

**Boston Renaissance Charter Public School**

**Minutes from Board of Trustees Meeting  
November 14, 2007**

Board Members Present: Jacquelyn Sinclair, Lennit Bligen, Carole Pelissey, Keeana Saxon, Carolyn Corbe, Dan Mulhearn

Board Member Absent: Tina Saxon, Nia Jacobs, Edna Carrasco

Board Foundation Members: Nick Paleologos

Staff present: Jillian Nesgos, Kevin Cherry, Alexandra Buckmire, Beverly Pina, Amy Carignan, Steeve Mordan, R. Harris

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**Jackie Sinclair, Chair**

Meeting was called to order at 5:40 pm

**I. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT (Ms. Sinclair):**

❖ **Approval of October 10, 2007 Minutes**

**VOTED:** With a motion by C. Pelissey, seconded by C. Corbe, the board unanimously voted to accept the minutes of the September 12, 2007 Trustee Meeting.

❖ **Introduction of Karen Jeong** as a Board candidate.

Board members introduced themselves to K. Jeong.

K. Jeong was asked by Chair to step out of meeting.

Board members discussed K.I.'s nomination.

❖ **Vote of Nominee**

**VOTE:** With a motion by K. Saxon, and second by N. Paleologos, board unanimously voted to accept K. Jeong's nomination to the board.

K. Jeong asked to re-enter room. K. Jeong was given Board of Trustee binder.

J. Sinclair: Welcome!

❖ **Committee Updates**

○ **Nomination Committee (J. Sinclair)**

We still need to recruit people with marketing experience and educational experience.

○ **Human Resources Committee (K. Saxon)**

The HR Committee has been very productive. In your packet, you will find the following: 11.07.07 meeting minutes, charter, goals, 08-09 tasks, superintendent performance evaluation timeline, and performance evaluation procedures.

**VOTE:** With a motion by N. Paleogos, and second by J. Sinclair, board unanimously voted to accept HR Committee Charter.

- **Finance Committee:** No verbal report
- **Development Committee:** Nothing new to report
- **Academic/Curriculum and Instruction Committee:** Nothing new to report

❖ **Foundation Board**

We have initiated a process to help find advisor/consultant to develop a strategic fundraising plan. We have met with one person and we expect to get a proposal from her soon. We will share with the Board when we receive it. Discussion regarding fundraising occurs – no vote taken.

❖ **Board Goals** presented by J. Sinclair

J. Sinclair: There's no change from last year.

- (1) Academic achievement—should always be our number 1 priority.
- (2) Board development—expand, evaluate, strengthen
- (3) Fundraising-- \$10K may seem small, but may be difficult to raise.
- (4) School Operations

**VOTE:** With a motion by N. Paleogos, and second by L. Bligen, board unanimously voted to accept Board goals.

**II. RELOCATION UPDATE (K. Cherry)**

Met with attorneys and interested buyers of this building. We were able to solve issues regarding Purchase and Sale Agreement, which should be signed by the end of this week. This has worked out well. We hired the architects and met with them last week. For 800-900 students, the existing building will provide all the space we need. We just need to build recreation space, auditorium, cafeteria, and gymnasium. The architects did the MATCH school and other schools. The price range for the new school is \$24M, plus \$5M for the purchase price. We had a \$30M figure in mind from the beginning. Architects will be meeting with Leadership Team for its input regarding the rooms and the facilities. Relatively soon, we will have a good idea if this is a good space. We'll make a \$200,000 deposit and \$175K is refundable.

J. Sinclair: The site was a plant. When will we know about the environmental concerns?

K. Cherry: Not sure about permitting. Buyers of this building are very excited about this location. Attorneys have asked us to adopt the following votes:

(1) Authorized to Sell to Buyer

**VOTE:** With a motion by N. Paleogos, and second by K. Saxon, board unanimously voted to accept authorization as written.

(2) Authorized to Purchase Hyde Park

**VOTE:** With a motion by C. Pelissey, and second by N. Paleogos, board unanimously voted to accept authorization as written.

(3) Chair has Authority to Sign.

**VOTE:** With a motion by D. Mulhern and second by C. Corbe, board unanimously voted to accept authorization as written.

