



Board Meeting Minutes

Meeting Information	
Date:	August 20, 2014
Time:	7:00pm
Location:	Renaissance Academy, 3435 North 1120 East, Lehi, UT. 1 st floor in the Rousseau room (southwest corner classroom)
Next Meeting:	September 17, 2014

Attendee Information			
Board Members		Invited Guests	
Attended	Name	Attended	Name
x	Carolyn Bayly, Board Chair	x	Jared VanOrden
x	Mariah Fralick, Board Vice Chair	Public in Attendance	
x	Heather Miller, Secretary	Attended	Name
x	Ryan Hunter, Treasurer	x	Drew Wright
x	Cameron Sabin, Board Member	x	Stacy Aldridge
x	Jennifer Orten, Board Member	x	Sarah Christensen
Schoolhouse		x	Shelby Dieters
Attended	Name	x	Dylan Hunter
x	Mark Ursic, Executive Director		
x	Stephanie McCappin, Dean		
x	Holly Lyons, Executive Assistant		

Motions and Approvals			
#	Motion made by	Motion	Vote
1	Ryan Hunter	Ryan Hunter made a motion to approve the minutes from the March 19 th Board Meeting.	Mariah Fralick seconded the motion. All voted in favor. The minutes were approved.
2	Mariah Fralick	Mariah Fralick moved to approve the grading policy as presented, and allow administration to roll out the program in a timeline that is appropriate for each grade.	Jennifer seconded. All voted in favor.
3	Cameron Sabin	Cameron Sabin motioned that the board recommend to administration that a follow up Facebook post, RAPP message, or Aspire email go out to follow up on the issue of shoes in the Dress Code.	Mariah seconded the motion. All voted in favor.
4	Cameron Sabin	Cameron Sabin made a motion to table all other items a, b, c, and e under Items of Business.	Ryan seconded in order to move onto board goals. All in favor.
5	Ryan Hunter	Ryan Hunter moved to go into closed session.	Mariah seconded. All voted in favor by name.

6	Ryan Hunter	Ryan Hunter moved to close the meeting.	Mariah seconded. All in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 11:20pm.
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Time	Topic/Subject Discussion
7:04pm	Welcome and Call to Order.
7:05pm	<p>Public Comment</p> <p>Dylan Hunter, who is a Renaissance Academy student working on a pin for scouts called the Scholar Award, came to ask five people how to improve the school. Ryan asked Dylan to first share one way he thinks the school could be improved. Ryan responded, “Obey the rules.”</p> <p>Dylan directed his question first to Carolyn. Her response was that it would be helpful to have a student crossing guard program, like a Safety Patrol team, that would give students a new responsibility.</p> <p>Ryan’s answer to Dylan’s question was that more school spirit would be an improvement. Stephanie’s Phoenix 200 Club program was mentioned here.</p> <p>Stephanie also suggested school spirit, that kids come to school with a good attitude, and that everyone do their best to follow the rules.</p> <p>Mark said a way to improve the school would be to find a way to get feedback from students about how to reduce bullying and make it feel like a safer place for kids.</p> <p>Jennifer said that improvement could come from an ever-growing After School Programs, and that she looks forward to seeing the After School Program’s improvement this year.</p> <p>Mariah suggested more student-run programs, such as the Safety Patrol, or a Student Council.</p>
7:11pm	<p>Approval of Minutes</p> <p>Ryan moved to approve minutes from June, July and August. Mariah seconded, all in favor.</p>
7:18pm	<p>Grading Policy Presentation</p> <p>Shelby Dieters introduced herself. She has been in the district for twelve years, and this is her third year at a Charter school. Shelby gave the introduction to the grading policy presentation, explaining how a grading policy could work as a tool for the teachers.</p> <p>Next Stephanie McCappin presented the policy & summary objective. She went on to describe the 1-4 proficiency scale, and she explained that report cards will ask for personalized feedback and account for behavior and responsibility skills. Stephanie explained for the board the difference between summative and formative assessment, and she talked about how the grading would assess students for behavior and accountability. Shelby summarized that ‘formative’ is guidance towards an end goal, and ‘summative’ is the evaluation of the end goal.</p> <p>The Board expressed concern that the grading scales for proficiency and behavior were both expressed in a numerical format—proficiency scores expressed on a scale of 1-4 and behavior on a scale of 1-3. The Board pointed out that some parents might be confused as to why their well-behaved child is ‘only’ achieving a ‘3.’ Shelby responded with the suggestion that maybe a letter grade scale for behavior, such as E, S, N, could be used to alleviate confusion. Report cards would come out quarterly.</p>

