- BOT Update Sept 18, 2024.pdf
- BOT Academic Update - 9-18\_24.pdf
- Board of Trustee & Committee Meeting Schedules SY24-25 - Google Docs.pdf