

APPROVED



Boston Renaissance Charter Public School

Minutes

Board of Trustee Meeting

Date and Time

Wednesday November 20, 2024 at 8:00 AM

Location

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

ID: 87061615852

Passcode: 610644

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, B. Keith, C. Barrett, C. Engerman, D. Morris, K. Cherry, K. Davis Kernizan, M. Gardner, R. Clarke Jr.

Trustees Absent

S. Dibinga

Guests Present

A. Emery, D. Conrady, D. Warwick, L. Gover, S. Patterson

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 Nov 20, 2024 at 8:05 AM.

C. Welcome and Public Comment

II. Approve Minutes

A. Approve Minutes

A. Buckmire made a motion to approve the minutes from Board of Trustee Meeting on 09-18-24.

C. Engerman seconded the motion.

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

Roll Call

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

B. Approve Minutes

A. Buckmire made a motion to approve the minutes from Board of Trustee Meeting on 10-09-24.

C. Engerman seconded the motion.

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

Roll Call

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

C. Approve Minutes

A. Buckmire made a motion to approve the minutes from Board of Trustee Meeting on 11-14-24.

C. Engerman seconded the motion.

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

Roll Call

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

III. Staff Introduction Lori Gover, LS Director & Shatara Patterson, Interim US Director

A. Staff Introduction Lori Gover, LS Director

Lori Gover has been hired as our lower school Director starting August 2024. She has been in education for 26 years, teaching preschool, Kindergarten and 2nd grade as well as leadership roles for the past 7 years. She believes passionately that early childhood education is the foundation and that all children can learn. She also believes in the importance of the family school partnership and communication which can help forge a child's future productively together. She shared it's been a pleasure being here at Boston Renaissance.

Lower school update: There is a lot of learning and wonderful things happening in our Lower school. The Lower School has settled into routines and structures along with progress monitoring all students and implementing WIN groups. Curriculum such as: Heggerty, Foundations, Wonders, World of Wonders, Bridges and Mystery Science are being followed with fidelity in all classrooms.

We are also partnering with our Science Curriculum Coordinator for a more in-depth science trajectory all the way through our lower school. Science is now embedded throughout the lower school and we are now aligning writing within science lessons so that the students have a more solid understanding of science as they move into the Upper school.

Lead Teachers are now pushing into classrooms of new teachers in order to give non-evaluative feedback and help assist in their growth and development. Lead Teachers are now meeting individually each month with the LS Director and AD to discuss grade level concerns and thoughts.

Upcoming events: Mega Math Mania 12/19/24, Family Literacy Night 1/25/25 and Alphabet Parade 2/7/25.

B. Staff Introduction Shatara Patterson, Interim US Director

Shatara Patterson was hired in January 2024 as the Upper School Asst. Director and is currently the Interim Upper School Director. She has been in education for 16 years and in leadership for 4 years. She has worked as a para, long-term substitute teacher and taught 9th and 10th grade public speaking, 12th grade AP Literature and 12th grade English honors and as an assistant principal. She shared that a lot of her students had a huge deficit in critical thinking skills and applying those skills and processing. She realized she could make a lot of changes in her own classroom. But wanted the students in the entire school to have these skills. Which is what lead her into a larger leadership role as an assistant principal prior to being in this role at the Renaissance.

Upper school update: We are starting off the year strong. We have 7 new staff members. Right now, we are focusing on three key areas: student learning, fostering a positive school climate, and our journey toward sustained academic growth. Looking ahead, we plan to: Continue our targeted intervention methods to reach more students, continue enhancing professional learning opportunities for teachers and strengthen family and community partnerships to support student success.

Math: Students in grades 3-5 are progressing through their Bridges units, which provide a solid foundation in math concepts. In 6th grade, students are working through Illustrative Math units, where they deepen their understanding of mathematical concepts.

ELA: We have a new ELA curriculum coordinator, she's building a scope and sequence for the Upper School in Ela and social studies and staff are excited for that support.

Science: There has been a resurgence in science instruction across the school which will vertically align, allowing students to progress with foundational skills to activate more complex skills. There are upcoming STEAM days to promote community building across the school.

Board member asked both directors:

Board member Asked: What are your biggest challenges? How do you like to be supported by the school?

Lower School: Our greatest challenge was we were not using curriculum with fidelity, but we are now. Also the challenge of having new staff coming in for grades 1 & 2 were our greatest challenge this year. The new staff is great but they needed time to learn 5 different curriculums. There has been a tremendous support between our coaches, our instructional team and at the directors meeting. Our academic team is great. We appreciate the coaches, instructional teams and anyone who jumps into a classroom to best support our new teachers and fill that toolbox so that our teachers know we support them. We want them to remain and want them to continue to grow as educators.

