



Boston Renaissance Charter Public School

Minutes

Board of Trustees Meeting

Date and Time

Wednesday May 19, 2021 at 8:00 AM

Location

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/94479795517?pwd=QnpOcFBLNEJ0WUZDcFpyakhKcWNXQT09>

Meeting ID: 944 7979 5517

Passcode: Mb9Bmp

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), 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

D. Warwick (remote), J. Moynihan (remote), P. Littlehale (remote)

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 May 19, 2021 at 8:05 AM.

C. Welcome and Public Comment

D. Approve Minutes

Edit names of guests.

Change "He" to "the Commissioner" under Head of School Update

Change in finance section: "This number will be updated"

Staff salaries: change to "fully"

Fringe benefits - edit double "a"

L. Colon made a motion to approve the minutes from Board of Trustees Meeting on 03-17-21.

K. Williamson seconded the motion.

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

II. Bylaw Amendment

A. Bylaw Amendment

Discussed the language in the letter that is being sent to DESE. Everyone still in agreement.

Brian Keith emphasized the fact that the additional 3 year term is voluntary and we do not have to serve the entire additional 3 years.

L. Colon made a motion to Vote that we make an amendment to the bylaws to extend the board term limits.

B. Keith seconded the motion.

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

Roll Call

L. Colon Aye

K. Williamson Absent

C. Engerman Aye

E. Alphonse Aye

R. Clarke Jr. Aye

S. Dibinga Aye

F. Lowery Aye

B. Keith Aye

M. Gardner Aye

A. Buckmire Aye

III. Head of School Update

A. Head of School Update

Fully returned to school; 5 days a week except for a few students. Going surprisingly well.

MCAS currently ongoing and reduced by 50%

Have seen some decline in performance by students in light of remote schooling
Reallocating resources that would have gone to summer programming to use after school interventions next school year

Drive-thru graduation on June 4th and bbq from 1-2:30pm

Reimagine Project - Students, teachers and parents will participate in the Re-Imagine Project sponsored by the Specialty Team. The idea is to reimagine a character from a book/history, etc. and create your own vision. We will premiere the Re-Imagine Project for the entire school the week of May 24th.

DESE has launched several MTSS academies and we have applied to the Universal Design for Learners academy. We are waiting to hear if we have been accepted. If we are accepted we will take part in a 3year academy. We have started our own MTSS self assessment with documents available from the state to assess areas for improvement.

We were selected to participate with one other charter school in a Family Engagement pilot through the Mass CharterPublic School Association. We have begun the work this school year with a self assessment and are now diving into priority areas for our work. We will continue to meet for the first half of next school year.

IV. Finance Update

A. SY22 Budget

Discussed Q3 FY2021 financials
All state grants will be expanded
Don't anticipate using ESSR funds this fiscal year
Forecast - positive

Budget

A conservative budget
Restored non-personnel cuts
Not running summer programming, but running after-school programming

Expenses

Staff salaries - includes any adjustments to staff that HOS and leadership team felt necessary, for example: literacy specialist
Stipends - added for after school programming
Fringe benefits - good news: medical and dental staying unchanged; added real short-term disability policy
Professional development - reduced because of COVID but added now for next year
Utilities
54 month contract for electric and gas
With COVID - now run HVAC system 2 hours before it opens
10% budget increase with utilities
COVID supplies budget line - estimated increase in supplies
Some insurance rate increases due to COVID
Daycare program 4th classroom - increase
ESSERF grants - will use for the next few years
Operating budget at 64k surplus which is a good place to be

Fred Lowery: How can we provide additional support to students to be caught up academically (and use these grants for it)?

Alexandra Buckmire: We have budgeted for this additional support and especially for students of color disproportionately being affected by COVID; there are ongoing conversations about long-term recovery; can also use money for very specific resources, for instance family engagement program, etc.

Staff bonus - presented by Edwine Alphonse
Using 16% of the budget surplus we have
Not using any COVID/ESSERF grant money for this
Discussion about the bonus
E. Alphonse made a motion to Vote the budget as presented.
F. Lowery seconded the motion.

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

Roll Call

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

V. Governance & Nomination

A. Board Chair Vote & Vice Chair Vote

Many members expressed excitement and agreement in having Brian Keith as the new chair of the Board of Trustees. Specifically pointing to his evident commitment and dedication to the school and his engaged participation as a Vice Chair and board member.

A. Buckmire made a motion to Vote Brian Keith as Chair of the Board of Trustees.

C. Engerman seconded the motion.

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

Roll Call

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

B. Board Member Annual required documents for DESE

VI. Committee Updates

A. Academic Excellence

Discussed different platforms teachers are using to collect data and what they're doing with data once collected. Would like to all use the same system to collect data so it is more consistent/easily understandable.

Multi-tiered System of Support (MTSS)

Comprehensive system of evidence-based practices to facilitate data-based decision-making

6 tenets of the framework:

1. All students are capable of grade-level learning with adequate support
2. MTSS is rooted in proactivity and prevention
3. The system utilizes evidence-based practices
4. Decisions and procedures are driven by school and student data
5. The degree of support given to students is based on their needs
6. Implementation occurs school-wide and requires stakeholder collaboration

MTSS is different than RTL in that RTL focused on ensuring at risk students have access to services and interventions, which MTSS is more systematic and proactive, focusing on the whole school.

Update on student profiles: we are continuing to track this sub-group of students (please see Academic Committee Update attached in agenda). We are noticing that although data is being collected, there needs to be a more systematic approach for teachers when taking next steps with the data.

B. Development

Strategic Plan

Objectives

The Development team will work to achieve two overarching, interconnected objectives: Elevate the profile of the school/Head of School, and garner sustainable philanthropic support. Communications work will focus on establishing a clear brand that distinguishes BRCPS from other organizations, while greatly expanding our audience and level of engagement with multiple constituent groups. In terms of our fundraising strategy, we will build a sustainable “best-practice” Development operation designed to identify, cultivate and steward opportunities to raise necessary funding for future programs and endeavors. These efforts will facilitate opportunities for us to engage individuals and institutions leading to near and long-term fundraising opportunities, up to and including a future Capital Campaign.

The development team has undertaken these efforts in earnest at BRCPS for the first time in well over a decade. This strategic plan charts a path for the next 6 months, with an eye on the future. It includes strategic priorities for Communications and for Development; and for each strategic priority a set of strategies, action steps, timelines, indicators/measures of success, and individuals to be responsible for each action step.

Priorities

- 1) Work to build a strong brand that will help generate interest and development opportunities
- 2) Grow the school’s network, audience, and level of engagement with multiple constituencies, including business and community leaders, education funders and advocates, BRCPS families, and BRCPS alumni
- 3) Elevate the profile of BRCPS and the Head of School

Board can help with exposure and reaching out to people we may know on foundation boards, etc.

We will also be reaching out to past donors.

C. Parents of Renaissance

Will reach out to Ms. Rivera - family engagement coordinator; otherwise no update

D. Facility

Things are going well; no issues to report.

Would like to have UV technology added to HVAC system, additional COVID protocol, would be a retrofit vs a full replacement.

VII. Schedule June Board of Trustees Meeting

A. Schedule June Board of Trustees Meeting

Scheduled for June 16th, 2021 at 8am.

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 10:15 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,

B. Keith