

# MEETING MINUTES

Name of Foundation: The Renaissance Charter School, Inc.  
Board Meeting: March 27, 2009

School(s): Hollywood Academy of Arts & Sciences  
North Broward Academy of Excellence  
Renaissance Charter 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:
03.27.09	10:35 a.m.	12:00 p.m.	May 1, 2009	10:30 a.m.	Mary Vecchione
<b>Meeting Location:</b>					
Charter Schools USA, 6245 N Federal Hwy, Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33308					

<b>Attended by:</b>	
Mr. Kenneth Haiko, Chairman Mr. Dennis Clark, Vice-Chairman Mr. Thomas Wheeler, Treasurer	Mr. Jon Hage, President/CEO, CSUSA Ms. Debbie Von Behren, COO, CSUSA Ms. Lorrie Davidson, VP of Finance, CSUSA Ms. Diane Ratcliff, Sr Director of HR, CSUSA Ms. Mary Vecchione, Governing Board Liaison, CSUSA Ms. Ana Cordal, Principal, RECS Ms. Donte Fulton, Principal, HAAS Mr. David McKnight, Principal, NBAE
Absent: Mr. Clarence McKee, Secretary	
<b>Highlights:</b>	

## CALL TO ORDER

Pursuant to public notice, The Renaissance Charter School, Inc. Governing Board meeting commenced at 10:35 a.m. with a Call to Order by Chairman Haiko. Roll call was taken and quorum was established.

### I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Kenneth Haiko, Chairman

Chairman Haiko asked the Board to review the minutes from the February 13, 2009 Board of Director's meeting and note any corrections or comments. The minutes stand.

Motion made by Mr. Clark with a second by Mr. Wheeler to approve the February 13, 2009 Board minutes for the Renaissance Charter School, Inc. The motion was approved 3-0 (1 absent; 1 open seat).

### II. SCHOOL REPORT

#### Hollywood Academy of Arts & Sciences

Ms. Donte Fulton, Principal, HAAS

- As of the February count, the school is enrolled with 682 students and has a budgeted enrollment of 683. There were 2 student withdrawals for the month.
- Ms. Fulton reported that there were only 18 students who did not recommit for next year enrollment and there are currently 471 applications. The lottery will be held on Friday, March 27<sup>th</sup>.
- FCAT testing went well, with attendance very good.
- CSUSA will hold its site visit on April 17<sup>th</sup>.
- Ms. Fulton also reported on facility issues and school and community activities.

North Broward Academy of Excellence

Mr. David McKnight, Principal, NBAE

- Elementary enrollment at NBAE for February was 561 students with a budgeted enrollment of 550. Four students withdrew during that month, most of who moved from the area.
- Elementary recommits for next year are at 544 students, with 41 enrollees, 137 applications, and 114 students were offered spots. The wait list is currently 292 students.
- Middle school enrollment is 288 students with a budgeted enrollment of 308.
- Middle school recommits for next year are at 202 students, with 11 enrollees, 62 applications, and 48 students were offered spots.
- FCAT testing went well.
- Mr. McKnight reported on facility and school and community activities.

Renaissance Charter School

Ms. Ana Cordal, Principal, RECS

- Renaissance Elementary is reporting enrollment of 501 students, with a budgeted enrollment of 490. Recommits for next year are at 99% and applications are being accepted until April 30<sup>th</sup>. They anticipate approximately 65 spots to be available with a wait list of about 500 students.
- The Middle School has reported an enrollment of 129 students with a budgeted enrollment of 125. The recommit of 99% do not include those 8<sup>th</sup> graders who will be graduating.
- Ms. Cordal reported that FCAT went well with 100% in attendance.
- She also reported on facility and school and community activities.

**III. FINANCE**

Mr. Mike Essik, Dir of Finance, CSUSA

- Mr. Essik gave a brief overview of the financials for the Renaissance Charter School, Inc.
- The enrollment forecast vs. budget as of March 24, 2009 shows a positive variance of 28 students. This forecast includes the final February count.
- Mr. Essik reviewed the revenue per student forecast vs. budget. This forecast reflected state budget cuts in FTE revenue.
- Overall, the schools have forecasted a surplus of \$343,000. Despite revenue cuts, the schools have maintained a healthy budget.
- Enrollment budgets for FY10 remain consistent with FY09 levels for the schools that are currently at capacity. NBAE is projected to show an increase in their number of students.
- Mr. Essik informed the Board that final budgets will be ready by July 15<sup>th</sup>.

**IV. OLD BUSINESS**

St. Lucie Charters

Mr. Jon Hage, President/CEO, CSUSA

- Mr. Hage reported that the opening of the new K-8, St. Lucie School is going well. We should have a conclusion on the financing before the next meeting and will hold a teleconference call when we know more. Mr. Hage indicated that the district has been very cooperative with us and that the interest has been over the quality of education in St. Lucie vs. overcrowding of the public schools. Our main concern is the financing and closing of the loan. We will keep the Board informed. As soon as the financing is closed, we will set up a ground breaking ceremony and include the Board members. This will be the first charter school in St. Lucie.

Homestead Charters

Mr. Jon Hage, President/CEO, CSUSA

- Mr. Hage reported that we are anticipating a 2010-2011 opening for the two new charters in Homestead. The Boards would require a merger and this topic is still in discussion. We are still experiencing complications with the City of Homestead around the traffic mitigation, but Mr. Hage feels that we have good momentum and should look forward to a favorable outcome. We need to start thinking about getting creative on funding capital for financing.
- We are in the process of looking at one or two 9<sup>th</sup> grade classes and matriculate up from the current middle school. The KGCS would host the two new 9<sup>th</sup> grades at their existing school until the high school could be built. The Homestead Charter Foundation is interested in this discussion.

Hollywood Expansion

Mr. Jon Hage, President/CEO, CSUSA

- The expansion at Hollywood has been moved back for development reasons. We are waiting on final approval from the City and begin laying the ground work for sewer and electrical. We anticipate this approval within the next month.
- Mr. Hage commented that this would be an urban type school with a "green" concept. This would open the door for financing through new tax credits being offered.

**V. NEW BUSINESS**

Parent Survey

Ms. Debbie Von Behren, COO, CSUSA

- Ms. Von Behren reviewed the mid year parent survey results from November 2008. She shared the category results along with overall school results. In summary, the results for all the schools were very high, with a higher satisfaction rating than the previous year's survey. She commended the schools on their improvements but reminded the Board that we are always striving to continually make gains. Reference to the strengths and opportunities for each school were provided to the Board.

Staff Survey

Ms. Diane Ratcliff, Sr Director of HR, CSUSA

- Ms. Ratcliff provided the Board with a summary of results for the staff survey, mid-year 2008-09. Overall, the results from our Renaissance Charter Schools were strong and showed improvement from the previous year's survey. The categories surveyed were Workforce Strength, Leadership, and Work Environment. The results will be used in school strategic planning sessions for goal setting and improvements.

**VI. OPEN FORUM**

- Mr. Hage commented that Charter Schools USA has been nominated by Tripp Scott for "Business of the Year Award" by the South Florida Business Journal and we have become a finalist. This is quite an honor.
- The next Board meeting will be held on May 1, 2009.



Kenneth Haiko, Chairman

Date: 5/1/09