Upper School: One of our bigger challenges has been students who are lower academically. So teachers are working very hard to provide a curriculum that is supporting the student where they are, but also trying to keep those high expectations and still teach at grade level. I am extremely grateful that this year we are fully staffed.

Last year several of the instructional coaches and curriculum coordinators were pulled to cover classrooms due to staffing issues. So this year the teachers are getting more support with coaching, and I myself have more time to go into classes and provide real time feedback and meet with teachers to hear what they need and how best to support them.

Board member Asked: In order to implement classroom instruction, How are teachers supported with classroom management and supported with discipline/behavior issues? We spend a considerable amount of time on using PBIS and building up those classroom routines and structures. We do push into the classroom to get eyes on to support classroom management and see if there's additional supports needed. We also build relationships with our families. We do a lot of communication to better support the systems we have in place and also build relationships with our families.

Board member Asked: What's the correlation between the classroom management, the challenges of student behavior and the test scores?

We feel we hired some really strong, skilled teachers. They are working hard to teach with fidelity and we feel that our teachers can move the numbers. Also, through data collection and progress monitoring the teachers can see the student growth, which is inspiring to them that truly all their hard work and the coaching they're receiving is making a difference. We are supporting teachers, going into classrooms and helping with classroom management and disruptions. We want teachers to know they are not doing this alone.

IV. CAO Update

A. CAO Update

Part of the School Improvement Plan; three important systems are being implemented or reinforced. 1.) Strengthen Tier 1 instruction through bimonthly content and PLC meetings to review curriculum, identify desired rigor and analyzing student data to make informed decisions. 2.) Support student academic growth through WIN & data monitoring and 3.) Identifying additional scaffolding and time to increase intervention time for student multiple years behind grade level

The first component is to strengthen Tier 1 instruction through bi-monthly content meetings with our coordinators and teachers to review curriculum, identify desired rigor and analyze student data to make informed decisions. We're instructing and starting to look at student exit data to make informed instructional decisions. We're ensuring all grades are utilizing the components of the Wonders & Bridges curriculum effectively. Re-implementing the writing components of the Wonders curriculum & the week 6 writing unit. Utilizing the mid and end of unit assessments to track and identify students' skill gaps and to identify reteaching opportunities. Using common formative assessments (MC & writing prompts), analyzing student work in grade level teams (PLCs) and using data to make instructional decisions. Differentiated teacher support for planning, modeling and coaching in classrooms

The second component WIN supports student academic growth, focusing on students' academic needs through enrichment, reinforcement or remediation based on fall benchmarking data. WIN is being provided 9 out of 10 instructional days including full day Fridays. Currently running 120 math groups and 175 reading groups and progress monitoring them. Students' progress is monitored every two weeks if needing tier 2 or 3 support. Some preliminary information we see some great growth in lower school reading and math.

For the third component the CAO is working with curriculum coordinators through grade level PLCs to identify additional time, scaffolds and resources needed to help teachers better support students with significant skills gaps in grades 2 - 6.

Progress monitoring for any student identified as "Strategic" or "Intensive" in Aimsweb every two weeks. The data is reviewed monthly as a TEAM to ensure that students are making progress towards their goals and to problem solve as needed. For interventions, especially for tier 2 and 3, the fit, dosage and fidelity are important variables in making student growth happen.

Lastly is really identifying some of those scaffolds, because we have a number of students, especially in upper school, that are multi grade levels below. So working with the coordinators and teachers to identify what parts of skills or concepts that students are falling back on and how we can provide scaffolds for those students to make sure they can still access the core curriculum. But at the same time we're also trying to identify additional times where we can help fill those skill gaps.

Board member asked: How does all the work (scaffolding, progress monitoring) manifest itself into academic results? Could we see in a chart or some type of visual expression how the students are progressing and if behind what's the gap?

The Progress monitoring information provides us with how students are doing on specific interventions. In some cases we have different interventions of similar skill sets, and we can see if one's more effective than another closing the gap quicker.

As far as where our students are overall, that's some of the the I-ready data that I shared at the beginning of the year. We do have a number of students that are multiple grade levels below, but we also have some students that are above level. I can send that information out again.

We're making sure we're tracking interventions. We're trying to make sure students are making 200% growth per year. We will put together more data to share with the board.

V. HOS Update

A. HOS Update

The Commissioner of Education will be coming for a school tour next Tuesday, from 9:00-10:30. We will tour the school and visit classrooms. B. Keith, D. Morris and C. Barrett have agreed to attend and all board members are welcome to join us.

