

APPROVED



# Boston Renaissance Charter Public School

## Minutes

### Board of Trustees Meeting

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#### Date and Time

Wednesday March 17, 2021 at 8:00 AM

#### Location

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://brcps-school.zoom.us/j/89480263304?](https://brcps-school.zoom.us/j/89480263304?pwd=R0ZGK3VsMkIzaUd0aGs3QlYwOHU2QT09)

[pwd=R0ZGK3VsMkIzaUd0aGs3QlYwOHU2QT09](https://brcps-school.zoom.us/j/89480263304?pwd=R0ZGK3VsMkIzaUd0aGs3QlYwOHU2QT09)

Meeting ID: 894 8026 3304

Passcode: 678595

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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. Engerman (remote), E. Alphonse (remote), F. Lowery (remote), K. Williamson (remote), L. Colon (remote), M. Gardner (remote), R. Clarke Jr. (remote), S. Dibinga (remote)

#### Trustees Absent

*None*

#### Guests Present

C. Beckhusen (remote), J. Moynihan (remote), Jessica Nicholas (remote), Kate Fonseca (remote), P. Littlehale (remote)

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### I. Opening Items

#### A. Record Attendance

**B. Call the Meeting to Order**

L. Colon called a meeting of the board of trustees of Boston Renaissance Charter Public School to order on Wednesday Mar 17, 2021 at 8:08 AM.

**II. Welcome and Public Comment**

**A. Welcome and Public Comment**

Vice Chair Brian Keith will be co-chairing the meeting today.

Letter from from Ms. Betty-Ann Laurence, BRCPS educator, giving praise to Ms. Buckmire for her support during her difficult time.

**III. Approve Minutes**

**A. Approve minutes from January, 2021 Board of Trustee Meeting**

L. Colon made a motion to approve the minutes from Board of Trustees Meeting on 01-20-21.

E. Alphonse seconded the motion.

Approved minutes with suggested grammatical and name edits

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

**B. Approve Minutes February 5, 2021 Board of Trustee Meeting**

L. Colon made a motion to approve the minutes from Board of Trustees Meeting on 02-05-21.

E. Alphonse seconded the motion.

With suggest name edit

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

**IV. Head of School Update**

**A. Head of School Update**

Reopening plan: We received a mandate that elementary school students go back for 5 days a week and received guidance last Wednesday around this mandate. The Commissioner would approve waivers on limited basis for schools that have been fully remote in order to transition efficiently and not immediately jump to 5 days. Families can still stay remote for remainder of the school year

We rebuilt classroom with 6 feet in mind but no longer applies

Resurveyed families - about 60% want to return to school, about 40% want to remain remote

DESE approved the waiver; did not need vote prior to the waiver but should have vote at some point

Approved by Commissioner to bring students back by April 5th, start with cohort A on April 5th and cohort B the following week and then all students back on April 26th, which we have been approved for

Half days on Fridays in order to give teachers time to plan

Kids will not be moving around the building a lot; they will eat in the classroom;

Families will have option to change their decision at any point although we ask for notice ahead of time

Will be doing pool testing every Tuesday

K. Williamson: I think it's great that the school is giving an option to families even though that could be a logistical nightmare for the school, I'm sure the families appreciate that.

MCAS will be happening this year.

**B. DESE Reopening Waiver**

The waiver request approved by DESE is to begin the hybrid model April 5th and then return to in-person fully April 26th.