Stephanie demonstrated the differences from traditional grading practices. Shelby explained what summative reporting looks like (on Aspire), and she explained the benefits, such as holding teachers accountable for the progress and tracking of their students. She showed the spreadsheets she regularly uses to assess her students.

Cameron asked about what feedback they have been getting from teachers about this grading policy. Mark answered to say they'd asked teacher for suggestions about how to modify for grade levels like Middle School and Kindergarten. Stephanie commented that the breakdown in grading is similar to psych testing, with several areas of standard breakdown. The formative breakdown for the whole class would go out to parents periodically so they can see how the whole class is doing and how their student is doing in relation to the class. Stephanie said grading policy would get implemented over time, and that implementation strategies will vary from grade to grade.

Stacy Aldridge commented on how Shelby helped to implement the standards based grading- she extolled the value of breaking down the grades so that students who have As and seem to be doing well aren't missing areas where they need improvement.

Cameron asked about the teacher mentoring program and Mark responded that in addition to the mentoring program, we've added/hired team coaches (experienced teachers) for grade-level teams with mostly new teachers.

Cameron asked for a discussion of how formative/summative translates for the middle school students who have to have grades that make sense for high school. The response from the Administration was that the Middle School teaching team has so far been very cooperative and willing to adopt the policy and adapt it to make it practical. There was further discussion of the meaning of summative vs. formative grading.

Mariah and Stephanie parsed out how the grading scale would work for younger grades. Mariah asked why the Elementary grades would not be as specific as the Middle School grades, and Stephanie explained that the only reason the Middle School grades would work in the decimal system from 0.0-4.0 is to help transition their grades for High School.

Cameron detailed his concerns for the consistency of behavioral consequences. The elementary school and Middle School should have separate but expected consequences, so that behavioral consequences are expected and not changing from grade to grade. He said, some kids will ask, "why should I care about behavior grades?" How does the school reinforce the validity of those grades, and what consequences could be implemented to make behavior grades meaningful? Stephanie responded that the grading policy is only the first step to streamlining all consequences, for grading and discipline. Caroline pointed out that those students who currently don't care probably would not be made to care by a change in grading policy. A discussion of how to motivate students to care about behavior consequences ensued. Shelby described how formative assessments could help parents see specific areas in which students could improve their habits and behavior. Mark shared his opinion that when teachers factor behavior into grading however they want, grades become meaningless.

Cameron spoke about how he believes homework should still be important and he thinks the policy should be implemented for all grades right away. Carolyn expressed her disappointment that the MS is going to have different standards from the Elementary School (Cameron and Carolyn agree that only 9th

