

Renaissance Academy

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Board Meeting Minutes

May 30, 2012

7:20 pm

Location: Renaissance Academy; 3435 North 1120 East, Lehi; 1 floor in the Rousseau Room (southwest corner classroom). Public Welcome.

Board Members in Attendance: Mariah Fralick, Ryan Hunter, Cameron Sabin, Heather Miller, Chris Wareham and Carolyn Bayly.

Welcome and Call to Order: Carolyn Bayly, Chair

Advisory Board: Mark Ursic, Executive Director and Brenda Hedden

Executive: Thomas from RedApple.

Public In Attendance: Shelly Fraser, Laura Blaker, Dorene Turner, Cyndy Garrison, Heather Groom, Jenny Morris, Crystal Hahn, Michelle Anglesey, Drew Wright, Anne Bills, Joylynn Fenton, Laura Blaker, Jen Styler, Kerry Elder

Public Comment: Heather Groom made the comment that if Spalding isn't taught 100% (at least 2 hours a day) you aren't reaping the best benefits. She concluded that Renaissance focuses on World Language and we don't have that much time to dedicate to Spalding.

Approval of Minutes: Ryan Hunter motioned to approve the April 25, 2012 minutes. Mariah Fralick seconded the motion. All voted in favor of approving the board minutes. Approved unanimously.

Items of Business:

Language Arts Curriculum Review: The curriculum review committee consists of Shelly Fraser, Laura Blaker, Jenny Morris, Tracy Scott, Tina, Kerry Alder, Jen Styler, Crystal Hahn, Michelle Anglesey, Drew Wright, Anne Bills and Joylynn Fenton. They were asked of the school house to review the curriculum. The research has taken most of the year to accomplish this review. Answer 3 essential questions:

1. Engaging in Best Practices?
2. Best practices for student learning?
3. Is Our school aligned in LA in the best way to benefit students?

They followed the USOE rubric, publishers came to the school and implement, compare and contrast, as well as CRT data, and cost. Horizontally and vertically

aligned. See the paperwork included in the manila folder of this folder for their presentation.

Nebo School District and Provo School District had adopted the Treasures LA program and Michelle Anglesey was in a training: The following are reasons to switch to a new LA program.

Current Educational Theory.

Differentiated learning.

Three Tier program and integrated within the program.

Implementation – go to the website and parents can work with their children.

Vertical and horizontal learning.

Mrs. Styler reviewed the Spalding curriculum, contrasting the benefits and the wholes in the system. Spalding is used more so as a spelling program rather than what it was intended to use. Daily Grams are the workbooks currently being used. Junior Great Books are also used in the classroom. Six Traits Writing program is also used to help students write. At Renaissance we want students who are engineers, linguists, and technology. As this particular teacher began teaching the Treasures program, she noticed an immediate change in the attention of her class, especially her boys. They were engaged in learning about astronauts and she commented the excitement of the class overall. They used the vocab words in their writing and classroom discussion.

Secondary Educators focus in 6th grade and up turns toward literary & critical analysis. Recommendation for 6-9 th grade to use the text grammar, sentence structure, etc what has been established by the standards.

Elementary Solution: See scoring in folder. Treasures adopted from K-5. Phenom learning through dictionary phonetic writing. Taught Science and History and was all on standard core. Training for the teachers is in August and a few months later trainers come back and answer any questions.

For Special Education: Treasures has the ability to assist special needs children with their curriculum and technology needs. See folder for more information. Spalding program ranked lower in CRT testing versus Treasures and Journeys. Rating against other schools who have adopted Treasures: see the chart. Renaissance's CRT scores are good but the committee feels that they can improve and increase into the 90's.

Joylynn Fenton reviewed the cost of Spalding \$17, 909 to implement the program. This cost includes training, books, daily grams, student notebooks, replacement posters, cards, reading practice books and kits, etc. We tried to quantify the number of copies we make for each grade, etc. and so we aren't including copies in the equation.

There were several questions asked by the board and were answered by the Renaissance LA Review Curriculum Committee. Mariah asked a specific question about the Junior High Curriculum and how it will be written by the teachers and maintained across the other subjects. It was also asked when and if Treasures will go digital so the classroom will be paperless.

Mariah Fralick made a motion to accept the recommendations of the LA Curriculum Review Committee in adopting the Treasures Curriculum for K-5. Chris Wareham seconded the motion. Ryan Hunter suggested that monies be allotted for the 6-9th grade Junior High curriculum. Cameron asked Mark if he had any recommendations for a payment plan. Mark has worked with the finance team and Renaissance can pay for the program. All voted unanimously to pass curriculum change.

Meeting reconvened at 9:15 pm after a 10 minute recess.

