

MEETING MINUTES

Name of Foundation: Renaissance Charter School, Inc.
Board Meeting: September 18, 2009

School(s): Hollywood Academy of Arts & Sciences
North Broward Academy of Excellence
Renaissance Charter School
Renaissance Charter School of 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:
09.18.09	11:06 a.m.	12:30 a.m.	10.16.09	11:30 a.m.	Mary Vecchione
Meeting Location:					
Charter Schools USA, 6245 N Federal Hwy, Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33308					

Attended by:	
Mr. Kenneth Haiko, Chairman Mr. Dennis Clark, Vice-Chairman Mr. Clarence McKee, Secretary (left at 12:06p.m.) Absent: Colonel Thomas Wheeler, Treasurer	Ms. Debbie Von Behren, COO, CSUSA Mr. Richard Page, VP of Bus Development, CSUSA Mr. Mike Essik, Dir of Finance, CSUSA Mr. Rob Vilardi, Financial Analyst, CSUSA Ms. Mary Vecchione, Gov Board Liaison, CSUSA Mr. David McKnight, Principal, NBAE Ms. Donte Fulton, Principal, HAAS Ms. Ana Cordal, Principal, RECS Mr. Eric Lewis, Principal, RECSL
Highlights:	

CALL TO ORDER

Pursuant to public notice, the meeting commenced at 11:06 a.m. with a Call to Order by Chairman Haiko. Roll call was taken and quorum was established.

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chairman McKay asked the Board to review the minutes from the July 24, 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. McKee to approve the minutes from the July 24, 2009 Renaissance Charter School, Inc. Governing Board meeting. The motion was approved 3-0 (1 absent; 1 open seat).

II. SCHOOL REPORT

Hollywood Academy of Arts & Sciences

- Total student enrollment is 671 with a budgeted enrollment of 680. Ms. Fulton commented that she fully intends to reach budgeted enrollment by the October FTE count (the first week of October).
- School Improvement Plan and goals were outlined and summarized for the Board.
- HAAS received SAC approval on September 2nd.
- Facility updates and school/community activities were also identified.

- Ms. Fulton acknowledged the Out of Field Waivers, read by Ms. Vecchione. She asked for Board approval.

Motion made by Mr. Clark with a second by Mr. McKee to approve the Out of Field Waivers for both ESOL and highly qualified for Hollywood Academy of Arts & Sciences. The motion was approved 3-0 (1 absent; 1 open seat).

North Broward Academy of Excellence

- Mr. McKnight reported student enrollment at 925 and seven new staff members were added. They include a much needed math coach and a guidance counselor.
- The School newsletter will be on-line with a few hard copies in the office for those parents who would like to pick one up. They modeled their newsletter after Hollywood Academy of Arts & Sciences.
- Ms. Jen Westbrook submitted paperwork to receive federal money for school snacks for after care. They were approved.
- SAC is reviewing the school improvement plan and should be approved within the next week. Mr. McKnight highlighted the goals for the Board.
- Mr. McKnight asked for approval of the Out of Field Waivers, read by Ms. Vecchione.

Motion made by Mr. Clark with a second by Mr. McKee to approve the Out of Field Waivers for both ESOL and highly qualified for North Broward Academy of Excellence. The motion was approved 3-0 (1 absent; 1 open seat).

Renaissance Charter School

- Ms. Cordal reported enrollment being 637 students, with a budgeted enrollment of 625.
- School Improvement Plans have been completed and strategies and goals were highlighted. Goals were set for staff, students, and parents.
- Ms. Cordal also gave an update on the facilities, academics, and school and community activities.
- Ms. Cordal asked for approval of the Out of Field Waivers, read by Ms. Vecchione.

Motion made by Mr. McKee with a second by Mr. Clark to approve the Out of Field Waivers for both ESOL and highly qualified for the Renaissance Charter School. The motion was approved 3-0 (1 absent; 1 open seat).

Renaissance Charter School of St Lucie

- Mr. Lewis reported student enrollment of 1206 with a budgeted enrollment of 1255.
- The Board was updated on the processes at the new school and Mr. Lewis commented that transportation and the car loop have made great strides after the initial opening day. The car pool line is down to about 35 minutes.
- There are over 400 registrations for after school enrichment programs. These programs are listed in the board packet.
- Mr. Lewis asked for approval of the Out of Field Waivers, read by Ms. Vecchine.

Motion made by Mr. Clark with a second by Mr. McKee to approve the Out of Field Waivers for both ESOL and highly qualified for the Renaissance Charter School of St Lucie. The motion was approved 3-0 (1 absent; 1 open seat).

