

MEETING MINUTES

Name of Foundation: The Renaissance Charter School, Inc.
Board Meeting: December 4, 2009

School(s): Hollywood Academy of Arts & Sciences
North Broward Academy of Excellence
Renaissance Charter School
Renaissance Charter School St Lucie

The minutes of Sunshine Law meetings need not be verbatim transcripts of the meeting. These minutes are a brief summary of the events of the meeting.

Date:	Start	End	Next Meeting:	Next time:	Prepared by:
12.04.09	10:30 a.m.	12:06 p.m.	TBD	9:00 a.m.	Mary Vecchione
Meeting Location:					
Charter Schools USA, 6245 N Federal Hwy, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33308					
Attended by:					
Mr. Ken Haiko, Chairman Mr. Dennis Clark, Vice-Chairman Colonel Tom Wheeler, Treasurer (teleconference)			Ms. Debbie Von Behren, Exec VP, CSUSA Ms. Mike Essik, Director of Finance, CSUSA Mr. Rob Vilardi, Financial Analyst, CSUSA Ms. Ana Cordal, Principal, RECS Ms. Donte Fulton, Principal, HAAS Mr. David McKnight, Principal, NBAE Mr. Eric Lewis, Principal, RCSL Mr. Derek Kelmanson, Ops Manager, CSUSA Ms. Mary Vecchione, Governing Board Liaison, CSUSA		
Absent: Mr. Clarence McKee, Secretary					
Highlights:					

CALL TO ORDER

Pursuant to public notice, the meeting commenced at 10:30 a.m. with a Call to Order by Chairman Haiko. Roll call was taken and quorum was established.

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chairman Haiko asked the Board to review the minutes from the October 16th and the November 2nd, 2009 Governing Board meetings and note any corrections or comments. The minutes stand.

Motion made by Colonel Wheeler with a second by Mr. Clark to approve the Renaissance Charter School, Inc. Governing Board minutes from October 16th and November 2nd, 2009. The motion was approved unanimously.

II. SCHOOL REPORT

Hollywood Academy of Arts & Sciences

- Ms. Fulton reported enrollment of 674 students with a budgeted enrollment of 680. No staffing changes have been made since the last meeting.
- Ms. Fulton commented that due to the Benchmark 2 results, there have been administrative team meetings for planning and a revised instructional focus calendar has been implemented.

- SAC approved the distribution of A+ money of \$5,059 to go towards toward administration funds for professional development and substitutes for teacher trainings as well as teacher and student materials and resources. In addition, 38 teachers & 3 administrators will receive \$1,000; 5 office support staff will receive \$550.00; 4 school support staff will receive \$400.00 and 2 cafeteria personnel will receive \$200.00.
- The Cyber Safety Presentation is scheduled for Monday, December 14th.
- Facility will be repairing carpet in the near future.
- Ms. Fulton also reported on numerous School and Community activities.

North Broward Academy of Excellence

- Mr. McKnight reported enrollment of 938 students with a budgeted enrollment of 968. No new staff has been added since the previous meeting.
- A+ money was received in the amount of approximately \$20,000.00. Teachers and administrators received about \$830.00 each and the remaining went in smaller amounts to other staff and personnel.
- A facilities request has been administered for repair of turf, which is dying, in specific areas on the school property. Quotes have been received on surveillance cameras and we are waiting on approval and installation. In addition, a help ticket have been placed for loose aluminum fence pickets. Signage for "Visitors" has been painted on parking spots and the entrance gate damage has been repaired.
- Mr. McKnight attended the Florida conference for Leadership in Math and Science in Jacksonville, Florida.
- Mr. McKnight reported on numerous school and community activities.

Renaissance Charter School

- Ms. Cordal reported enrollment of 637 students with a budgeted enrollment of 625. All staffing positions are currently filled.
- She commented that tutorial programs have been initiated, both before and after school. Teachers have completed individual goal sheets with each student to assist the student in their learning skills.
- The air conditioning unit continues to go down and work is in progress to correct this. In addition, the grass on the property needs additional work.
- Ms. Cordal was pleased to announce that one of their students, Bernardo Marti, a 5th grader, won the Holiday Card Contest for the City of Doral.
- In addition, she reported on numerous school and community activities.