	<p>grade really needs traditional grading).</p> <p>Mark and the public discussed Friday school purposes. Mark said that part of the purpose was for the teachers as well as the students. Mark and Stephanie explain briefly how the Friday school session will differ from last year.</p> <p>Mariah expressed her desire for strong communication to parents about what is happening with the grading policy. She said it is vital to give parents information about what is being changed and what purposes the change serves. Mark talked about how some parts of the policy will need to be streamlined or ironed-out before information goes out. Stephanie suggested that grading policy changes could be announced in the RAPP.</p> <p>Mark said that there would need to be a parent meeting.</p> <p>Shelby talked about how grade entry would have to work differently for 6th grade, because of rotations. Mark pointed out that 4th, 5th and 6th grade do different types of rotations. Many adjustments would need to be made to the grading program or to the rotation practice to make things fit.</p>
8:57pm	<p>Motion. Mariah moved to approve the grading policy as presented, and allow administration to roll out the program in a timeline that is appropriate for each grade. Jennifer seconded. All voted in favor. The grading policy was approved.</p>
8:58pm	<p>Jared VanOrden gave the Red Apple Update He first introduced himself as the new Business Manager</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -The operating margin right now is at 0, and the debt service ratio is at 1.01. -It looks like there is a budget for enrollment of 715 students. -The Expense category is really good. He commented that RA compensates the teachers really well. -Revenues and expenses are normal for the beginning of the school year. -If the school can recruit 14 more kids by October 1st, and make that deadline, that will retain \$70-80,000 (not retained otherwise). -Enrollment of 729 is the goal, and 740 is the cap.
9:09pm	<p>Renaissance Academy Performance Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Mark presented to the board the ways in which we are keeping with the performance goals of the school. For the reading program, a reading specialist position was added, and it is her job is to look at the reading program and determine changes that need to be made. The new reading specialist is Tracy Scott, previously the Middle School Language Arts teacher. -Utah state scores had 50-60% as NOT proficient in the common core. -The FEC is planning another book fair and an author night. -Posters of Mentor Models will be added to the cafeteria. -The Afterschool Programs meeting is coming up next week. -There will be character education training for two new 6th grade teachers. -Mark talks about potential reading score improvement strategies. With the new approach to reading, hopefully the school will see more consistent, readable data.
9:40pm	<p>Middle School Fees, Schedules There were no increases in the fees. Fees were either lowered or remained the same as last year.</p>
9:33pm	<p>Middle School Enrollment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7th - 49 8th - 29 9th - 18

	Current total for the school - 690
9:40pm	<p>Expansion Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -No contractor has yet been hired, but the school has obtained a permit from Lakeside Construction. -The school needs general contractor who focuses on large remodels, -By Friday (8/22) the permit package for the portable will be complete.
9:46pm	<p>Dress Code - Shoes</p> <p>When school started this year, the school was stricter with the dress code than before, which upset parents and students who had purchased shoes that were acceptable last year, but not accepted this year.</p> <p>The board engaged in a lengthy discussion with the Administration about the communication and disciplinary action (students were asked to call home to ask for shoes that conformed to dress code) that occurred between administration, students, and parents. The FEC Facebook page received a lot of traffic in discussion of what shoes are in compliance with the school dress code.</p> <p>Ryan thanked the Administration for enforcing the dress code. Cameron and Ryan advised that school house policy be communicated clearly, and Cameron warned to respond carefully and to appreciate the concerns of parents. Both supported continuing with a more disciplined approach to the dress code.</p>
10:13	<p>Motion. Cameron motioned that the board recommend to administration that a follow up Facebook post, RAPP message, or Aspire email go out to follow up on the issue of shoes in the Dress Code. Mariah seconded the motion. All voted in favor.</p>
10:18pm	<p>Motion. Cameron made a motion to table all other items a, b, c, and e under Items of Business. Ryan seconded in order to move onto board goals. All in favor.</p>
10:19pm	<p>Board Goals</p> <p>The Board said they would set a teacher retention goal and a student retention goal, and they would also like to make goals for Board professional development.</p> <p>Cameron asked Mark if he would have any priorities or thoughts about things to accomplish with the Board. Cameron said his priorities would be for the simulator to get done, and for publicity on that to get out before the end of the year, in order to increase the retention rate.</p> <p>The Board suggested setting the goal for generating buzz about Renaissance in the public. “We need to build a stronger sense of brand and flow,” and this year would be a good benchmark for that to happen at Renaissance.</p> <p>Cameron and Carolyn discussed aiming at a reasonable retention rate. Ryan suggested that the student retention goal be set by grade.</p> <p>Cameron-said there should be a “plan of attack,” and knowledge of how the goals could benefit the school. Ryan suggested going to the student body to see how the school could improve, then go to the staff, find out how they could all buy in. The Board discussed the possibility of coming early to the next board meeting to set up these goals. Ryan suggested that each of the stakeholders should be there- students, parents, teachers.</p>
10:43pm	<p>Motion. Ryan moved to go into closed session. Mariah seconded. All voted in favor by name.</p>
11:20pm	<p>Motion. Ryan moved to close the meeting. Mariah seconded. All in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 11:20pm.</p>