

**Boston Renaissance Charter Public School
Board of Trustees
October 12, 2016**

Attendance:

S. Kumahia, A. Kesler, A. Faturoti, L. Bispham, S. Dibinga, E. Alphonse, K. Williamson (via phone), S. Copeland, H. Raymond

Guests: F. Shearer, P. Littlehale, A. Buckmire, M. Taylor

Call to order: 8:07 a.m.

Public comment: No public comment.

S. Kumahia: Motion to approve audit as submitted. Seconded by A. Faturoti. All voted in favor.

Head of School Report – Presented by Ms. Buckmire

PARCC data shared with all staff past Friday and data presented to teachers. Teachers have been asked to analyze data and create data walls to see where student performance was and then do intervention planning.

Planning a retreat with directors to prepare interventions – want to be creative about these i.e. doing them during day as opposed to after school/weekend to also combat fatigue, etc.

11/3 DESE site visit – targeted for condition on charter; pre-site visit documents were sent October 5, 2016. At the visit there will be a parent focus group, teacher focus group, and administrative focus group.

School has reestablished partnership with Playworks – have new model “team up” – one week every month a coach will work with recess coach to improve indoor/outdoor recess. They receive funding from Boston Foundation and we were asked to be observed during our recess on Oct 28th from 11-1pm. Would cost about \$15,000 to collaborate.

Theme around PARCC – “we will rise” to get everyone in school on board

PARCC results – Presentation by F. Shearer

Last year the school did better. Cumulative PPI at 75 or higher brings school to Level 1, right now at 51 but held harmless this year

Our school’s performance:

ELA 46% at levels 4 and 5: met and exceeded expectations

Math 40% at levels 4 and 5

There was a drop all around in scores (charters, public, state schools) from 2014 to 2015 when PARCC first introduced.

Almost all schools declined in levels from 2015 to 2016.

A. Buckmire – Going Forward:

Four areas we noted to improve upon: ELA, Math, Special Ed and ELL

ELL dropped the most but small group of students and so this is a good opportunity to work with them.

Special Ed – none of the special education students scored level 5.

We are thinking about visiting other charter schools that scored high.

Even though not completely similar comparison (we have more special ed students), we could still look at the programs and processes they use.

For example, when our writing scores increased we had looked at Brook and their writing program.

There are definitely opportunities to collaborate with other charter schools; also thought about Prospect Hill and Ridge and Latin.

A. Kesler: last year no full coaching model, teachers didn't have access to data, teacher turnover high and low morale – I think this affected the PARCC results. Lori Likis worked with us before and last week she motivated us moving forward. We have coaches now, data sheets, teachers know where students are; data meetings, afterschool programs – I am very confident we are in a good place now to succeed next year.

A. Buckmire: Moving towards grade level meetings, individual data meetings and accountability for data – missing this piece last year

A. Kesler: Professional development within team meetings every week – focusing student independence and high order questioning then next week will focus on math questions

S. Kumahia: How is new data person working out that we hired?

F. Shearer: Good. She has skill set no one else has; has a lot of ideas and is a PhD candidate – great addition to the school.

S. Kumahia – how can the board be supportive moving forward?

A. Buckmire: Once we have working knowledge of interventions we may need approval to transfer money, etc. It would also be helpful for the board to understand the data for when you present it and being present at the school as well.

Financial report – Presented by P. Littlehale

2017 – Will have first quarter results for our next meeting

Tuition impact – money in state budget to help out with districts impacted by it – no charter schools will get it though – we need to figure this out for 2018

Actuals to budget – under total expenses

Budget calendar will get to financial subcommittee next month and have it done by April next year (early)

H. Raymond: What about surpluses we had?

P. Littlehale: Yes, bought the plow, scissor lift, set aside money for upcoming projects

Pods – got a lot of work done on them, paint, doors, etc.

Test solution for flooring upstairs in school

Parking issue – about 285 cars drive through in morning; 95 parking cars, 113 staff who drive

City council meeting about what to do to eliminate bottleneck – put sidewalk in, thinking about putting traffic lights; maybe working out something with Shaws or by commuter rail

Across the street with Musto – they are open to coming up with parking space and it is right across the street, which is good

We also need to open up entrance and exit

F. Shearer: We also have to put up signs for safety reasons - apparently because not a school zone, we are having an issue with this

Fund our own school resource officer to direct traffic - a possibility

Committee updates

Governance and nomination

S. Kumahia: Met with someone I went to college with; runs “A Better Lesson” in Cambridge where she helps teachers in charter and public schools about lesson planning, will send the board her bio

Parents of BRCS

Their first executive committee meeting this evening – have few ideas; about 9-10 parents involved

Charter school common application

F. Shearer: letter for commissioner’s preliminary approval to participate in common app – deadline is a week from today, will launch on Nov 1; this is a website where all charter schools where be listed – people will put in their info for their child and will choose which charter schools to apply to. Sending letter will give us approval; next step would be changing enrollment policy – would need amendment for this we can do at next meeting – DESE has language we can use; parents will still have a paper

version if they choose to fill out paper application; every other charter school on board with it.

S. Kumahia – A motion to approve the letter to DESE requesting preliminary approval of change in our enrollment policy, to include the use of the Common Application being adopted by Commonwealth Charter Schools beginning in School Year 2017-2018. Seconded by A. Faturoti. Voted in favor by everyone.

S. Kumahia: DESE visit 11/3 – gather evidence to provide to commission about condition of charter

S. Kumahia: With regards to leadership structure, we have been working on job descriptions and should be finalizing them soon for Head of School and CFO positions

S. Kumahia: Motion to give signing authority to P. Littlehale, A. Buckmire and E. Alphonse for all school and bank accounts. Seconded by A. Faturoti. All voted in favor.

S. Kumahia: Motion to adjourn 9:46 a.m.