



Board Meeting Minutes

Meeting Information	
Date:	March 19, 2014
Time:	7:00pm
Location:	Renaissance Academy, 3435 North 1120 East, Lehi, UT. 1 st floor in the Music room (Claudio's Studio Room 112)
Next Meeting:	April 16, 2014

Attendee Information			
Board Members		Invited Guests	
Attended	Name	Attended	Name
x	Carolyn Bayly, Board Chair	x	Matt Lovell
x	Mariah Fralick, Board Vice Chair	x	Julie Walker
x	Heather Miller, Secretary	x	Drew Wright
x	Ryan Hunter, Treasurer	x	Victor Williamson
x	Chris Wareham, Board Member	Public in Attendance	
x	Cameron Sabin, Board Member	Attended	Name
x	Jennifer Orten, Board Member	x	Angel Holmes
Schoolhouse		x	Tracy Scott
Attended	Name	x	Jen Taylor
x	Mark Ursic, Executive Director	x	Veronica Rodriguez
x	Stephanie McCappin, Dean	x	Emily Bayly
x	Holly Lyons, Executive Assistant	x	Veronica Rodriguez
		x	Joshua Rodriguez
		x	Mica Havley

Motions and Approvals			
#	Motion made by	Motion	Vote
1	Mariah Fralick	Mariah Fralick made a motion to approve the minutes from the February 19 th Board Meeting.	Ryan Hunter seconded the motion. All voted in favor. The minutes were approved.
2	Ryan Hunter	Ryan Hunter made a motion to approve the 2014-2015 Calendar.	Jennifer Orten seconded the motion. All voted in favor. The calendar was approved.
3	Cameron Sabin	Cameron Sabin made a motion to approve a budget of \$55,000 for the purchase of a new math curriculum, plus whatever amount is necessary for the shipping and handling.	Chris Wareham seconded the motion. All voted in favor.
4	Cameron Sabin	Cameron Sabin made a motion to amend the State Land Trust Plan to approve the	Mariah Fralick seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

		expenditures of funds for two mobile labs.	
5	Ryan Hunter	Ryan Hunter motioned to move to a closed session.	Jennifer Orten seconded the motion. All voted in favor.
6	All Board Members	All Board members voted in favor of Carolyn Bayly remaining on the board for another term.	
7	Mariah Fralick	Mariah Fralick made a motion to close the Board Meeting.	Ryan Hunter seconded the motion. All voted in favor by name. The meeting was adjourned at 11:05pm.

Time	Topic/Subject Discussion
7:10pm	Welcome and Call to Order
7:12pm	Approval of Minutes There was no change or addition to the minutes from the February 19, 2014 Board Meeting.
7:12pm	Motion. Mariah made a motion to approve the minutes from the February 19, 2014 Board Meeting. Ryan seconded the motion. All voted in favor.
7:17pm	2014-2015 School Year Calendar There was no change or addition to the 2014-2015 School Year Calendar.
7:17	Motion. Ryan made a motion to approve the 2014-2015 School Year Calendar. Jennifer seconded the motion. All voted in favor.
7:19pm	<p>Math Committee Curriculum Presentation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -The Math committee has been using established criteria to review math curriculum. Now they are seeking board approval of the program Go Math, which the committee voted for unanimously, and the director approved. They have also held two meetings with parents for feedback on their decision. -Go Math meets their criteria, namely <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Alignment with philosophy of the Renaissance Academy charter o Alignment with Utah state standards o Strong presentation of material and correlation with state core objectives o Provision of support for teachers, students and parents o Material-mastery reinforcement -Go Math is a K-8 curriculum, providing consistency from grade-to-grade (9th graders do high school math). -Districts with higher math scores, such as Cash County--which represents a similar demographic to Renaissance Academy--saw a 3 and 4% jump in grade scores with a change to Go Math. -Students will have online accounts; all material can be accessed digitally. -Go Math Academy is an aspect of the program for K-6 that can either reteach concepts or challenge individual students, depending on their needs. -The program supports online teacher support-assessments, lesson plans, and professional development podcasts and videos. - Models and Kits provide interactive visuals to reinforce concepts. This aligns with the Renaissance mission of experiential learning. -At the end of each semester, the curriculum provides a unit that will get kids a jump-start into the following year's standards. -Go Math teaches standards to appropriate depth. -The cost is under \$55,000 for grades K-8, \$22,000 less than its closest competitor. Hopefully shipping costs could be mitigated if Renaissance Academy did the pickup. The 6-year contract includes

