

BOSTON RENAISSANCE CHARTER PUBLIC SCHOOL

Board of Trustees Meeting

February 11, 2009

Present:

Jacquelyn Sinclair, Chair - Keeana Saxon, Vice Chair
Lennitt Bligen, Carolyn Corbe, Hollis Cotton, Karen Jeong, Daniel Mulhern, Albert Pless,
Edna Rivera-Carrasco

Guests in Attendance:

Kevin Cherry, Craig Engerman, Beverly Pina, Jillian Nesgos, Amy Carignan, Lori Likis
Kathleen Vander Laan, Dr. Glover W. Martin, III, Parent

Call To Order

The meeting was called to order by Keeana Saxon, Vice Chair at 5:30 pm

Approval of Minutes November 12, 2008 – Jacquelyn Sinclair

The Board of Trustees reviewed the minutes of November 12, 2008 and a motion was made to approve the minutes.

Hollis Cotton motioned to approve the minutes.

Carolyn Corbe seconded the motion.

All in Favor – Motion Accepted to approve the minutes of November 12, 2008

Public Comment – No public comment

Charter Renewal Application and Accountability–Lori Likis

Lori Likis summarized the process of Charter Renewal and Accountability providing an update on the preparations the staff and administrators are making to begin preparing for Charter Renewal. Her written summary and verbal presentation guided the Trustees through the application process by focusing on the Board of Trustees components.

Ms. Saxon suggested forming an ADHOC committee to work on Charter Renewal.

Ms. Sinclair and Ms. Saxon volunteered to serve on the committee and asked if any of the Board members would like to sit on the committee, with a goal of at least 3 members participating. Ms. Sinclair informed the Board that their commitment would involve participation throughout the process and during the months of June and July. A suggestion was made to have members trade off months.

Ms. Likis informed the Board that she would be writing some sections of the report. She offered a suggestion to the Board, Trustees who have knowledge of Charter Renewal and have been here longer could sign up for sections, write up their section and submit it to her for content editing. The content would then be shared among all Board members, discussed and further edited before the final document is submitted. It would be beneficial to create a task force to meet between now and the end of the year consisting of writers and readers.

Ms. Sinclair and Ms. Saxon volunteered to be part of a task force. Jacquelyn informed the Board that Charter Renewal is a priority and will be on the agenda for the meeting being held on Wednesday, April 8, 2009 immediately following the half day retreat.

Expectations of the Board:

Ms. Sinclair presented an overview of Board Expectations focusing on

- attendance and the importance to have all Board members present and represented.
- participation because everyone has a voice and your opinions count.
- Board contributions show support and are less burdensome if done earlier in the year before the holidays creep up. The financial contribution should be whatever you can afford whether it's ten dollars, or a thousand dollars. 100% participation tells others that you are faithful to the charter.

Committee Updates

Executive committee met last month.

Board Member Renewal- Roger Harris' membership on the Board is up for renewal for an additional three years. A suggestion was made to amend the bylaws to allow for the renewal of the Superintendent to extend for the next five years to coincide with his contract. The renewal and/or extension will be on the April 8 agenda along with Ms. Rivera-Carrasco's renewal.

Parent Advisory Board:

Ms. Rivera-Carrasco, Board member and Renaissance parent reported that although the Parent Advisory Board had lost some members, parents remain committed.

Dr. Glover "Trei" Martin III is a Renaissance parent who is here this evening and will be joining the Board of Trustees. Ms. Sinclair and Board members welcomed Dr. Glover. Dr. Glover expressed his desire to join the Board, shared his background and the contribution he brings to the Board.

Ms. Rivera-Carrasco shared some of the activities of the Parent Advisory Board. Parents are focusing on paraprofessionals. Parents want to raise funds support and maintain paraprofessionals for K1 and K2. With parent center funds they've purchased raffle tickets and items to be raffled off; Ipods, gift cards and other items.

Parent Liaison, Ms. Pryor has resigned effective the end of the month. Pauline, Dr. Harris' assistant will be stepping in to oversee the parent liaison responsibilities. The logistics are being worked out and the office staff will share the responsibilities associated with the position.

Nomination of New Members

Two new members were nominated to the Board of Trustees.

Dr. Glover W. Martin III, Renaissance parent was welcomed to the Board

Kathleen Vander Laan was also present and nominated to the Board.

Dr. Harris and Ms. Saxon, met and interviewed Ms. Vander Laan on previous occasions.

Ms. Vander Laan brings to the Board knowledge in development and building and on both fronts will be an addition to the Board. Ms. Sinclair asked if Ms. Vander Laan had an opportunity to tour the school and she indicated she had.

Ms. Sinclair asked Ms. Vander Laan why she is interested in joining the Board and what contribution she brings to the Board. She responded stating she likes challenges, knows the process, has experience in fundraising and has a lot to offer.

Ms. Vander Laan was asked to step out of the conference room to allow the Board to discuss the nomination.

Motion was made to accept the nomination of Kathleen Vander Laan to the Boston Renaissance Charter Public School Board of Trustees.

Ms. Saxon motioned to accept
Mr. Bligen second the motion
All in favor

Ms. Vander Laan was asked to return to the meeting and was welcomed to the Board as a full voting member for a term of three years.