L. Colon made a motion to Approve DESE Reopening Waiver.

K. Williamson seconded the motion.

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

**Roll Call**

K. Williamson Aye

L. Colon Aye

A. Buckmire Abstain

E. Alphonse Aye

S. Dibinga Aye

C. Engerman Aye

F. Lowery Aye

B. Keith Aye

R. Clarke Jr. Aye

M. Gardner Abstain

L. Colon made a motion to Approve the DESE Reopening Waiver.

K. Williamson seconded the motion.

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

**Roll Call**

F. Lowery Aye

B. Keith Aye

E. Alphonse Aye

C. Engerman Aye

K. Williamson Aye

A. Buckmire Abstain

S. Dibinga Aye

M. Gardner Abstain

L. Colon Aye

R. Clarke Jr. Aye

**V. Finance Update**

**A. FY 22 budget proposal first draft**

**Presentation of FY2022 proposed budget by Phil Littlehale**

Assumptions included in this budget: maintaining enrollment and back in school at the beginning of school year without remote learning

Tuition: number much higher than what we budgeted this year; 99% of what we're expecting; have budgeted conservatively because we're using this year's number.

This number will be updated when we meet in May once DESE posts their numbers

Grant lines: includes ordinary entitlement grants, not ESSER grants

After-school and summer camp programming - fully budgeted again

Staff salaries - fully loaded: have put in some extra staff of next year and includes all step increases for staff and COLA

COVID reductions reversed - have reversed reductions and put them into FY 22 budget

fringe benefits - 3rd year in a row health and dental premiums will not be changing and so increase in this line of the budget will be reduced to reflect that

professional development - covid reversal

Increase with IT supplies

COVID expenses that will be ongoing forever are expected for e.g., filters, etc. that will not be covered by grants  
Daycare expenses are up  
ESSER grants not reflected, they are resources that will help us smooth things out in the next years

Forecasting a slight surplus; in a better position than last year

## VI. Governance & Nomination

### A. Board Chair Succession plan

Presentation by Lupita. Governance and Nomination committee created a board chair succession plan, as a board Lupita would like board to review it to ensure it is in alignment with board's goals. Would like it to be an ongoing doc to be used for future succession planning. Board reviewed Succession Plan on zoom screen.

Board provided positive feedback.

L. Colon made a motion to Approve the Board Succession Plan.

E. Alphonse seconded the motion.

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

#### Roll Call

L. Colon Aye  
S. Dibinga Aye  
B. Keith Aye  
F. Lowery Aye  
C. Engerman Aye  
K. Williamson Absent  
A. Buckmire Aye  
E. Alphonse Aye  
M. Gardner Aye  
R. Clarke Jr. Aye

### B. Extension of Term limits

Edwine and Brian, like the continuity aspect of extending to a 3rd optional term

Edwine concern: concerned of fatigue and flow of ideas

Alexandra: Allows for overlap of new board members

Most seem to be in agreement with this extension, next step would be to speak with DESE to get approval

## VII. Committee Updates

### A. Committee Reminders

Reminder to committees to upload their meeting minutes to board on track

### B. Academic Excellence

Christine Beckhusen and Trustee Marjorie provide data update on anonymous student progress in different grade levels using iReady

Edwine asked questions re: student data and how the data is used in evaluation

### C. Development

Did not have last committee meeting

Jack: sent newsletters to fundraising prospects, opt out rate was very low

Using Boomerang for donor research, developing outreach strategy.

Have begun and moved down the road on foundation strategy, expect in April it will move further down the road

Using Social Media, have a new LinkedIn page

Lots planned before end of school year, annual fund

Things are going really well

**D. Parents of Renaissance**

Rocklyn: in touch with leader of the POR, focus right now is on reopening, not much else to report

**E. Facility**

Craig: Building running fine,

COVID testing will continue until 3rd of April

Daycare sketch received for across the street, next sketch should be received next week, costs for daycare not yet captured in budget

**VIII. 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 10:07 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,

B. Keith

B. Keith made a motion to Close the Meeting.

C. Engerman seconded the motion.

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

**Roll Call**

B. Keith	Aye
L. Colon	Absent
F. Lowery	Absent
E. Alphonse	Aye
R. Clarke Jr.	Aye
A. Buckmire	Aye
C. Engerman	Aye
K. Williamson	Absent
S. Dibinga	Aye
M. Gardner	Aye