	<p>consumable text and workbooks, online materials, teacher editions, strategic intervention, enrichment and assessment books, online lesson planners, professional development videos, ELL resources, interactive whiteboards (PowerPoints of each lesson), iTools (math manipulatives for models), online tests, Destination Math for students above level, Soar to Success for students who need reinforcement, animated math models with Curious George and Carmen Sandiego, Math-on-the-spot with Professor Burger videos for middles school, and classroom extras such as math boards, manipulative kits, and games. Also there are 3 Go Math-related apps for the parents to purchase that give kids a fun way to practice.</p> <p>-Immersion classes will still use the state program, because it's translated into Chinese. It follows the same general timeline as Go Math. Starting in 4th grade they have math in English, so this difference only affects 3 teachers.</p> <p>-Julie presented the Go Math product (workbooks, textbooks, etc.) to the board and public.</p> <p>-Drew Wright has been testing the program in his classroom. Mariah asked how it compares to the curriculum the school has been using. Drew commented that it presents similar math philosophies, but with more reinforcement, and that the kids respond well to the online version. Rather than using transparencies and send-home paper homework, they can access all work and lessons online. The students this year have been grasping the concepts better than his previous year of students. Drew likes the RTI, because he can group the students accordingly, to cater to student needs and challenges.</p> <p>-Victor Williamson has also had good experiences with Go Math, at another school. There is an individualized approach, so students can work at their own paces, and many kids go through to higher grade-level math. Seventh-graders can do accelerated math, and then by eighth grade start into high school math.</p> <p>-Victor and Heather discussed a disappointment in the lack of a traditional math approach. However, the instruction must focus on what is tested in the common core, and traditional math can be used to supplement the curriculum.</p> <p>-The Board discussed parent resources, and Julie assured that, in Go Math, parents will have access to all parts of a lesson that the student does.</p> <p>-Victor requested acquiring the program before Summer to prepare teachers and give them a chance in the summer for professional development.</p> <p>-The Board talked costs of Go Math: The expense will be pushed into next year. The cost, cash-wise, will come out of this year, but on the reports, the money can come from the budget next year. Perhaps we could purchase the program piece-by-piece as-needed.</p> <p>-Current math textbooks will go on sale online by state law.</p>
7:31pm	<i>Heather arrived</i>
7:36pm	<i>Matt from Red Apple arrived</i>
7:48pm	<i>Cameron Sabin arrived</i>
8:04pm	<p>Motion. Cameron motions to approve a budget of \$55,000 for the purchase of a new math curriculum, plus whatever amount is necessary for the shipping and handling, to the extent that we have to use their services. Chris seconded the motion. All in favor.</p>
8:09pm	<p>Red Apple Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To get the best rating on our bond we need 1.25 operating margin and debt services ratio. In order to reach that goal, as much cost of curriculum as possible will be pushed into next year's budget. -There is room in the forecast, and we can bring some of the forecast numbers even lower. -The biggest expense remaining this year is the 3% profits share for employee retirement. -There will be a significant expenditure for land trust monies. That will be all technology-related. -Matt suggested moving money from curriculum to technology/hardware budget items. And there will remain opportunity to transfer more from curriculum to technology, as-needed.

