



**Renaissance
Academy**
CHARTER SCHOOL

Building Lifelong Learners

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

MINUTES

BOARD OF TRUSTEES VOTING MEETING

December 13, 2022 - 6:30 PM

Google Meet link:

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

Google Slides Link:

[December Board Meeting Slides](#)

1. Call to order - 6:49 pm

2. Opening Matters

- **Pledge of Allegiance - [Flag](#)**
- **Attendance** - (virtual, where noted)

Board of Trustees & Administration

Dan Rufo (President - Presiding);
Elizabeth Falcone (Vice-President);
Monica Reynolds (Secretary),
Greg Scott,
Greg Queen,
Mark Greiner,
Sujaya Narahari, (attending remotely)
Yvan Francois,
G. Anne Waskiewicz,
Gwendolyn Supplee,
Seyi Akinfenwa, (attending remotely)
Jonathan Duncan,
Moujan Toloubadei

Administration:

Dr. Gina Guarino-Buli, (attending remotely)
~~David Cosme, Jr.,~~
~~Harold Smith~~
~~Jordan Miller~~
~~Tara Webber,~~
Michelle Boyd,
Carol Schaeffer;
Heather Rinker; (attending remotely)
Kendra Gruber; (attending remotely)

- **Opening statements – Dan Rufo**

- Executive Sessions Held:

- one was held on December 1 to complete CEO Review
- **** Change to agenda**** executive session was not held prior to this meeting

3. Consent Agenda -

- Approval of Agenda
- Review & accept minutes from past meetings
 - November 17, 2022 - [W 11_17_22 Meeting Minutes.docx](#)
- Administration Reports
- Staff Roster by Business Manager

Any objections to approval and acceptance of Consent Agenda items? None.

Result: Items in Consent Agenda are approved and accepted.

4. **Public Comment** - If not submitted as an email, please use the “Raise Hand” feature and you will be called upon - publiccomment@rak12.org. **No emails, no persons present or virtually**
5. **Administration Reports** – Outlines of Reports are now included in the Google slide deck at the link provided above. *See* the slide deck linked above for details.
- Principals Report - Michelle Boyd provided a summary of her report with regard to the high school. Students retaking Keystones, as needed. Princeton Review for April SAT ongoing. \$5.9 million in scholarship awards currently. Will be having alumni day (1st since COVID). Holiday themed activities planned: gingerbread house making, door decorating, winter celebrations in home bases, annual dodge ball tournament. Ms. Rinker provided a summary of her report with regard to the middle school. MAP testing scheduled for January after holiday break. Questions and explanation provided as to what the “chicken toss” was. Comment that “walk-n-talks” should continue to be offered and, where possible targeted and leveraged, to the extent possible, because topics for events have been great. Question regarding volunteers since prior meeting: about 7-8 took advantage of that opportunity. Believes Middle school has settled down since last meeting so it is possible demand for in-school visits may have dropped off as well. Kendra Gruber provided summary of her report with regard to the elementary school. Classroom evaluations continued. MAP testing scheduled for January after holiday break. Be-kind group planning new positivity phone line. Planning upcoming Royal Ball. Volunteering opportunities exist (field trips, Knight Watch, classroom activities) please reach out if interested. Donations for Seniors in the community was huge success. Thank you to Key Club.
 - Student Achievement Report - Mr. Cosme’s report was contained in the slide deck. Curriculum club had asked for an update with respect to report in Philadelphia Inquirer article that showed RA having a decline in PSSA lower scores. Response was that although drop did exist, there were numerous problems with the comparison. Nevertheless, RA believes it has identified what it believes are the problems and that projections (based on MAP scores) indicate that the responses to the drop in scores (and any learning gaps) are being addressed. Concern is that curriculum committee should be prepared to identify and explain what RA is and has done with respect to this issue.
 - CEO Report – Dr. Buli - [Report](#) Dr. Buli supplemented her report that was included in the slide deck.
 - Deans of Students Report– Harold Smith was intending to appear but was delayed at RA sporting event. Incident reports are just that – not numbers of referrals. Important notes that incidents have been cut in half and violations at most levels are down significantly.

Ms. Rinker explained that she believes this is possible through increased consistency (expectations reiterated in each home-base) as well as increased placement of permanent teachers where substitutes were previously in place and new programs such as weekly “challenges” with rewards which have motivated the students to meet the expectations. Discussion as to potential to present some of the data regarding referrals as

6. Committees Meeting updates – Committee Chairs - Outlines of Reports are now included in the Google slide deck at the link provided above. *See* the slide deck for details.

