

APPROVED



Boston Renaissance Charter Public School

Minutes

Board of Trustee Meeting

Date and Time

Wednesday November 15, 2023 at 8:00 AM

Location

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

ID: 84581260033

Passcode: 368399

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. 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

K. Williamson

Guests Present

A. Emery (remote), C. Beckhusen, D. Veale (remote), D. Warwick (remote), David Conrady, J. Moynihan (remote)

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 15, 2023 at 8:01 AM.

C. Approve Minutes

B. Keith made a motion to approve the minutes from Board of Trustee meeting on 09-20-23.

C. Engerman seconded the motion.

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

Roll Call

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

II. Expansion Study

A. Expansion Study

The board reviewed the Expansion study that HMFH Architects put together. It includes cost estimates and possibilities that we have discussed. The board discussed the need to fundraise to support the cost of a new building. We have been working on a possible partnership for the property across the street and that possible scenario is included in the report. There are three different options that are explained in the report along with renderings and Feasibility cost estimate. We want to look at what makes financial sense. Based on the last facility meeting discussion some of the numbers are high, especially option 2. Need to look at what the immediate need is, current funding and future funding. The board discussed the potential partnership option and wants to look more into that. It may not make financial sense. There are less expansion options and less intrusive options in terms of construction. The board discussed other possible partnership opportunities to look into. The board agreed to find out what the commitment is of the potential partner and pivot if there's no commitment.

The building was built for 880 students and we're chartered for 944 students. So our immediate need is to address having the three modular buildings removed and bring 6th grade out of the modular building and back into the main building. We also want to alleviate the burden that the day care is putting on the 1415 facility. The school has benefited from having the parking on the new property; it has tremendously improved the traffic on Hyde Park Ave, adding value for staff, families and our neighborhood.

A board member shared that after reviewing the report it seems pretty much in line with what is happening, especially in the city of Boston, for pricing. It's around \$900 a square foot in the city of Boston, and it can go higher. Generally there's also an economy of size. So if you're looking to build something a bit on the smaller size it is going to start to bring up that price per square foot a bit. If a contractor or construction manager is coming to a site, they have to come and mobilize the same that they would for a larger building that they would for a smaller building. So basically, they're going up the square footage number for a smaller building. And moving forward there's going to be opportunities for value engineering and limiting excessive design elements and standardizing materials. Think there's opportunities to reassess that price per square foot number.

The board agreed that the next facility meeting is a good time to have a deeper discussion as to the direction we want to go. Maybe have more information about the potential partner. Look closer at pricing, figure out how we're going to raise the money. We know it could take years to raise money. The Facility committee can then bring that update back to the board at our next meeting.

III. HOS Update

A. HOS Update

Things are going well. We recently did a second lottery for this current school year. We have to maintain our 944 student enrollment every day through February fifteenth.

Things are going well with academics. Dr. Conrady, our CAO, is getting up and running. We initially planned to move him along a little slower, but when we got our MCAS results we all agreed that we needed to expedite that, and so he is now officially overseeing our instructional coaches, data assessment coordinators and curriculum coordinators.

We are still in the process of rolling out our PBIS positive behavioral intervention intervention system. It's being met with some mixed reviews from teachers, which is not unsurprising.

Bright spot for school are our specialty classes. This year we've changed the schedule so that students get 2 specialties. They have one that rotates each trimester and then another one that they have for the year, and it's going really well. The specialty teachers are extremely happy about the ability to really hone in on some of the arts with students.

The Choir is up and running with our new Choir director Sasha White. She is a music teacher at another school and comes here in the afternoon. She is fantastic, very personable and the students love her. They have their first performance this evening for an outside organization. Ms. Lee is going to be honored at that event.

The biggest challenge right now is staffing. We still have some vacancies. We are not different than any other school, but it's very challenging. We are going to be doing a climate survey to hear from staff about challenges and positive points, ultimately looking to learn what makes people stay, and what makes people want to work here? Once the survey is complete the results will be shared. In talking with our Hr. Director recently, we should probably be looking at our salary schedule again in the next year or two. It's not only money, there's other things. The education field is changing, and people are leaving education.

We have a writing professional development session on Friday. You will see when we do our MCAS presentation, there are a lot of missed opportunities, and areas for improvement within the area of writing.

We have our annual barn dance Friday morning. If anyone wants to stop by and do a little line dance with the kids, you're more than welcome to come.

IV. Finance

A. Finance Update

Discussed FY24 First quarter as of September 30,2023. These are the ratios that we look at each board meeting. We are green across the board, nothing of concern, everything looks good. The biggest differences that you see since last fiscal year in June was just timing of collection of receipts, receivables and payables. We have some small improvements that we've made, some fixed, asset-related items; something for the kitchen, some stuff for our STEAM room in the library and some technology updates.

Regarding enrollment, we budgeted conservatively for 922 students and as Ms. Buckmire stated we are working to stay at or above the cap of 944.

Contracted services we may overrun this line based on a grant received that will cover expenditures. The grant was awarded after our budget was approved. Due to vacancies we are using contracted services to fill some positions which could cause overruns if those positions are not filled.

V. MCAS Update

A. MCAS Update

Staff joining today for the MCAS presentation are D. Conrady ,CAO and the upper school Data & Assessment Coordinator Christine Beckhusen.

Presented MCAS data looking at our overall and past performance. Comparisons to other schools and trends and action planning. BRCPS performance is not where we want it to be. After reviewing the MCAS data disaggregated by subgroup, grade, standard and type of question patterns began to emerge .Trend 1 - Students performed at or near the state level when questions required lower level of thinking or application (Bloom's 1-3.) Trend 2 - Students underperformed when asked to create a response utilizing higher level thinking skills to analyze, evaluate or create a product. Especially SwD & EL. Trend 3 - Students underperformed in areas when asked to create a written response to a question in each of the subject area assessments. Especially SwD & EL. Trend 4 - Curricular gaps in the taught vs. assessed curriculum. Trend 5 - A significant number of students barely missed the next level of proficiency by a few points.