	<p>-The Board and Administration aim to streamline the use of Land Trust monies to technology.</p> <p>-Our salaries and benefits are currently under budget, but will not remain under after the 401K contribution.</p> <p>-October 1st is the audit date for looking at student population. Current enrollment is 686.</p>
8:22pm	<p>School Land Trust Presentation</p> <p>-This discussion reviewed use of funds from both fiscal years 2012-2013 and 2013-2014.</p> <p>-2012 was a big purchase of computers for computer labs, but there was still a carry-over of \$17,867, so added to the 2013-2014 budget (\$30,291), we had \$47,858.</p> <p>-\$15,750 went to teacher iPads in 2013.</p> <p>-This year we planned to buy teacher laptops, but iPads and Smartboards were what we ended up doing first, because teachers didn't feel a need for updating their personal laptops.</p> <p>-So some money has carried over from last year <i>and</i> we still have plenty of money from just this year to buy laptops for the classroom.</p> <p>-A research team that Mark worked with agreed that 3rd graders need to start typing. Two mobile labs for this and other similar purposes will cost about \$23,000.</p> <p>-The original plan will need to be amended twice.</p> <p>-A report is due to the state on the 15th of this month, saying how we spent last year's money. We have about \$14,000 left, and Mark will have a plan for the use of that money in the near future, after working more with the research team.</p>
8:34pm	<p>Motion. Cameron makes a motion to amend the State Land Trust Plan to approve the expenditures of funds for two mobile labs. Mariah seconded the motion. All voted in favor.</p>
8:36pm	<p>Accreditation Update</p> <p>-The Accreditation Committee (PLC) has put up two proposals</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o First, they put together a contract/job-description of what an advocate needs to do. We were overly critical in our self-evaluation with the PLC, and said kids need assigned advocates. But Mark wondered if that is different from what a teacher should already be doing, and he did not want to add another layer of responsibility for the teachers, especially if it is not necessary. o Their next submittal proposed the acquisition of data on student performance. That is why the Board had been talking about student portfolios. However, now we can gather this material with Aspire, and teachers can see the history of their students as they move up into their class. <p>-The PLC also wanted a survey sent out to teachers, for a vote on what they wanted training on in their professional development. Mark wrote the committee leader back expressing his disagreement with this approach. Mark pointed out that teacher observations and evaluations give a better indication of what is needed in professional development.</p>
8:48pm	<p>Organizational structure</p> <p>-Mark explained that the organizational structure is currently a work in progress, and a draft was submitted for observation of its current state.</p> <p>-The objective is to distribute responsibilities in a more balanced way, so individuals get the supervision they need. One idea is to break up committees, so they work with and report to others with shared responsibilities.</p>
8:50pm	<p>Amendment Request</p> <p>-Data has been added to the Amendment Request, namely Item 7, the Charter Goals.</p> <p>-DIBELS and CRTs are mentioned in our charter. These goals were submitted in 2012, and will have to be changed again, once the SAGE results come out. Changes and re-writing of goals need to happen, because the goals include/center around CRTs, and we don't perform CRTs anymore.</p>
8:54pm	<p>Update on Friday School</p> <p>-Veronica Rodriguez, a member of the public in attendance, offered her comment: she included positive</p>

feedback for the Phoenix 200 Club, because she likes that kids are positively reinforced. However, she did not agree with several details in the operation of Friday School. She said it “felt like detention.”

-At that point the board and administration responded to the comment, stating their concern and sense of urgency in responding to the 60% of middle school students who are failing.

-Stephanie gave a report on the progress of Friday School. The program has been running for three weeks and still has several kinks that will be worked out as it continues. In the following week, four less students will attend Friday School. There are still around fifty kids in Friday School, but many are now failing one or two classes, rather than the four or five they were failing, before Friday School started.

-Stephanie has sensed that some students are overwhelmed and may need one-on-one help. So Carolyn suggested parents come in to back up the supervision (currently two teachers supervise two separate classrooms of Friday School attendees). Some students may need re-teaching, which parents wouldn't be involved in, but for those who are overwhelmed, perhaps parents could provide moral support and assistance with organization of time and priorities.

-Stephanie suggested that rather than have parents assist with Friday School, parents could supervise Friday activities in order to free up more teachers.

-Friday School is presented as mandatory so that the students feel their own sense of urgency, but parents can choose to opt their students out of the program.

-Jen Taylor, middle school Science teacher, presented her findings from talking to students: some really liked to have the time aside from the 1-3, but many said, “it's too long!” The students say they are not motivated to be productive while in Friday School. “A lot of students consider it party time” because they can visit with students they don't normally have class with. Jen said that from the teacher point-of-view, it's hard to manage, and it requires excessive micromanaging of grades. Jen stated her disappointment that there is currently very little chance to do re-teaching and suggested that maybe we need more people in the room. Another set-back is that teachers can't pull up grades for any subjects other than what they teach, which impedes teachers in providing timely support and feedback during the day. Mariah pointed out that students can pull up their own grades on their iPads to remedy this situation.

