

**BOSTON RENAISSANCE CHARTER PUBLIC SCHOOL
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING**

May 15, 2010

MINUTES

Attendance: K. Saxon, G. Martin, R. Harris, K. leong, L. Bligen, H. Raymond, K. Vander Laan, C. Corbe, E. Carrasco, M. Medley, M. Leonard

Absent: A. Pless, D. Mulhearn

Staff Present: C. Engerman, K. Cherry, P. Ciaramitaro, B. Pina, J. Nesgos

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 5:30 pm

Minutes of April 14, 2010 were approved by the Board.

Public Comment: No public comment presented

Committee Updates:

FINANCE—L. Bligen

The finance update was reflected in the printed handouts received by Board members. A year-end surplus was projected and the data was reflected on pages 1-5 of the finance report. It was explained that the year-end surplus would be swept into the operating reserve account and would serve as a “rainy day fund” and that the debt/service ratio must be maintained. The Board also reviewed the 2010-2011 school budget provided to Board members.

BUILDING – H. Raymond, C. Engerman

A power point presentation of the new school with photos was shared with the Board. The building is 89% complete. The movers are expected next week and everyone has been asked to begin taking personal items home and to begin packing.

The Boston Renaissance sixth-grade class will soon be visiting the site and participating in a design project. Suffolk will coordinate the media for the youth program visit.

NOMINATION AND GOVERNANCE – R. Harris, K. Saxon

Meeting dates for 2010-2011 were reviewed and the committee lists were updated. Committee chairs turned in their committee binders to be held over the summer.

Dr. Harris announced his plan to meet with Dr. Albert Holland, former Deputy Superintendent of the Boston Public Schools and Health Careers Academy about returning to the Board of Trustees. Dr. Holland currently serves as Treasurer of the Foundation Board. K. Saxon suggested having Dr. Holland work on the development committee.

EXECUTIVE—K. Saxon

The executive committee rarely meets separately. Discussions are mostly held in the full board meetings.

Strategic Planning: Ms. Saxon suggested that the October retreat focus on strategic planning and that only executive committee members (committee chairs), BRCPS leadership team and Foundation Board members attend. She suggested a half-day retreat for the October 20th from 12-4 pm to be held at 1415 Hyde Park Ave. on October 20th. We will pursue The Boston Foundation for strategic planning funds to cover the cost of the retreat and the facilitator, Jay Vogt.

An application to Community Action Partners (CAP) for strategic planning will also be completed.

Annual Report: Ms. Saxon reminded everyone of the June deadline for submission of the Board's portion of the Annual Report.

DEVELOPMENT— K. Vander Laan

Ms. Vander Laan reviewed the logistics of the June 10th Renaissance Soirée and included details in the Board packets. Ms. Vander Laan expressed that everyone should be there and is encouraged to invite and bring their friends. The e-vite went out and Ms. Vander Laan asked everyone to forward the e-vite along to friends. Paper invitations were also passed out. To date, there have been 30 yes, and 260 pending.

ACADEMIC CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION— Mrs. Corbe

Ms. Corbe distributed the minutes of the Academic Curriculum and Instruction Committee meeting and provided a brief overview.

HUMAN RESOURCES— Dr. Leonard

Dr. Leonard announced that the superintendent's evaluation survey will be conducted on line through Survey Monkey. The preliminary survey will be ready Monday. Direction will be disseminated to complete the survey by June 1st. She asked everyone to take 15 minutes to complete it in a timely matter. The results will be reported at the September 2010 meeting. A recommendation for Dr. Harris's 2009-2010 bonus will be made in the Fall if the indicators and goals have been met. The HR committee will meet with Dr. Harris over the summer to discuss his goals for 2010-2011 school-year.

Dr. Leonard also discussed the mandatory State Ethics Commission Training.

PARENT ADVISORY BOARD— Mrs. Carrasco, Dr. Martin

Elections were held in the Spring rather than the Fall. This will enable the PAB to start fresh in the new school year with its newly elected members. An appreciation event is being planned for active parents. The PAB has been involved in developing the parent involvement policies and parent/school compact. The parents will be recycling uniforms and perhaps holding a uniform swap. The PAB is looking for networking sites and opportunities for parents to interact with the school community and Trustees. Parents would like to participate in the development campaign. They are seeking opportunities for parents to contribute.

SUPERINTENDENT’S EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Dr. Harris announced the renewal of the School Charter and the receipt of the official document presented by the Secretary of Education, Paul Reville and Commissioner of Education, Mitchell Chester, at a ceremony held at the Neighborhood House Charter School.

The school was awarded a \$10,000 grant from the HARBUS Foundation (an affiliate of Harvard Business School) for the development of our Global Outreach Mandarin Program.

Jinhui Xu was instrumental in applying for a \$1.3 million Foreign Language Assistance Program (FLAP) grant offered by the U.S. Department of Education and a \$50,000 grant sponsored by the Confucius Classroom and the Asia Society to support global outreach programs.

Dr. Harris presented his plan to re-organize the Academic Structure and provided everyone with an outline of his plan in their Board packets. After extensive discussion and guidance from CAP and the administrative leadership team, a new administrative structure is being rolled out to ensure school-wide consistency with curricula, assessment and intervention strategies. Operational re-organization is presently underway.

Dr. Harris reported that the process for selecting a CFO was completed and Billie Jo Turner will begin transitioning into the position in two weeks. This will allow her to work with Mr. Cherry for a month prior to his departure.

Campaign Update: An event is scheduled at the Parkman House for May 27, 2010. It will be an early morning event attended by Mayor Thomas Menino, John Fish and prospective contributors.

OLD BUSINESS: No old business to report.

NEW BUSINESS: There was no new business other than what was presented from the various committees.

The Meeting Adjourned: 7:30 pm