

MEETING MINUTES

Name of Foundation: The Renaissance Charter School, Inc.
Board Meeting: February 9, 2007

School(s): Hollywood Academy of Arts and Sciences
Hollywood Academy of Arts and Sciences Middle School
North Broward Academy of Excellence
North Broward Academy of Excellence Middle School
Renaissance Charter Elementary School
Renaissance Charter Middle School

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: |
|--|----------|----------|---------------|------------|----------------|
| 2-9-07 | 11.05 am | 12.20 pm | 03.30.07 | 10:30 am | Mary Vecchione |
| Meeting Location: | | | | | |
| Charter Schools USA, 6245 N Federal Hwy, 5 th Floor, Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33308 | | | | | |

| Attended by: | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Mr. Ken Haiko, Chairman | Mr. Jon Hage | Mr. David McKnight |
| Mr. Dennis Clark, Treasurer | Mr. Richard Page | Ms. Leslie Brown |
| Mr. Clarence McKee, Board Director | Ms. Lorrie Davidson | Ms. Ana Cordal |
| | Ms. Maria Rodriguez | Ms. Betty Campbell |
| | Ms. Mary Vecchione | Ms. Kathie Esses |
| | Ms. Michelle | Ms. Aida Dupont |
| | Mr. Mike Essik | Ms. Charlene Garcia |
| Absent: | Mr. Allen Coleman | |
| Mr. Thomas Wheeler, Board Director | Ms. Marjorie Lekach | |
| Ms. Laura Seidman, Secretary | Mr. Joe Scott | |
| Highlights: | | |

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting commenced at 11:05 a.m. with a call to order by Chairman Haiko. Roll Call was taken and Quorum was established.

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Ken Haiko, Chairman

Chairman Haiko asked for any additions/corrections to the previous minutes. No discussion was initiated.

Motion made by Mr. McKee with a second by Mr. Clark to approve the minutes from the October 27, 2006 meeting. The motion was approved unanimously.

Chairman Haiko introduced the new board member, Mr. Clarence McKee. Mr. McKee gave a brief overview of his background and expressed his enthusiasm to the board for his future involvement with them.

II. SCHOOL REPORT

Hollywood Academy of Arts and Science

Ms. Leslie Brown, Principal

- Ms. Brown reported that FCAT preparation was high priority. Tutoring has been ongoing to strengthen the skills the students will need. Benchmarks have been assessed to determine which areas need additional instruction. FCAT testing generates stress and anxiety for the students. Most of this is coming from the pressure parents put on their children. To overcome these issues, the staff is using tools to help build endurance and confidence. Field trips have given relief to the students of the added pressures of FCAT and they enjoy them. The teachers have been adding endurance skills by developing longer reading passages and guiding them through completion.
- Class size has been close to or equal to the target mandated by the state. K thru 3 has a target of 22.7/actual is 22.68, 4 thru 8 target is 23.41/ actual is 24. HAAS is a four story facility and it has been a challenge meeting target for K-1.
- Enrollment is down. HAAS is a transient community, due partly to the nature of South Florida. Ms. Brown has noticed that if a student transfers at this time of year, it is usually due to behavioral issues at their previous school. Ms. Brown indicated that when challenged students enter in August, it takes about 6 weeks to acclimate them to the Charter School way.
- Ms. Brown reported that HAAS is 12th in the state in learning gains.
- A performance curriculum review team has visited the school and evaluated each classroom and teacher. They grade on a rubric. The purpose is to review the strengths and challenges of each teacher and the school as a whole. There will be an additional review and follow up session in May.
- Ms. Brown reported that there is concern among the staff regarding the entry level salary base. Currently Miami-Dade is paying \$40,000 for a beginning level teacher position and ours is considerably lower. There also appears to be a trend of Florida teachers moving to Georgia because the cost of living is lower resulting in a smaller pool to interview for new teachers. Ms. Von Behren commented that we have found that 80% of our teachers are exceeding the Miami-Dade salary after three years. Our challenge is to portray the long term advantages and security with CSUSA. Ms. Von Behren also noted that we will be focusing on learning gains with financial bonuses and not just how well the child can score on tests. Chairman Haiko asked what percentage of the teachers will receive these bonuses. Ms. Von Behren replied that 25% could potentially be eligible. It was noted that CSUSA and the Charter Schools would benefit with the strategy of retaining teacher's long term rather than with a short term salary adjustment. Chairman Haiko asked how many teachers they expect to loose each year. Ms. Davidson noted that typically we loose about 20% of the staff, including both those who choose not to return and those we ask not to return.
- The question was raised as to when the school year begins. According to the state, the schools can not open sooner than two weeks prior to Labor Day. This would be August 20th for 2007-2008 and that we follow the Broward County School Calendar.