Red Apple Financial Report- Thomas handed out budget report from the end of April and announced that today the federal government sent the IDA check which is the remaining for the school funding. Thomas explained that Aides will be paid at the end of the month. Title 1 is federal money to help students in the middle area which are considered at risk. Title 1 program is an extensive program and a very restricted program and with tracking Title 1 students, hold parent meetings, and additional reports and restrictions is over a page long. Mark and Thomas decided to waive those funds and possibly not go after those funds next year. The budget is included in the file. The final budget must be approved for next year approved by June 11. June 20th will be the date of the next board meeting when the board can approve the budget. Carolyn asked that the budget be available to the public a week prior to the board meeting.

Check Signing & Purchase Cards - Ryan explained that the state suggested a best practice of having two signatures for checks. On checks of a certain size there should be two signers. It is more to be in compliance with the state. Ryan made a motion checks of 2,000 or greater starting in the fiscal year of July 1, 2012 require 2 signatures. Chris Wareham seconded the motion. Mariah Fralick made a motion to require Ryan Hunter, the treasurer, to review and approve all of Mark's V card statements in his monthly finance meeting. Chris Wareham seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Charter Amendment Timing – There are statements included in our charter that were not amended but that need to be taken out of our charter. There are things in the charter that have never been implemented since the school started. (“All of our 6th grade be fluent in Spanish, etc.) It was decided as a board that we remove those items and amend the charter on June 20th in conjunction with the budget review.

Policy review List and Guidelines: The employee handbook was broken down to voting items that meet board level concern. There are approximately 14 items that need to be reviewed. It was also discussed that the 65 other policies be reviewed during the coming year. Carolyn asked that each board member take two or three of the policies and review them for the next board meeting. She will email each board member and give them an assignment.

School House Update Items:

Employee Satisfaction Survey Results – Mark highlighted the results of the survey. The support for Brenda was very strong (effectiveness in job, communication with teachers and staff, leadership, etc.) with an increase from last year. Teachers are committed to Renaissance vision and goals with measureable improvement in comparison from last year. Red Apple scores were lower and Mark met with two of the RA employees and he will be scaling back some of those duties. The Board survey results improved from last year with timely minutes and posting of agenda on the web. The teachers would recommend Renaissance as a good place to work. The teachers are willing to put in extra time to make Renaissance a better place to work. Things have significantly improved over the year as a result of the responses from the survey. The total number survey responses were 56. Mark thinks that we focus on the growth of the school and involve the interests of the school in communicating our plans. He and Brenda will set aside time during the summer to review strategic goals for the school.

Teacher Review Program Update - Brenda has met with each teacher and plans to make assessments a better process. Mark complemented Brenda on her amazing review and how each review was so consistent. He suggested that teachers who score at a certain level, be reviewed every other year. It is definitely an improvement from past years. The tool has to be refined so it doesn't take so much of Brenda's time yet meets teachers needs.

Dual Immersion Program Update – We've named Jessica as the First Grade teacher working with the Chinese teacher in the classroom . We have a teacher for the Chinese immersion program. The parents have a video of her and how the classroom is going to be set up. She will be coming out in June for training and will meet Jessica so they can begin collaborating for the school year.

Strategic Plan Update – They are getting back the CRT scores and will meet together to review what the plan will be based on the test scores. Knowing the data now, helps guide our strategic plan with professional development, our general goals and Land Trust will all be based on this data/trend and target strategies for the year. Mark has concerns for the Middle School – 42 kids will be going to 9th grade this coming

year. Hopefully enrollment will be sustained.

Staffing Update – Cody (janitor), two elementary teachers, and a CTE position need to be filled. A Spanish teacher was hired today and has met with Jessica. The program needs more detail on learning conjugation and sentence structure so the Spanish program is strengthened. The Spanish program must be solidified so it becomes a great language program for the school. Another Arabic teacher (male) has been invited to teach. He is a Bedawin from the Siani Penninsula in his mid 30s. Renaissance also got awarded a grant which will be used as a trainee program to assist with the Chinese immersion and that person will need a place to stay. They are on a J1 Visa which is a very limited visa.

Item of Discussion:

Conference, on line training – reminder: Carolyn gave the reminder of the June 12 & 13 at the Sandy Exposition Center. It is a Utah Charter Network Conference. Mark, Carolyn, Mariah and Heather will attend both days and Ryan will attend the 2nd day.

Mariah Fralick made a motion to go into Closed Session: “A closed meeting described under Section 52-4-204 will be held for: (a) a discussion of the character, professional competence, or physical or mental health of an individual.”

In addition,

“A closed meeting described under subsection 52-4-205(1) (c) strategy sessions to discuss pending or reasonably imminent litigation.”

Moved to close session at 10:55 pm

Reconvened this board meeting at 11:30 pm and Mariah Fralick closed the meeting at 11:30 pm. Ryan Hunter seconded the motion. All voted in favor of closing the board meeting.

Our next Renaissance Academy Board meeting will be held at the school on Wednesday, June 20 at 7 pm in the Rousseau Room. Public is Welcome to attend.