III. FINANCE

- Mr. Essik reported on the Quarterly Financials for Renaissance Charter School, Inc. Overall, enrollment was favorable to plan.
- In summary, the FTE revenue per student came in lower than budgeted for all schools. This was due to State funding cuts for the school year.
- Summary of School Revenues, overall, was positive for all the schools.
- The summary of school expenses held a slight positive variance. Many of the expense variances are related to and offset by the revenue variances (i.e., School Recognition, Aftercare at RECS). NBAE incurred unplanned expenses due to the new facility. Staffing expenses were offset in NBAE & NBAEMS. Overall, expenses in all schools were scrutinized due to the State funding cuts during the year. This resulted in savings primarily in Capital expenditures.
- Strong enrollment and carefully managed spending resulted in a surplus favorable to the budget.
- Actual enrollment as of Sept 15, 2009 is slightly lower than budgeted. Strategies are in process to improve the enrollment variances. These include establishing enrollment committees, working with waiting lists and identifying opportunities for adding classes.
- A reserve account has been set up to hold the variance between the budget and the actual FTE revenue. This difference is applied to the number of attending students to preserve any true variance related to enrollment. This reserve was created to offset potential mid year FEFP reductions.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

RECS of St Lucie Lease

- CSUSA acknowledged to the Board that the lease agreement has been signed by Chairman Haiko between RECS, Inc. and Red Apple Development Company.

Tradition Academy of Innovation

- Chairman Haiko briefed the Board on the current proceedings with St Lucie County School District and the application for Tradition Academy, a charter in the work place. As part of the application process, an interview with the School District is required. They are asking that the interview be held only with the Governing Board members and no one from the management company (CSUSA) is permitted to attend. The Board received the 59 questions, from the district, one day prior to the meeting. In addition, among the 59 questions, were various sub-questions. It is the strong opinion of the Board and CSUSA that the District allow representatives from CSUSA to attend and assist in answering the responses from the interviewers. It is this Governing Board's opinion that they have hired CSUSA to manage the schools and act as the "expert" on their behalf.
- The Governing Board has indicated to the School District that they will grant an extension to the timeline in hopes of allowing time to reconsider and allow all the stakeholders to come to the table and discuss the charter. Should this not happen, we will personally address the school board to plead the case. If the outcome is against the charter, the Board and CSUSA will appeal, as the Board feels they have a strong case in their support.

- Mr. Clark asked that a copy of the letter from the School District and the 59 questions be sent to him for review.

Broward County Charter Applications

- Mr. Page commented that the interview for the Charter applications submitted for Broward County will be held on September 25th. He strongly urged the Board members to attend. Chairman Haiko and Mr. Clark commented that they would attend.

Miami-Dade Charter Applications

- Mr. Page remarked to the Board that the interview for the Miami-Dade School District will be held sometime in November and details will be given at the next board meeting.

Orange County Charter Application

- Orange County does not look promising. They have refused to communicate with CSUSA.

Duval County Charter Application

- Duval County has not contacted the Board to schedule their interview yet and they are due to vote next week. We don't anticipate approval from this application.

St Lucie Background Check Requirement

- Ms. Vecchione reminded the Board that they are out of compliance until they have completed their fingerprinting check in St Lucie County. She handed out the paperwork and instructions for the Board members to follow. The Board indicated that they would all complete this by the next Board meeting.

V. NEW BUSINESS

Merit Award Program Plan

- Mr. Page reviewed the MAP plan and commented that there were minor changes only from the previous plan. He asked the Board for their approval

Motion made by Mr. McKee with a second by Mr. Clark to approve the Merit Award Program plan and submit to the state. The motion was approved 3-0 (1 absent; 1 open seat).

Governance Merger with the Homestead Charter Foundation, Inc.

- Mr. Page briefed the Board on the proposal of merging the Renaissance Charter School, Inc. and the Homestead Charter Foundation, Inc. as one Governing Board. He explained the advantages of existing as one board. Among those are the financial avenues that the RECS board holds. Also, the charters in Homestead have been approved under the RECS board.
- Mr. Page addressed the negotiations and issues with the City and commented that these are being reviewed and both parties feel they will come to a reasonable solution that is in the best interest of all, especially the community.
- The Homestead Board has approved moving forward with said negotiations and the RECS board would like to reaffirm this motion.

Motion made by Mr. McKee with a second by Mr. Clark to pursue negotiations with the Homestead Charter Foundation to merge as one Board and allow legal counsel from both Boards to begin proceedings. The motion was approved 3-0 (1 absent; 1 open seat).

- Counsels will draft a proposal and bring back to the Boards for discussion.

VI. OPEN FORUM

- None

The next Governing Board meeting will be held at Renaissance Charter School of St Lucie on October 16th, 2009 at 11:15 a.m. Ms. Vecchione will contact you to make travel arrangements.



Kenneth Haiko, Chairman

Date: 10/16/09