

## MEETING MINUTES

### **The Renaissance Charter School, Inc. Board of Directors' Meeting**

School(s): Hollywood Academy of Arts & Science Middle School  
 Hollywood Academy of Arts & Science Elementary School  
 North Broward Academy of Excellence Elementary School  
 North Broward Academy of Excellence Middle School  
 Renaissance Elementary Charter School & 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.

<b>Date:</b>	<b>Start</b>	<b>End</b>	<b>Next Meeting:</b>	<b>Next time:</b>	<b>Prepared by:</b>
2/3/06	10:15 a.m.	11:55 a.m.	4/7/06	11:30 a.m.	Brenda Santiago, CSUSA
<b>Meeting Location:</b>					
Charter School USA, 6245 N. Federal Hwy., 5 <sup>th</sup> Floor, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33308					
<b>Attended by:</b>					
<b>Board Members:</b> Ken Haiko, Chairperson & President Shane Strum, Vice President (by phone) Dennis Clark, Treasurer (by phone) Thomas Wheeler, Director (by phone)			<b>CSUSA Staff:</b> Jon Hage, CEO Maria de L. Rodriguez, Director of School Support Lorrie Davidson, VP of School Finance Dave Cash -- VP of Corporate Finance Mike Essik -- Manager of Financial Planning & Analysis Melanie Stevenson -- Accounting Manager John Doane -- Staff Accountant Brenda Santiago, School Support Specialist/ Governing Board Liaison Ana Cordal, Principal, RECS (by phone) Paul Hage, Business Administrator, NBAE (by phone) Elizabeth Rivero, Assistant Principal, HAAS (by phone)		
<b>Not present:</b> Laura R. Seidman, Secretary					

#### **I. Call to Order**

The meeting commenced at 10:22 a.m. with a call to order by Ken Haiko, Board Chair.

#### **II. Approval of Minutes**

The Board reviewed the Minutes of the Board meeting held on November 4, 2005.

**A motion was made by Mr. Strum to approve the minutes, seconded by Mr. Wheeler. The minutes were approved unanimously.**

#### **III. School Reports**

##### **A. Renaissance Elementary & Middle Charter School**

Mrs. Cordal, Principal, reported:

- The results from the third Benchmark Assessment are very good. Teachers and students are ready for the test scheduled to start in March 13-24.
- The Major of the City of El Doral visited the school.
- The school is looking for a site for the middle school for next year. If needed, the school will limit the number of kindergarten classrooms to provide a classroom for 7<sup>th</sup> graders.
- The middle school will have its own FCAT grade, independently from the elementary school.

- Present enrollment is 501 students.

#### **B. North Broward Academy of Excellence Elementary & Middle School**

Mr. Paul Hage, Business Administrator of North Broward Academy of Excellence, reported:

- The school just completed their third Benchmark Assessment test and teachers are using data to help students better prepare for the FCAT.
- The school is providing free after school tutoring to those students who scored level 1 & 2 in the BAT.
- After the move and the hurricane season, the school located in the west campus building is back to normal. The school office and the middle school classrooms are now located on the first floor. The front building of the school will be demolished for security reasons, and a brand new building will be in its place.
- The school's present enrollment is 427. It is focusing on student enrollment for next year.

#### **B. Hollywood Academy of Arts and Science Elementary & Middle School**

Ms. Rivero, Assistant Principal of HAAS presented:

- FTE counts are next week. We are ready. We have matched our SIS with TERMS and updated all ESE, ESOL and possible retentions.
- We are in FCAT countdown: 4th grade FCAT Writing Tests are on Tuesday and Wednesday of next week. We had after school FCAT Writing Camps for our fourth graders. In preparation of FCAT reading, math and science, our kids are participating in Camp M & M (for Mona Lisa and Michaelangelo) after school and DaVinci during school to improve their reading and math skills. We have done data analysis with teachers. Corporate has provided support with Christy Valadez visiting every Tuesday and working with our teachers. We have the Benchmark #3 scores and have seen great improvement since the beginning of the year.
- Enrollment is good for the school year 06-07. The school received 150 applications and 497 recommends out of 594 students. Capacity is 701 for next year. Every parent, who has attended our tours or open house have applied. Recommends are at 92%. We are following up on the other 8%.
- Our CRA Grant is being implemented for \$30K. We had a Renaissance mural painted in the dining room, our advance art students are participating in a portfolio institute and we have a partnership with Arts Academy of Hollywood in which we are doing a production of Into The Woods Jr (a Broadway show based on children fairytales, full scored production for performance in May, with no cost to the children).
- Our children just participated in our first annual Science Fair with over 400 student entries.

#### **IV. Finance**

- Lorrie Davidson presented the members of the Finance staff to the board: Dave Cash – VP of Corporate Finance, Mike Essik – Manager of Financial Planning & Analysis, working in Lee County, Melanie Stevenson – Accounting Manager and John Doane – Staff Accountant for the five Lee County charter schools
- Ms. Davidson explained the budgets for each school and reported that for RECS Middle School the start up grant has been approved but has not been funded yet. NBAE shows a surplus because the middle school has been added to the budget. Also, HAAS has 6 students more than the number budgeted.
- Ms. Davidson requested the board to schedule a meeting on May 19 to review the schools' budgets for next school year 2006-2007.
- Ms. Davidson explained to the board that they needed to make a decision regarding retaining the auditing firm used last year, Keefe, McCullough & CO., LLP; or if they would like to contract with a new firm. She stated that they did a good job at a reasonable fee and they met all the deadlines. Discussion took place among board members and they decided

to approve the current company unless they asked for an unusual higher fee; then it would need to be presented to the board again. A motion was presented by Mr. Strum to retain Keefe, McCullough & CO., LLP as the auditing firm for the year 2005-2006. Motion was seconded by Mr. Wheeler and passed unanimously.

**V. Old Business**

- Mrs. Rodriguez reported that the School Board of Broward County approved the request to transfer HAAS and NBAE to the Renaissance Charter School, Inc. as requested by the Charter Foundation Inc. Board. Mr. Strum presented a motion to reaffirm the Board's position to accept the transfer of HAAS and NBAE to The Renaissance Charter School, Inc. Motion was seconded by Mr. Clark and passed unanimously.

**VI. New Business - None**

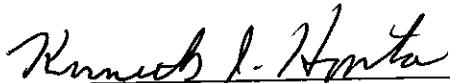
**VII. Open Forum**

- Mr. Hage explained to the Board that in the upcoming legislative session they will discuss the possibility of expanding the overseen authority of Charter Schools to other entities like community colleges, non profit organizations and other institutions. Also they are looking to pass a bill to provide equity in funding and protection for Charter Schools that could impact the FTE and Charter School formula possibly resulting in an increase of the Capital Outlay Funding. Mr. Hage will keep board members informed of any changes.

**VIII. Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the Board at this time, and after a motion made by Mr. Strum, seconded by Mr. Clarke and unanimously passed, the meeting adjourned at 11:55 a.m.

*The next Renaissance Charter School, Inc. meeting will be held April 7, 2006 at 10:00 a.m.*



Kenneth J. Haiko, Board Chair

Date: April 7, 2006