



**Renaissance
Academy**
CHARTER SCHOOL

Building Lifelong Learners

413 Fairview Street, Phoenixville, PA 19460
610-983-4080 www.rak12.org

BOARD OF TRUSTEES VOTING MEETING MINUTES

May 17, 2022 - 6:30 PM

Google Meet link:

<https://meet.google.com/dqs-baqp-mwz>

1. **Call to order - 6:37 pm.**
2. **Opening Matters**
 - **Pledge of Allegiance - Flag**
 - **Attendance - Board of Trustees & Administration** (*via* remote call-in)
 - Dan Rufo
 - Monica Reynolds (Secretary),
 - Elizabeth Falcone (Vice-President - Presiding);
 - Shawn Glick (Treasurer),
 - Anthony Bragoli (*via* remote call-in),
 - ~~Greg Scott,~~
 - Greg Queen,
 - Mark Greiner,
 - Sujaya Narahari,
 - Yvan Francois,
 - G. Anne Waskiewicz;
 - Gwendolyn Supplee;
 - Seyi Akinfenwa
 - Administration:**
 - Dr. Gina Guarino-Buli,
 - ~~David Cosme, Jr.,~~
 - ~~Harold Smith;~~
 - ~~Jordan Miller~~
 - ~~Michelle Boyd;~~
 - Carol Schaeffer;
 - Heather Rinker;
 - Kendra Gruber;
 - **Opening statements – Dan Rufo**
 - Process for Public Comment - please submit public comment to email - publiccomment@rak12.org
 - Executive Session last month - Real Estate
 - Executive Session prior to this meeting - Legal Matter
3. **Consent Agenda -**
 - **Approval of Agenda**
 - **Review & accept minutes from past meetings**

- March 17, 2022 [Minutes](#)
 - April 21, 2022 - voting meeting [Minutes](#)
 - **Administration Reports - [Principal Reports](#)**
 - **Staff Roster by Business Manager**
4. **Public Comment** - If not submitted as an email, please use the “Raise Hand” feature and you will be called upon. publiccomment@rak12.org
- **None.**
5. **Administration Reports**
- High School Principal Report – Michelle Boyd. Ms. Rinker provided summary. No real updates because High School Graduation is June 8th at 7pm. Will need 3 Board members to present at the ceremony.
 - Middle School Principal Report – Heather Rinker provided summary. Mental Health awareness month. Guidance counsel put together few activities for staff and students a reminder to prioritize mental health, take their mental health breaks, etc. Putting together plans to detect and combat loss of education over summer, COVID, etc. 8th grade had formal, was a great event. This week have had band and choir concerts. Students are very excited from the 7th & 8th Grade upcoming field trip coming up. Had final grade level meetings with RA Merch prizes. Also students were afforded opportunities for additional outside time for now additional referrals between last Monday and June 3. Climate and Culture group is coming up with their own priorities and how to present it at the various grade levels. End of year evaluations under way which dovetail with goal setting for next year.
 - Elementary School Principal Report – Kendra Gruber provided summary. Continuation of social-emotional bi-weekly lessons. 3rd and 4th grade completed their PSSA’s. Planning class lists and classrooms for next year and upcoming MAPP testing. Had first in person assembly for PSSA, students were very excited to be resuming in-person assemblies. Kindergarten Express was a success. End of Trimester Celebrations, Transition Day and Trimester Awards are upcoming, End of the year evaluations and goal setting for next year. Also welcome to new Lower School Dean Tara Webber.
 - Deans of Students Harold Smith/Jordan Miller – neither present. New Lower School Dean Ms. Weber offered that she came in during testing week and attempting to start building relationships that week that was tough, however she believes now that they are through testing she should be on track.
 - CEO Report – Dr. Gina Guarino Buli provided summary of her report. [May 2022_CEO -](#) Had fantastic teacher appreciation week. FSO provided meal and businesses in the community donated (massages were the most popular gifts). Were awarded Charter School grant of \$1.5 million that will be great in helping RA’s overall strategic goals particularly in connection with purchase of additional units. Latest scholarship total for the seniors is over \$9 million dollars. June 7th at 10 am, will be having small showcase for seniors that took part in the Knights to Work program. Need to review anti-bullying policy (attached to report). Also enrollment report is attached to report.
6. **Committees Meeting updates – Committee Chairs**
- Development Committee – Committee Representative. No report to share. Dr. Buli noted that biggest event to share is upcoming golf outing. Board is planning
 - Curriculum & Achievement – D. Rufo advised that there is no Report.

