

**BOSTON RENAISSANCE CHARTER PUBLIC SCHOOL  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING  
September 16, 2009**

**Location:** Mezzanine Conference Room

**Time:** 5:30 pm

**In Attendance:**

Keeana Saxon, Dr. Glover W. Martin III, Jacquelyn Sinclair, Dr. Roger F. Harris, Carolyn Corbe, Nia Jacobs Hays, Edna Rivera-Carrasco, Harold Raymond, Lennitt Bligen, Ernest E. Washington Jr., Karen Ieong

**Absent:**

Kathi Vander Laan and Daniel Mulhern

**Guests in Attendance:** Richard Marks, Ambrose Donovan, John Wadsworth, Kevin D. Cherry, Beverly Pina, Jillian Nesgos, Craig Engerman

**Meeting Called to Order:** Ms. Saxon, Board Chair opened the meeting recognizing Ms. Sinclair for her years of leadership on the Board and a presentation of flowers and a recognition clock.

**Approval of Minutes:** Minutes of June 30, 2009

Motion to approve minutes: Roger F. Harris

Motioned Seconded: Jacquelyn Sinclair

Meeting and Retreat Dates were reviewed. A correction was made changing 11/11/09 to 11/18/09.

**Committee Updates:**

**Building Committee: H. Raymond**

The meeting opened with an extensive update on the construction of the new campus at 1415 Hyde Park Avenue in Hyde Park. Harold Raymond, Richard Marks of Daedalus, and Ambrose Donovan an environmental consultant and John Wadsworth of Brown Rudnick informed the Board of an existing environmental issue that surfaced in the preceding weeks that was not discovered in the early stages of testing prior to construction. The EPA requires the site to be cleaned up. PCBs were found in the top 3" of the soil (very shallow). The testing will take weeks and the contaminants must be removed before frost, typically December fifteenth. Richard Marks and Ambrose Donovan are working on identifying the costs. The Boston Renaissance Charter Public School has an environmental insurance policy. The insurance broker is on notice of a potential claim. The Board will be informed as to whether or not this claim will be fully covered.

As a related construction issue, Dr. Harris asked that the Board consider making use of the fourth floor for occupancy. Given the present environmental concerns facing the Board and the unknown costs of remediation, if any, Ms. Saxon recommended that no decision be made to fire-proof at this time. Richard Marks and Ambrose Donovan will report back to the Board as soon as more information becomes available.

**Governance and Nomination: K. Saxon**

-The committee membership for 2009-2010 was discussed and committee chairpersons were identified.

-The committee charters were presented and provided to all committee members as reminders to set committee goals, and establish meeting dates so they may be published on the school website. A question was raised whether the committee minutes must be posted. Ms. Saxon asked the

clerk to check with Emily Lichtenstein at the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

-Board of Trustees Member Expectations were reviewed.

-Annual Appeal was made to the Board requesting and stressing the importance of one hundred percent participation.

-The Evaluation of the Superintendent was discussed and Ms. Saxon stressed the importance of having one hundred percent of the Board participating in the process.

- This year, the Board of Trustee self-evaluation will be done prior to the April retreat so that we may evaluate the Board performance for the school year and discuss it at the April retreat.

### **Finance Update: L. Bligen**

A written finance report was provided to all members of the Board in their meeting folders. Mr. Bligen summarized the documents: The operating budget is increased by four hundred thousand dollars. Mr. Bligen stressed the need to keep an eye on the contractors and the costs associated with the project.

### **Ratification Vote:**

Motion read by Mr. Bligen and provided in Board folders:

Dr. Roger F. Harris is authorized, and should have been included with other members of the Boston Renaissance Charter Public School Staff, to receive a percentage of the special bonus as recommended and approved by the Board of Trustees at its June 30, 2009 meeting. The Board discussed the importance of following a strict process for all bonus recommendations.

Motion to approve was made by Mr. Bligen

Mr. Raymond seconded the motion

Abstained: Sinclair, Corbe, Jacobs

Vote 7 out of 10 Board members approved.

### **Academic and Curriculum: C. Corbe**

The Academic and Curriculum Committee provided a written report of minutes that were provided in the meeting folders.

### **Human Resources: J. Sinclair**

The HR Committee provided Superintendent's Professional Goals, in written format, to all members in the meeting folders. The Board was reminded that these eight goals submitted to the committee will be part of the evaluation process at the end of the year.

Motion to approve all eight goals made by Ms. Jacobs

Mr. Martin seconded the motion.

All in favor

### **Parent Update: E. Rivera-Carrasco**

The Executive Parent Advisory Board did not meet in September due to scheduling conflicts but will meet in October.

The Parent Advisory Board Executive Committee has revised its By-laws so that the future elections of Executive Committee members will take place in April. This amendment was made such that EC members can formulate plans and begin working together during the summer before each school year. A vote will be taken at the October meeting to ratify the By-laws.

### **Superintendent's Report:**

Dr. Harris reported that consultant Lori Likis, is working closely with the Leadership Team to develop the Root Cause Analysis. Dr. Harris and members of the Leadership Team met with the site visit team leader. The DESE site visiting team requested that the focus groups include no more than eight people.

Dr. Harris provided an update on the collaboration with the Home for Little Wanderers and the new Chinese Program being piloted within a few grades to focus on Language and Culture.

Dr. Harris indicated that, moving forward, he will try to have information shared with the Board three to five days prior to the meeting so the Board has time to digest the information.

Meeting Adjourned - 7:45