Renaissance Charter School of St Lucie

- Mr. Lewis reported enrollment of 1175 students with a budgeted enrollment of 1242. Staffing additions include one new middle school Spanish teacher, since the last report.
- He commented that the faculty has had professional development training in on several topics including, Response to Intervention, Use of Agendas in the Classroom, Instructional Strategies of Summarizing and Note taking, Personalized Learning Plans, Instructional Focus Calendars, Progress Monitoring Plans, FCAT Essay Scoring, and Lesson Content Segments.
- Mr. Lewis attended the Florida conference for Leadership in Math and Science in Jacksonville, Florida.
- The HVAC system was upgraded with the installation of exhaust fans on all three floors. Also, artificial turf was installed on the elementary playground area.
- Lastly, Mr. Lewis reported on numerous school and community activities.

III. FINANCE

Quarterly Financial Report

- Mr. Vilardi reported on the quarterly financials for the Renaissance Charter School, Inc. Actual enrollment is down 93 students from budgeted. This reflects enrollment through October.
- FTE revenue is favorable as budgeted amounts were conservative pending any mid year cuts from the State. Amounts in excess of the budget are being reserved pending any potential FEFP revenue reductions. If reductions do not occur, the funds will be available for school operations.
- Total summary of School revenues show a positive variance of \$475,000. These are primarily due to pass through items, such as School Recognition and MAP. Funds for RCSL were budgeted at different intervals than the actual payment resulting in a higher revenue through October. NBAE Title I funds currently have not been received. Unfavorable variances for School expenses are showing in RECS, HAAS and NBAE due to pass through expense items. NBAE instructional expenses exceeded budget amounts.
- Total variance for School surplus/deficit is showing a surplus of \$591,000. NBAE is unfavorable to budget due to pending Title I funds, instructional expenses and enrollment shortfall. RCSL is favorable to budget due to higher FEFP revenue payment as well as favorable compensation, instructional expenses and capital expenses.
- The difference in enrollment from budget to forecast is a deficit of 94 students. As of October, enrollment shortfalls are indicated in RCSL and NBAEMS. Strategies are in process to improve the enrollment variances. These include establishing enrollment committees, working with waiting lists and identifying opportunities for adding classes.
- Lastly, the overall forecasted variance is \$36,000.
- Mr. Vilardi also updated the Board on the amount of funds in the reserve account resulting from FTE. That amount is \$900,000. If no FEFP reductions occur during the year, this amount will revert back to the school's operating expenses.

Motion made by Mr. Clark with a second by Chairman Haiko to approve the Quarterly Financials for year to date ending October 2009 for the Renaissance Charter School, Inc. The motion was approved unanimously.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

Charter Application Updates

- Broward - The Broward School District has approved all 4 applications submitted by The Renaissance Charter School, Inc.
- St. Lucie - Tradition - The St. Lucie School District recommended denying the application for Tradition and the school board upheld this. We feel this is an unfair outcome and our attorney's are in the process of gathering information for an appeal. Mr. Clark asked Mr. Kelmanson to provide him a copy of the reasons why the application was denied. Chairman Haiko indicated that we have the support of the community and the district is receiving many phone calls in favor of the School. It would have a significant impact on the economic demands of the area and state. The appeal is anticipated to take place sometime in January.
- Dade - Two applications have been approved in Dade.

- Orange County - The application for a charter school in this area has been denied and will not be appealed.
- It was noted that of the 9 charter applications submitted by this Board, 7 have been approved.

Florida Charter School Conference

- The Florida Charter School Conference was attended by Colonel Wheeler, Chairman Haiko, Mr. Kelmanson, and Mr. Lewis. It was a good opportunity for learning.
- Mr. Kelmanson asked the Board to approve a motion to allow CSUSA to apply for a startup grant for all applications presented under this Board.

Motion made by Mr. Clark with a second by Chairman Haiko to approve the application process for a startup grant for all schools the Renaissance Charter School, Inc. submits new applications for. The motion was approved unanimously.

North Broward Charter Update

- Mr. Kelmanson reported that discussions have taken place with the Broward School District on this updated charter contract. The District has asked us to hold off until one further review from their legal team has been completed. Mr. Kelmanson will keep the Board informed as this progresses.

V. NEW BUSINESS

Benchmark Two Results

- A PowerPoint presentation was shown and each principal discussed their schools' Benchmark 2 results and compared them with Benchmark 1 results. This will provide their teachers an opportunity to focus on and strengthen those skills where needed.

VI. OPEN FORUM

- The next Renaissance Charter School, Inc. meeting will be either January 15th or the 22nd. Ms. Vecchione will survey the Board for the best date.

Motion made to adjourn the Renaissance Charter School, Inc. Governing Board meeting. The motion was approved unanimously.



Ken Haiko, Chairman

Date: 11/29/2010