- Development Committee –Dr. Buli provided summary and the slide deck has highlights of the summary.
- Curriculum & Achievement - Dan Rufo provided summary of report. Presentation on potential adjustments to the grading system, however, the majority of time was spent discussion calendar, and in particular, spring break, continued recommendation is for full week of break prior to Easter. Intention at next meeting is to continue discussion as to Special Ed law, the interaction of IEP’s and disciplinary process. Presentation of 2023-2024 School Calendar – [2023-2024-Multiple-Month-Calendar-Template_Google-sheet](#)
 - Motion to Approve 2023-2024 School Calendar Made by E.Francois; Seconded by E.Falcone:

	Yes	No	Abstained
D. Rufo	√		
E. Falcone	√		
M. Reynolds	√		
G. Scott	√		
G. Queen	√		
M. Greiner	√		
S. Narahari	√		
Y. Francois	√		
G. Anne Waskiewicz	√		
G. Supplee	√		
S. Akinfenwa	√		
J. Duncan	√		
M. Toloubadei	√		
Total	13	0	0

Result: All in favor and none opposed, motion passes. **The 2023-2024 school year calendar a presented is APPROVED and ADOPTED.**

- Standing Executive Session on HR – Beth Falcone provided summary of report. Looking to fill permanent positions in 5th-6th ELA and Math. Plan is to schedule job fair in the spring, similar to one held past summer.
- Finance Committee – Written report was shared in Google slide deck. Yvan Francois provided a summary. Finance committee met on Monday of this week. Reviewed purchasing journal, available for review in board folder. Had working session with HR

and agreed there were a number of instructional roles to be filled. Discussion as to aligning tools that HR uses to “true up” budget that Zavia uses to get more accurate and up to date information for finance. Discussion as to fundraising goal and present level at the end of 2022, and whether that should be adjusted based on prior experiences and setting a realistic goal. Also discussed tying fundraising goal to expansion costs and fulfilling needs through grants as opposed to fund raising. Discussion of SPED spending analysis and trends, and existing legislative press to modify SPED funding based on service per child (as opposed to flat fee for IEP services per child).

- Strategic Planning Committee – Written summary shared in Google slide deck. Yvan Francois provided a summary. Small team working on site improvements and website deployment.
- Legislative Committee – Written report was shared in Google slide deck. Greg Queen provided summary.
- Equality and Equity Committee - Sujaya Narahari provided summary of her report.
- Business Manager’s Report – Carol Schaeffer. Reports were in folder.

7. Policy Reviews/Resolutions

- Emergency COVID Sick Leave Policy - Motion to approve Emergency COVID Sick Leave Policy made by M.Reynolds, Seconded by G.Queen. Votes cast as follows:

	Yes	No	Abstained
D. Rufo	√		
E. Falcone	√		
M. Reynolds	√		
G. Scott	√		
G.Queen	√		
M. Greiner	√		
S.Narahari	√		
Y.Francois	√		
G.Anne Waskiewicz	√		
G.Supplee	√		
S.Akinfenwa	√		
J.Duncan	√		
M.Toloubadei	√		
Total	13	0	0

Result: All in favor and none opposed, motion passes. **The Emergency COVID Sick Leave Policy is Adopted.**

8. New Business

- **Needs for New Board Members** – Discussion to confirm receipt of informal training and sign up for formal training, key-cards, email set up, tour offers, etc.
- **Accept Resignation of Dan Rufo**
 - Motion to accept the resignation of Dan Rufo from the Board of Trustees and as President thereof made by [REDACTED], 2nd by M.Reynolds. Votes cast as follows:

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Abstained</u>
D. Rufo	√		
E. Falcone	√		
M. Reynolds	√		
G.Scott	√		
G.Queen		√	
M. Greiner	√		
S.Narahari	√		
Y.Francois	√		
G.Anne Waskiewicz	√		
G.Supplee	√		
S.Akinfenwa	√		
J. Duncan	√		
M.Toloubadei	√		
Total	12	1	

Result: All in favor and none opposed, motion passes. G.Queen abstains **Dan Rufo's resignation is ACCEPTED**, effective at the close of the meeting.

- **Elections for:**
 - **President** – Beth Falcone nominated at November's meeting.
 - Motion to elect Beth Falcone as President made by G.Queen, 2nd by G.Supplee. Votes cast as follows:

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Abstained</u>
D. Rufo	√		
E. Falcone	√		
M. Reynolds	√		
G.Scott	√		
G.Queen	√		
M. Greiner	√		
S.Narahari	√		
Y.Francois	√		
G.Anne Waskiewicz	√		
G.Supplee	√		
S.Akinfenwa	√		
J. Duncan	√		
M.Toloubadei	√		
Total	13	0	

Result: All in favor and none opposed, motion passes. **Elizabeth Falcone is ELECTED President.**

- **V.President** – Both Greg Queen and Mark Greiner appointed at last meeting. Motion to hold vote to elect Vice President from nominated candidates Greg Queen and Mark Greiner made by E.Falcone, 2nd – M.Reynolds. Votes cast as follows:

	<u>Mark Greiner</u>	<u>Greg Queen</u>	<u>Abstained</u>
D.Rufo		√	
E.Falcone		√	
M.Reynolds	√		
G.Scott	√		
G.Queen		√	
M.Greiner	√		
S.Narahari		√	
Y.Francois		√	
G.Anne Waskiewicz		√	
G.Suplee	√		
S.Akinfenwa	√		
J. Duncan		√	
M.Toloubadei	√		
Total	6	7	

Result: Greg Queen **is ELECTED Vice-President.**

- **Greg Scott announced his resignation effective December 31, 2022.** M.Greiner made motion to accept G.Scott resignation. Seconded by G.Queen. M.Reynolds abstains. All else in favor, Motion passes. **G. Scott resignation accepted.**
9. **Adjournment.** Motion to Adjourn made at 8:17 p.m. by M.Reynolds, Seconded by J.Duncan. All in favor and none opposed. Motion carries. **Meeting ADJORNED.**

Monica Mathews Reynolds

Monica Mathews Reynolds, Trustee and Recording Secretary