Shared Areas of Improvement/action steps:

- *Focus on Writing & Higher Level Thinking* —Define & Implement SW Writing Protocols—Focus on Promoting Higher Level Thinking Skills—Monitoring - Frequent classroom observations to identify current instructional trends and be able to respond as needed with regular data reviews.
- *Targeted Interventions* In each subject assessed, there were a significant number of students that were within a few questions (within 10pts) away from the next classification level.
- *Curricular Gaps Reviewed* the taught curriculum with Curriculum Coordinators to identify any gaps within the taught curriculum from the Assessed curriculum. Identify where grade level skills can be reinforced or how emerging skills can be monitored and integrated into LS.

A significant number of students barely missed the next level of proficiency by a few points.

Our academic team is looking at the scope and sequence to make sure we can track mastery of those standards, we can then provide some interventions during WIN time, class time or additional tutoring. We're also looking at this group for our Accelerated Learning Program (ALP.) This Afterschool program will provide immediate and intensive instruction so we can help those students fill in gaps in ELA and Math so they can become proficient at every level.

A Board member shared that we're glad to see the initiative with the writing and making sure that we're giving teachers some professional development on implementing writing throughout the grade levels. A writing survey given to instructional staff. Feedback from the survey showed that teachers wanted a standardized approach to writing. We heard back from teachers on what their strengths are and where they're wanting more growth. Our first initial PD is going to provide common language across the school, but then also

provide that vision and differentiated PDs to help us get to that next level where everyone is feeling more comfortable.

Board member asked if there is going to be a writing component to the ALP program. In Math some of the components are going to include writing samples. ELA components will include reading comprehension, vocabulary, where we're seeing some more decreases, and there's also going to be a portion where it's just a writing boot camp. Currently working on pre assessments. We're starting the program with Math in December and ELA in February.

VI. Committee Updates

A. Governance & Nomination

C. Engerman made a motion to Reelect Brian Keith to the board.

A. Buckmire seconded the motion.

C.Engerman: Brian Keith is up for reelection to the board. I think Brian has done an outstanding job, and I would love to have him on board for another 10 years.

B.Keith: Edwine introduced me to Renaissance 6 years ago. Our work with the community to expand the footprint of the school and make it a better experience for the kids and the professionals who are there today, this is what excites me the most about being in this role right now. So if you will have me, I am happy to continue doing the work.

C.Engerman: Brian served on the Facilities Committee with me prior to accepting Board Chair position and he has a passion for the Renaissance, and a passion to help us move forward. Brian has done a great job and we appreciate all you do, because we all sacrifice time. This is something that we do because we care.

A.Buckmire: I want to thank you, Brian for your commitment. One of the many things I appreciate about working with you is your commitment to the community.

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

Roll Call

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

B. Academic Excellence

The academic committee met last week. We reviewed data from Aimsweb, which is the universal screening, benchmarking, and progress monitoring tool used to assess literacy and math proficiency in grades K-6 .

We also looked at I-Ready data. We use this tool to help us identify students that are meeting or exceeding expected performance targets. It also helps us identify students who are at risk of not meeting their academic goals so that we can provide more targeted support and monitor the efficacy of the support we are providing. Aimsweb is used in conjunction with I-Ready data to create WIN groups.

This data places students into Tiers based on their composite score. Tier 1 means a student is testing on target and is at low risk of not meeting end of year targets. Tier 2 means that a child is at medium risk of not meeting end of year targets and would benefit from strategic intervention to ensure progress toward efficiency. Tier 3 means that the child is at high risk of not meeting end of year benchmarks and requires intensive support in order to make progress.

We compared data by grade level from Fall of 2022 to fall of this year. The data is similar from last year and this current year in both ELA and Math.

When looking at I-Ready data we were able to compare data by grade level, SWD's, and ELL's . We were also able to then look deeper into the data and look at each domain within both reading and math. This allowed us to see the areas where our students are doing well and where they are struggling

ELA:

We are seeing positive impacts from our focus on high quality instruction in the areas of phonemic awareness and decoding and and this is evidenced by the data for the decoding domain as being higher this fall than where we were starting last year.

An area of growth in reading was our comprehending informational text for students.

Math:

When looking at our overall math scores we noticed an area of growth is Geometry.

C. Facility

C. Engerman shared he checks in most weeks with Mr. Veale, director of operations. There are no major issues and with ongoing preventative maintenance the building is in great shape and mechanically fine. He is doing a great job staying on top of everything.

At the next facility meeting the focus will be the expansion study.

D. Parents of Renaissance

POR members are working on our scheduling. We are doing another Chez-Vous Roller skating event in March 2024. Will will be breaking it up into two different groups, upper and lower school.

We held another Noche de Rumba event last month and it was a great success.

VII. Other Business

A. Other Business

S. Dibinga asked if we could invite Ms. Shepherd, Director of Visual & Performing Arts, to the next BOT meeting to give an update. Ms. Dibinga visited the school last week and shared It was nice to hear all the great things happening in the specialty classrooms.

VIII. Closing Items

A. Adjourn Meeting

B. Keith made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

M. Gardner seconded the motion.

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

Roll Call

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

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 10:00 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,
B. Keith

Documents used during the meeting

- BRCPS_CR_Expansion_Study_w_cost_estimate_08.12.23.pdf
- BOT Update November 15th.pdf
- FY24 Q1 09.30.23 Report -Nov Mtg.pdf
- October 2023 MCAS presentation.pdf