North Broward Academy of Excellence

Mr. David McKnight, Principal

- Mr. McKnight reported that enrollment is currently at 496 students. Recommitments are strong and the total number is 458. There are thirty-five students on the wait list for the next school year.
- Mr. McKnight has mapped out an enrollment plan for 2007-2008. The schools' capacity could house 561 students. Mr. Hage commented that the financing has not been completed for the new building and the outlook for a '07-'08 opening does not look good. We are still waiting for two additional bids to come in. School construction should ideally be for the summer months when most of the students are not in school. We should have a definite answer on the time frame by the end of next week.
- The third benchmark has been completed and the results look promising in most areas with the exception of mathematics. The staff appears to be ready to take on the challenge of FCAT. Ms. Cordal gave a workshop to teachers on Four Square Writing Process and Mathematics.
- The Middle School will hold a Valentine's dance which they anticipate to be a success.
- The first Newsletter went out to the parents. This will be used primarily as a communication tool between the school and parents. It has been well received.
- Mr. McKnight has attended a workshop on the Seven Correlates of Effective Schools and also a district, corporate and charter School Principals' meeting.
- Mr. McKnight has created an outline of Administrative job responsibilities as a reference guide for both staff and parents.
- A faculty and staff lounge has been created from an unused storage room. This is an area where the staff can go for communications and team building to aid in staff morale.
- The school has worked to enhance the visual aesthetics by planting flowers and greenery throughout the halls. It has made quite a difference.
- The Honor Role Ceremony for the second quarter has been held and there were a total of 179 students participating.
- Ms. Cordal and Ms. Rodriguez complimented Mr. McKnight for his enthusiasm and efforts with the school in such a short period of time.

Renaissance Charter School

Ms. Ana Cordal, Principal

- Ms. Cordal reported that enrollment is 500 elementary students and 100 middle school students. Recommitments are about 90%. The anticipated new middle school building will increase their enrollment.
- The class size requirement has been a challenge and Ms. Cordal reported that the guidelines are not very flexible and the school will not meet the requirements. Currently, the classroom size for elementary is 23 and the goal is 21.5 and the middle school is 28.3 with the goal of 23. Mr. Hage reported that we are hoping that the state will intercede and adjust the guidelines for Charter Schools. He commented that the press will not be kind in its reporting of our circumstances.
- The third benchmark has been studied and the curriculum has been adjusted slightly to compensate for those areas where stronger skill are needed. Currently there is tutoring offered for third through seventh grades given by the teachers. Florida Writes has been completed and early analysis indicates that the results will be strong.
- Ms. Cordal has had positive feedback from her staff on the People First plan.

- The PTO raised \$3,000 through a sponsored walk/run school fundraiser.
- The school will host a valentine's dance next week.

III. FINANCE

Ms. Lorrie Davidson, VP of Finance

Ms. Davidson introduced her attending staff members and gave a brief overview of their responsibilities working with the Renaissance Charter School, Inc. This included the introduction of the Business Managers of each school who were in attendance.

Ms. Davidson reviewed the financials with a PowerPoint presentation and highlighted the key issues.

Review of First Quarter Financials Consolidated School Results

- Ms. Davidson reported that through September, the budgeted number of enrolled students was 1,925 and the actual number was 1779, leaving a decline of 146 students. The budgeted average FTE per Student increased in all schools with the exception of North Broward Middle School, which was under \$38/student.
- Ms. Davidson reported that the actual revenue and expenditures for all schools resulted in a school surplus of \$223,000.
- The year to date budget through September showed a school surplus of \$183,000.
- In comparison, the YTD budget vs actual through September 2006 after CapEx and LTD resulted in a deficit of \$28,000.

Motion made by Mr. Clark with a second by Mr. McKee to accept the First Quarter Financials and Budget Revisions. The motion was approved unanimously.

Review of Financial Performance Through December 2006

- Ms. Davidson reported the revised budgeted number of enrolled students was 1,775 with a school surplus of budgeted revenue and expenditures of \$91,000.
- The YTD Actual through December 2006 had a revised budgeted number of enrolled students 15 less than budgeted with a school surplus of \$207,000.
- The YTD Revised Budget through December resulted in a school surplus of \$237,000.
- Renaissance Middle was the only school adjusted.
- Each of the buildings are housing two schools and they share expenses.
- The FTE February count has been formulated and the revenue loss is approximately \$88,000.

Motion made by Mr. McKee with a second by Mr. Clark to approve the Budgeted and Actual Financials through December 2006. The motion was approved unanimously.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Jon Hage, President/CEO

Establishment of Governing Board for South Dade Charter School

- Mr. Hage presented the board with a discussion on the proposed charter for South Dade Charter School. This school was approved one year ago for K through 8th graders in the Homestead area. Mr. Hage is asking the board for

authorization to enter into a contractual agreement with the The School Board of Miami-Dade County for the operation of South Dade Charter School. He explained why the new school would fall under the Renaissance Charter School, Inc.

Motion made by Mr. Clark with a second by Mr. McKee to allow the governing board, the Renaissance Charter School, Inc., to contractually enter into an agreement with the School Board of Miami-Dade to establish the South Dade Charter School. The motion was approved unanimously.

V. OLD BUSINESS

Marketing/Student Enrollment

Ms. Ivy Benardo, Director of Marketing

- Ms. Benardo reported that Renaissance Charter and Hollywood Academy were almost completely full. Very little marketing is involved to seek and retain the students. She is currently working with Mr. McKnight on strategies to increase enrollment at North Broward. Mr. McKnight commented that he has a transient community population and has a good feel as to who they should be targeting. Mr. Page added that we are implementing a marketing plan which will be directed toward the new families moving into the area. Mr. McKnight asked if it would be possible to track the data on where the families hear about their school and Mr. Page responded positively.

The next meeting will be held on March 30, 2007.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:20 p.m.



Kenneth Haiko, Chairman

Date: 3/30/07