K. Saxon: Have the architects considered making this a green building? I know some consultants who could give tips on making a building green without a huge expense.

N. Paleogos: Fundraising has been held back because we have been sitting on a surplus. We can raise money for, say, solar panels. It is conceivable to dream of a mortgage-free school with an endowment.

C. Corbe: Who would manage endowment?

N. Paleogos: Trustee manages reserve.

K. Cherry: Can't invest funds because they are restricted. After sale, we can hire a manager.

N. Paleogos: This is a big deal. Too bad R. Harris isn't here.

K. Saxon: We need to make sure soil is clean.

C. Corbe: We need lots of green space.

N. Paleogos: The Board needs to take a field trip to the site.

C. Engerman: We can organize a field trip for the Board. The architects are very excited about the six acres of land.

**III. PARENT TRUSTEE UPDATE—Nothing to Report**

**IV. HEADMASTER'S REPORT—Nothing to Report**

**V. OLD BUSINESS**

❖ **Amendment of Charter to return to K-8:**

N. Paleogos: I would love for BRCPS to be a K-12 school, which was our original vision. The worst that could happen if we ask for an expanded charter is that DOE says, "No."

C. Corbe: The K-8 charter could be accepted and then not work with the space. It was a disaster when non-Renaissance children were brought into the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade because

they couldn't perform academically. Parents are upset that they have to find schools after the leaving their children in BRCPS through the 6<sup>th</sup> grade.

K. Jeong: How are the Boston Public Middle Schools set up? When do the kids begin?

C. Engerman: Parents want children to start in the 6<sup>th</sup> grade so that their middle school years are more stable.

N. Paleogos: If we don't seek the K-8 charter now, then we resign ourselves to the fact the school won't be K-8. Whoever's building has to know what it will be.

C. Corbe: We haven't had much success with the later grades.

B. Pina: The lack of success is because of the school's size and our back filling policy.

C. Engerman: And we accepted expelled kids from other schools.

K. Jeong: Parents shouldn't have to look for a middle school after BRCPS. Do the abutters want middle schoolers?

C. Corbe: Is the design good for the mix?

K. Cherry: School design would have to include science labs for middle school. Middle school students would be separate from elementary school students.

N. Paleogos: Do the tenants have finite leases?

C. Engerman: Tenants are at will.

N. Paleogos: We needed the large number of kids in this building for financial reasons. Now, for the best interest of our children, we can have a good school.

C. Corbe: Exceptional.

J. Sinclair: I'm on the fence, but I want to hold onto our kids as long as possible.

K. Cherry: The best model is smaller classrooms.

C. Corbe: And highly qualified teachers.

K. Saxon: We have high percentage of highly qualified teachers now.

B. Pina: The school should also concentrate on the arts and giving back to the community.

C. Corbe: The Parent-Advisory Board probably wants a K-8 school.

J. Sinclair: We don't have to vote on this tonight. We haven't signed anything, so we still have some time.

C. Corbe: Architects should be able to bid on a design. We should consider other architect firms. We should not pay any firms money yet.

K. Cherry: We have a formal agreement already with a firm.

C. Corbe: We should have considered other options.

K. Cherry: We are in the pre-design phase of this process. We still need to do a site analysis and have a public bid.

C. Corbe: Architects should do a K-6 design and a K-8 design.

N. Paleogos: We should know the difference in price between the two designs.

#### **VI. FINANCE UPDATE (K. Cherry)**

The report is included in the packet. There has been very little activity. Our spending is on target. We received additional funds. We should make budget. The fiscal audit is coming to an end.

#### **VII. NEW BUSINESS**

C. Engerman: New Accountability Policy

Sent off 154 certified letters to students who have three or more absences. 291 students had three or more tardes in the first quarter. The letter states that parents would have to come in and sign or the student will receive an incomplete. If the student is tardy or absent again during the next quarter, the student risks losing their seat.

D. Mulhearn: The letter should be signed, dated, and witnessed.

#### **VIII. OPEN FORUM**

K. Jeong: Regarding the new school: The kindergarten classrooms should have a bathroom.

#### **IX. ADJOURN**

With a motion by N. Paleogos, seconded by ??, board unanimously voted to adjourn at 7:07 pm.

Clerk for this meeting: K. Saxon

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