This year is our 30th year for the school as well as our 25th year for the Voices of Renaissance choir. Please save the date of April 17th. We will be celebrating our 30th year throughout the day with each grade level doing something. We are still working on the details. The evening of the 17th, we are going to have the Voices of Renaissance 25th celebration. Ms. Lee has been invited and we're inviting alumni to come back for the choir performance.

We have an alum Deshawn Givens who has an organization called Prove Them Wrong. His mission is to give back and he is passionate about this school and everything that he received from the Renaissance. He is doing a basketball clinic at the school this year with some of our students. He is also going to meet with our foundation board to possibly join that board and continue to support our school.

VI. Board Development

A. Board Development

After completing our board self assessment we discussed possibly hiring a consultant to come and do some work with the board. They would be consulting with the board around the board section of the strategic plan as well as our self assessment work. The consultant could host a board retreat to kick off some of this work with the board.

VII. Finance

A. Finance Update

Q1 Financial review: Financial situation is good. Reviewed DESE Measure of Risk dashboard. We show green across the board which is what we like to see. Continue to project a surplus. There is a potential for tuition funding to decrease based on ESSER. Budget lines that appear to be fully spending down our budget are covered by grants not budgeted for, so no concern there. Daycare enrollment is less than anticipated this year.

B. Banking Relationship

K. Cherry made a motion to change our banking relationship from eastern bank to Brookline Bank.

C. Barrett seconded the motion.

Finance committee is recommending to the board to shift our funds from Eastern Bank to Brookline Bank. The biggest factors to move were: Higher interest, anticipate annual giving back to the school , lower annual fees and a more personal relationship with Brookline bank.

Board member shared and wanted to reiterate that they went through all of the financials at the finance committee meeting in great detail and they agree with this recommendation to change banks, for all the reasons stated.

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

Roll Call

A. Buckmire Aye

Roll Call

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

VIII. Committee Updates

A. Governance & Nomination

B. Academic Excellence

The Academic committee met in October. Dr. Conradys CAO update covered the Academic meeting updates. The committee did go over the fall benchmarking data for the entire school and we noted, as shared earlier, that we do have a lot of students in tier 3 which are receiving that intensive intervention Piece. We know that this is a concerning number. Dr. Conrady shared that the WIN groups have started. He's getting that data information and can hopefully give us more specific details on the growth and how it's happening at our next Academic meeting.

C. Facility

New Site (B Street) update:

At the last meeting we talked about the Hyde park apartment possible conversion to office and conference room space, to free up space in Main building.

1415 Hyde Park Ave update:

Looking into getting quotes in the spring to have the parking lot blacktop redone.

Looking into getting quotes to replace the playground turf area next summer , it's the original turf.

Looking into getting quotes for the surveillance system and the cameras. It's time to revamp the security system which encompasses the the card access entry.

Discussed replacing the existing modulars. There is a lot to consider removing the modulars and building a 2 story structure on site.

D. Parents of Renaissance

POR held an in-person meeting October 22nd and were happy with the amount of parents/guardians in attendance. Mr. Perry, the BRCPS Student Support & Bully Prevention Coordinator was in attendance to share and discuss our Bullying policy, receive feedback and answer any questions. The POR also shared a questionnaire with the Parent/guardians requesting who is interested in attending in-person POR meetings.

POR board member shared POR questions:

Why is there no homework in the lower grades? Parents are interested in learning how to support learning at home.

Lower school director response: It's been discussed and the teams & the grade levels are on board with it. Will bring it up at the next academic team meeting.

Some parents would like to know more about the curriculum.

The Lower school family newsletter included what each of the curriculums were, and how they best serve students. Math and Literacy nights are coming up. When families attend, regardless of whether you attend or not, every student is going home with games to play at home that are connected to the curriculum. This will go home with each child. Math will roll out in December, and ELA will roll out in January.

Parents have expressed an interest in the upper and lower school director(s) attending a POR meeting.

The POR board member will reach out to each director to schedule those meetings.

Upcoming events: Muffins with Mrs. : the Zeta Phi Beta Sorority will be donating and helping with this event. Next POR meeting is January 28th.

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 8:58 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,

B. Keith

B. Keith made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

C. Barrett seconded the motion.

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

Roll Call

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

Documents used during the meeting

- Academic Update November 2024 presentation.pptx
- BOT Update November 20, 2024 (1).pdf
- BRCPS-SS Board Engagement Proposal.pdf
- FY25 Q1 09.30.2024 Finance Report.pdf