



**Boston Renaissance Charter Public School  
Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, April 8, 2009**

**Meeting Time:** 4:30 pm following a half day retreat that was held off site.

**Location:** Mezzanine of the Boston Renaissance Charter Public School

**Attendance:** J. Sinclair, K. Saxon, Dr. Roger F. Harris, Carolyn Corbe, Lennit Bligen, W. K. McLaurin, A. Pless, D. Mulhern, Edna Carrasco-Rivera, Dr. Glover Martin III, K. VanderLaan, K. Jeong

Guests in attendance: K. Cherry, B. Pina, J. Nesgos, L. Robinson, A. Carignan, A. Buckmire,

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Board Chair, Jacqueline Sinclair.

**Approval of Minutes:** The February 11, 2009 Board minutes were reviewed and a motion to approve the minutes was made.

Motion to approve the minutes was made by W. Karl McLaurin  
Seconded by Ernest Washington.

**Public Comment:** There was no one present for Public Comment

### **Committee Updates**

**Building Committee** – Mr. Harold Raymond represented the Building Committee and provided a relocation update. The 1415 Hyde Park project is moving forward. The construction manager at risk will soon be selected and work will begin soon. The asbestos removal has begun. They expect to have the construction permits in place soon. All the tenants are out. There is one that has a few more items to remove. We're ready to go.

**Finance Committee:** A detailed budget update and spreadsheet for fiscal year 2009 was provided by the Chief Financial Officer of the Boston Renaissance Charter Public School. Mr. Cherry also shared information relative to the fiscal year 2010 planning budget and the request for all departments to submit their budgets with a 10% budget reduction. Mr. Cherry has been meeting with all departments to review the budgets and will provide the Board with an additional update once all budgets are finalized. An additional spreadsheet was shared with the Board that reflected the Hyde Park Campus Development financing.

**Executive Committee** – Ms. J. Sinclair -no update

**Nomination Committee:**

Dr. Roger F. Harris: 3 year Term Renewal

Ms. J. Sinclair, Ms. K. Saxon and Board Members discussed the renewal of Dr. Harris' term on the Board. There was a discussion to amend the Superintendent's job description and to make it a requirement for the Superintendent to serve on the Board for the life of his contract.

Motion to approve renewal was made by Carolyn Corbe and Seconded by Lennit Bligen.

Edna Carrasco-Rivera, parent Trustee completed a 3 year term and agreed to remain on the Board for an additional 3 year term. No voted required for parent renewal (automatic)

### **Parent Advisory Board:**

Ms. Edna Carrasco-Rivera, parent Trustee shared the movement of the Executive Parent Advisory Board Committee. The Parent Advisory Board has planned a late April retreat. The focus is to identify, define and set concrete goals. They are also looking at fundraising avenues.

Dr. Glover Martin III, parent Trustee and a member of the Executive Parent Advisory Board has taken on an active role fostering parent involvement. Dr. Martin shared the parents desire to become more active in the school. They are focused on increasing parent involvement, and parent awareness of school wide events. The Executive Parent Advisory Board are working toward developing parent relationships with principals and the leadership of the school and starting a school based management team before year end so they'll be off to a good start next year.

Academic/Curriculum and Instruction Committee – Ms. N. Jacobs was absent. There were no updates. Ms. Corbe expressed that communicating recently has been difficulty but is improving.

**Academic Curriculum and Instruction:** Ms. Jacobs was absent – There was no update.

Ms. C. Corbe indicated that there was some difficulty communicating but has recently improved.

### **Human Resource Committee – Ms. K. Saxon**

Teleconferences took place on 3/12 and 4/15 and have been productive. Ms. Saxon is requesting that there be a 100% contribution from the Board and all evaluating participants. The survey will be placed on Survey Monkey to simplify the process and make it easier for folks to complete the process. A staff member is assisting with setting up the evaluation online.

Ms. Saxon also provided an update on a staff member who requested a salary increase. The request was directed to the Human Resource Committee who reviewed and considered the request. The committee had a hearing, considered the request and issued a three-four page decision not to approve the salary increase. They have continued discussion relative to the concern that prompted the request.

Charter Renewal: the Human Resource committee will need to work with Ms. Pina and be involved in the Charter Renewal process. Presently the staff is stable.

Staff stable

### **Development Committee – Mr. H. Cotton/ Mr. K. McLaurin**

Mr. McLaurin suggested that parents be invited to be involved and serve on the committee.