-Mark addressed the academic priorities and obligation of Renaissance Academy. The school has a responsibility to provide the students with enough time in the classroom and access to teachers to learn material and complete assignments. Our responsibilities to the student come before everything. This plan gives students access to teachers and classroom time. Also, there are consequences built-in to Friday School--there's an opportunity cost for students--as they miss out on the activities that are typically planned for Friday, they experience the consequence of procrastinating their assignments.

-Ryan pointed out that the Board's role is to mandate that changes need to happen, but, after that, it is up to the Administration to come up with a way to make those changes occur.

-Mariah commented that the program needs time. Her biggest concern is the need for intervention on behalf of students with failing grades.

-One way to move the program forward is to constantly gather data in order to see what changes bring about improvement and produce desirable results.

- Stephanie asserted that giving 7th and 8th grade incentives, such as credits (as in 9th grade), might push them to take their time and work seriously, rather than expecting to float into 9th grade.

9:26pm

Afterschool Programs

- A survey will go out to parents to gauge interest in these programs:
- o Junior Lego League (for ages 6-9, 6 kids/team)
 - o First Lego League (for ages 9-14, 6 kids/team): League-members build Lego structures with robots inside them, and enter into competition with leagues from other schools. Many parents, some with students in Lego Leagues at other schools, have mentioned interest in Lego League

	<p>for Renaissance Academy.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ TSA: Technology Student Association is for middle school students who have interest in competing in a variety of events. Victor Williamson and a pre-established team would run and incorporate this program into Renaissance Academy. ○ Coder Dojo (for ages 5-17): This afterschool program runs on volunteer coders from the community. Kids learn computer programming. ○ Programming for Farpoint Academy: Middle school students do programming for the spaceship simulator. A programming class already runs here on Saturday morning in the Epcott lab. Currently there are no Renaissance Academy kids in the program, so we'd like to generate more interest and involvement in this program in the future. ○ Basketball: Chris Miles (played for BYU) runs several camps in the valley and would like to conduct a camp at Renaissance Academy. The camp happens 1-2 nights/week, usually 4-8pm, and is offered for third grade and up. It would be available to students from all schools, but primarily we'd like it to run on Renaissance Academy students. Revenues from the camp would be split with Miles's program and the school. The school could get 20% revenue, and Miles offered to groom kids for a middle school basketball team. ○ Chess Club: the survey would assess if there remains any interest in bringing back a Chess Club to our afterschool offerings. ○ Farpoint: Farpoint is coming to the school despite survey findings, but we want to gage who will be interested in what aspects of it. There are many opportunities offered to students with this program, and we want to find out where Renaissance kids would be most engaged. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Victor would bring with him a staff to run the space center -Students get put into flight teams. Missions are tied into school curriculum. Space missions are great motivators to kids. Teachers can use them as incentives for grades. -For the students/parents, cost for participation in this program would include fieldtrips and minimum costs for labor to run the program. -The simulator will be used for private events, and the capitol gained from those events can go towards operational costs. <p>-Mark gave a presentation of the Farpoint spaceship simulator space. -Construction of the simulator would begin right after school ends for the semester.</p>
9:53pm	<i>Mariah leaves</i>
9:54pm	Board tables item f.
9:55pm	<p>Executive Limitations 8—Mark suggests that to improve compliance, the Board needs to be getting all reading materials one week in advance. All legal and reporting documents should get to the Board in preparation for discussion. Something should be coming to the board weekly, regarding student grades, snapshots of school performance.</p> <p>-Amendment request discussed: Regulation in reporting compliance has been delegated to Mark, but does the board have stewardship over reports? And what is the complete list of reports that need to be delivered to the board? The Board should to follow a process regarding report regulation.</p>
10:04pm	<p>Delegation to the CEO Carolyn introduced the topic, and the board read policies 4 and 5.</p>
10:06pm	<p>Motion. Ryan motioned to move into a closed session as described under Section 53-4-204 for “(a) a discussion of the character, professional competence, or physical or mental health of an individual and (d) strategy sessions to discuss the purchasing, exchange, lease or sale of real property.” Jennifer seconded the motion. All voted in favor.</p>
10:29pm	<i>Mariah came back</i>
11:01pm	<i>Back in open session.</i>

11:03pm	Vote concerning Carolyn's board membership. All Board members voted on private ballots. All voted in favor of Carolyn Bayly remaining on the board for another term.
11:05pm	Motion. Mariah moved to close the meeting. Ryan seconded. All in favor. Meeting adjourned.