Ms. Sinclair explained the required process of submitting the nominations to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education along with their resume and a Disclosure of Financial Interest form. The clerk provided each of the new members with a Disclosure of Financial Interest form and asked that they complete the form and return it to her.

Ms. Corbe reported that Ms. Jacobs has conflicts and would like to step down as chair of the Human Resource committee. Carolyn volunteered to chair the committee.

Ms. Pina, reported the Human Resource committee was active. The last meeting held in January denied two salary increases for varied reasons. Ms. Pina informed the Board that Dr. Harris' contract included that the salary would be commensurate with the consumer price index and would go up over the years. Now that we are in a crisis with a struggling economy, the consumer price index has gone down, should his salary go down, this year only, based on the consumer price index? Should the Board, for this year only, vote to decrease the salary or should we amend the contract? The price index fell in November and the January figures will be coming out on the 20th. When the contract was written it called for an increase to his salary as of January 1 and through September.

Ms. Sinclair expressed her opposition to a salary reduction and suggested a cap on the salary rather than a reduction. Daniel Mulhern and other members expressed their opposition to a salary reduction. Ms. Sinclair suggested the wording (old language) should be adjusted removing the language that bases the salary on the consumer price index.

Motion was made to amend the contract of Dr. Harris, removing the language that ties the salary to the consumer price index.

Ms. Jeong motioned to approve

Mr. Cotton seconded the motion
Motion carried with all in favor

Ms. Sinclair commended the HR committee for their hard work and input

Development Committee

Mr. Cotton expressed the desire and intent of the committee to seek fundraising opportunities and potential givers. He reported the attempts made to contact folks. However, with the present declining economy their attempts have not been successful. His contacts have chosen to keep the Renaissance on the top of their giving list when financial circumstances correct themselves.

On the local and national level we are facing extraordinary circumstances. The Board should spend more time strategizing. When he and Mr. McLaurin volunteered for the committee they were not aware that the economy would make such a sharp decline. He personally has been impacted with a lay off. Despite the difficulties, Mr. Cotton reaffirmed his commitment to the Renaissance and asks for time and patience. Jacquelyn thanked Hollis for his commitment and efforts.

Finance Committee

Mr. Bligen reported the committee held a few meetings. The audit was favorable with only two findings. He provided a financing update indicating more information will be coming and things are going smoothly.

Building Committee

Mr. Engerman reported in the absence of Mr. Raymond and provided a summary of the weekly meetings. Reports and updates are passing through Mr. Raymond to the Trustees. The zone appeals hearing is February 24 and will be seamless. There has been no community resistance. The process has been smooth. Carol Brennan is assisting with city contacts. We're down to seven tenants, one of which has yet to find a site to move to. The process of prequalifying the sub contractors is happening. There are one hundred or more subcontractors. Daedalus is reviewing them. Prices are down and we're in the selection process for the CM at risk and the hope to select one by end of month or early March. The sub contractor should be pre qualified. The E rate was submitted. We'll receive a reimbursement from the Government for cabling, phone switching, and video conferencing. We're in good shape with the Mayor and the community behind us. Craig is working with the traffic folks to minimize the impact of the school buses on the community.

Mr. Cherry reported that the bond closing, a final piece, that was scheduled for Friday, February 13, 2009 is delayed until Tuesday or Wednesday of next week. We're waiting for documentation and signatures. Design is on budget. We still have a three million

contingency in the cost overruns. There is still the 1m fundraising obligation. There is an internal group meeting that may be of some assistance to this goal.

Mr. Engerman reported that Mr. Raymond is putting in a lot of time. He attends a meeting once a week at the school with the committee and is actively involved in the field. When brought on Board his commitment was to chair the sub committee. Ms. Sinclair suggested that with all the time that Mr. Raymond is putting in, he does not necessarily need to be at every meeting. Everyone's time is valuable. If the time involved is cumbersome bring it before the Board.

Mr. Engerman stated that the time should dwindle down once the project gets going. Ms. Sinclair responded that it's not the expectation that he be at every weekly meeting. His commitment was to the Board. Jacquelyn stated that she will speak with Mr. Raymond to clarify the expectations. Mr. Engerman stated; once the sub contractors are picked Mr. Raymond will probably visit the site more than attend meetings. We need to meet the timeline. We have a 30M \$ project to try and complete in 15 months.

Ms. Sinclair asked if anyone had any questions for the committees.

A question was raised relative to what the Development committee was doing and what's happening on the school level. Pauline reminded folks that Rita is serving as a coach to Dr. Harris, guiding the development committee in the development of a brochure for the campaign. The committee is actively seeking and reaching out to potential contributors, scheduling meetings. Ms. Sinclair indicated the need for the Development Committee to have a connection with the school.

Mr. Cherry reported that there is a deadline to raise one million by July or August 2010.

Ms. Vander Laan asked if anyone was specifically working on fundraising, grant writing etc. A critical missing piece is someone who knows how to do fundraising.

Ms. Sinclair asked Mr. Glover and Ms. Vander Laan what committee they might be interested in and suggested they think about it and visit the website where the meeting dates and times are posted. The subcommittees meet every other month on the off months when the Board does not meet.

Old Business – There was no old business discussed

New Business

Ms. Saxon stated suggested that moving forward we should have a set questionnaire for interviewing prospective members.

Mr. Bligen asked if we should have a more detailed report given by the Chief Financial Officer?

Meeting Adjourned at 7:15 pm