Possibility of Kathy Vander Laan may serve as co-chair depending on the commitment of Mr. Cotton. Trei Martin volunteered to serve on the committee and expressed that there was possibly another parent that may be interested.

Mr. McLaurin suggested the role of parents would be very focused and around the meet and greet type of things to engage donors.

## **Superintendent's Report - Dr. Roger F. Harris**

Dr. Harris provided a detailed report on the charter renewal application and the accountability plan. Process guidelines and resource materials have been distributed to all relevant stakeholders.

Dr. Harris is requesting to speak with the Commissioner to revisit the enrollment conditions and discuss an amendment. The conditions make it difficult to meet the 880 enrollment. It would involve eliminating K1 classes, losing staff. The leadership team needs to continue discussion and it is still a work in process.

MCAS testing has begun. Staff worked very hard with our preparation efforts. From observations and discussions with many of the students, it appears that students were well prepared, very confident and have done well thus far. Math testing will commence next month.

Jacqueline Sinclair thanked Ms. Nesgos for the MCAS book that the school uses. She shared it with her child's school system and they are using it and it is making a difference.

Sixth grade graduation will be held again at the Park Plaza on June 15<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am. We should select a member to speak on our behalf. Ms. Sinclair volunteered to speak for five minutes and invited others to speak

Dr. Harris provided an update on the new school. Demolition has begun this week and we have selected a construction manager. One expectation is that they ensure 35% minority and women. It is also requested and have an agreement that unemployed Renaissance parents will be considered first for construction opportunities. Interested candidates should notify Dr. Harris.

Dr. Harris provided an update on the campaign. He has been meeting with numerous business and community leaders enlisting their support for the campaign. An effort is underway to rebuild the Foundation Board and have them take the lead with our fund-raising efforts.

Dr. Harris is projecting a surplus of \$ 299K for 2009. We anticipate a shortfall of 1.2 million for SY10. Principals and Department Heads have been asked to submit a 10% reduction. The final budget should be ready for Board approval at the June meeting.

**Old Business** – none

**New Business** - none

## **Open Forum**

Several members of the instructional leadership team were present and shared some of the happenings in their departments.

Ms. Nesgos, primary school Principal spoke of the focus on MCAS and testing. Only two students were absent and make-ups were done. There was a 100% participation. Many incentives and celebrations were provided to motivate students. The math block was extended by half an hour for third grade. They are experiencing a lot of small group discussion after school three days a week for two hours.

The students are also receiving lots of leadership with a focus on core values. Academics are important but character development is also important.

Ms. Buckmire, Director of Unified Student Services shared the work all the service providers are doing. As required by NCLB the school report card is being disseminated to parents. It covers performance, annual performance targets and progress toward meeting the mandate. They will go out this week.

Every six years Federal Programs are monitored via the Coordinated Program Review where they look at all compliance areas. A self analysis and assessment is underway to identify areas for improvement so that we can ensure that we are compliant.

Ms. Carignan, Kinder School Principal shared some of the interesting and fun learning activities that are happening with the Kinder students. The students are learning about butterflies and are hatching butterflies. They are participating in Earth Day, Community Partnerships. Several activities involving parents are planned including a family reading day and a family picnic. A Scholastic book fair is planned for May (non fiction). Kids excited about learning vocabulary.

Ms. Robinson, Elementary School Principal announced that MCAS was underway. There have been lots of test preparation and motivation going on in the elementary school. The students did a great job. Writing is excellent. Goals: students hone in on their intelligence to show the outside what they really can do. A pep rally was held as a motivational activity.. Math is coming up in May. The sixth grade math block is two and half hours long. The elementary school is working with an accelerated math program. Ms. Robinson is excited about what they are accomplishing and how the students are rising to the occasion. After school break Alvin Ailey Dance Company will visit the sixth grade and some fifth grade students. Teachers will be participating in professional development with the Alvin Ailey Dance Company. Saturday school provided five hours of additional instruction that focused on ELA in January and now the focus is on math. The first three hours were devoted to ELA and now math, the students then have lunch the last two hours focus on arts in the afternoon that involve community service projects. . Each of the 5 Saturdays is focused on one of the 5 math strands. Students are learning how they present themselves. They have also participated in a computer program where they learned poetry, and computer graphics etc. The 12<sup>th</sup> floor displays a mural of their work.

The meeting adjourned at 5:45 pm