- Standing Executive Session on HR – Beth Falcone. Have not met yet this month. Will have 2 reports next month.
- Finance Committee – Shawn Glick provided summary. Committee met this past Friday and updated the preliminary budget for next school year and is based conservatively on a zero percent increase in tuition rates but also adding 27 students. Enrollment is based on 1160 students. Accounted for new CAM charges associated with purchase of additional units at Franklin Commons, but does not include next year’s budget. Budget is preliminary, in June we will have vote to finalize and send to Department of Education. Discussion was held with respect to certainty of tuition percentage and concerns how district’s grants are calculated and received. Uncertainty with tuition rates is one of the reason we have become more aggressive with seeking grants. Question regarding “attendance” position – persons that is handling Student Information Management is retiring, so we have created smaller new position to allow retiring staff member to have overlap with incoming member. Salaries were adjusted accordingly. Question on where additional Chromebook purchase is reflected: a grant. Also, budget contains provision for continual replacement of Chromebooks on a rotating basis.
 - Preliminary FY23 Budget - Motion to approve Preliminary FY23 Budget made by E.Falcone; Seconded by Y.Francois. All in favor and none opposed, the motion passes. **The Preliminary FY23 Budget is APPROVED.**
- Strategic Planning Committee – Yvan François provided summary. Committee met twice since last meeting. First meeting was to identify potential vendor for upgrading communications platform for the school. Second meeting was to finalize recommendation. Recommendation is to consider “Campus Suite”. Committee wants to thank Maurice Moon for all his work on the project. Goal is to have the platform in place so that it is ready to go at the beginning of next school year. Notes of the meetings are available if anyone is interested. Also continuing with the marketing strategy for next year. Also focus is now going to be on space and use planning for new units at RA and all of the collateral work that has to accompany that. Costs for new platform will be covered, or should be closely covered other than implementation costs – by expenses already covered in the budget.
- Legislative Committee – Greg Queen. Did not meet. No report.
- Equality and Equity Committee - Sujaya Narahari provided report. Met on May 12th. Discussed . Have table at LGBQA+ pridefest. Also discussed handbook proposals. Kindness club has been doing well with the students. Any points of discussion that are relevant to Climate and Culture group will be passed along. Mural is coming along nicely, including the educational opportunities that arise when students see the panels and ask questions. Discussion of consistency across teachers so that students are having similar experiences throughout RA. May 21st is UN Day for cultural diversity, hoping this can be included in Homebase classroom discussions.
- Ad-Hoc Climate and Culture Committee - Mark Grenier/Dan Rufo. Dan provided summary. Had 2nd meeting. Participants met and were active in sharing ideas. Plan is to focus at next meeting to move beyond ideas and begin
- Business Manager’s Report – Carol Schaeffer - In Board Drive. Suggestion that we include proposed bonuses in preliminary budget and to allow them to be paid in November. Need to update Annual Financial Disclosures.

7. **Policy Reviews/Resolutions** – Anti-Bullying Policy – 2nd Reading [**Policy**].

8. New Business

- Senior Sign delivery – Board has committed to doing that this year. Will be
- [New Board Meeting Presentations](#) – Proposal for how Committees will present reports utilizing Google slide deck and have each group put up while discussing
- Discussion of board member terms and potential seats (returning to August term start):
 - Seat 2 – Shawn – not returning
 - Seat 5 – Anthony – not returning
 - Seat 7 - Greg Q. - yes
 - Seat 9 – Mark - yes
 - Seat 11 – Sujaya - yes
 - Seat 12 – Monica – yes
 - Seat 13 – Beth – yes
- Nominations for Officer positions (voting to be held in June):
 - President – E. Falcone nominates D.Rufo for President. S.Narahi 2nd. All in favor and none opposed, Nomination accepted.
 - Vice President – Sujaya nominates Beth. M.Griener 2nd. All in favor and none opposed. Nomination accepted.
 - Secretary – G.Queen nomintes M. Reynolds – Sujaya 2nd - All in favor and none opposed. Nomination accepted.

9. Adjournment - Motion to adjourn made by S.Narahari, Seconded by M.Reynolds. All in favor and none opposed, **The meeting was adjourned at 7:36 pm.**

10. Executive Session - legal.



Monica Mathews Reynolds, Trustee and Recording Secretary