

Renaissance Academy

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Board Meeting Minutes

March 7, 2012

7:10 pm

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

Board Members in Attendance: Chris Wareham, Branton Richter, Mariah Fralick, Heather Miller, and Carolyn Bayly.

Welcome and Call to Order: Carolyn Bayly, Chair

Advisory Member: Mark Ursic, Executive Director

Additional Advisors: Principal, Brenda Hedden; Thomas from RedApple.

Public Comment: Branton Richter asked if there is a plan for a crosswalk for 1200 East and 3200 North. Mark will go with Branton to the City Planning Department and talk with them.

Approval of Minutes: Mariah Fralick motioned to approve the January 25, 2012 minutes and Chris Wareham seconded the motion. All voted in favor of approving the board minutes.

Items of Business:

Approve School Land Trust Plan – Tracy Scott presented the proposed 2012-2013 School Land Trust Plan and the board asked questions regarding the mini grants for the teachers (up to \$250) and the replacement of 32 computers in the PC lab (\$20,000). The math money will be used to buy math graphing calculators and help extend Math tutoring after school which has been very successful. Also subscriptions to ALEKS. Mariah asked if feedback could be received on how beneficial the mini grants were or how the after school math tutoring is received so measurements can be accessed. Carolyn asked for more specific academic goals. Mariah asked for more measurable outcomes like ALEKS math subscriptions (15 will be purchased and our goal is to improve test scores by 3%) How many after school tutors? How many hours? The goals are great; plan must be measurable so you can see if you've met

your academic goals. (minimum of) Branton made a motion to table the School Land Trust Plan till our next board meeting, Tuesday, March 13, at 3:15 pm. Mariah 2nd the motion.

Approve Global Ends, Executive Limitations and Board Level Policy -

Executive Limitations – Branton Richter made a motion to approve the Global Ends Policy and Chris Wareham 2nd the motion. Mariah brought up the need to school improvement goals (from goals of the prior year) and plug that information into the calendar for review in July. Change the word conductive to conducive. Ryan arrived but did not vote. Motion was upheld to approve the amendments.

Board Management Delegation:

Executive Limitations Policy Amendments – This is the second half of board expectations for Mark’s role as Executive Director. It is written in “Shall Not...” language.

Board Management Delegation Process and Board Governance Policy (Including Code of Conduct) - It is important that agenda items be given to the Board chair a week before board meetings. Board members must be prepared for all meetings and understand all policies so they come prepared to discuss all issues. These are the responsibilities of the board members and the fulfillment of their positions and roles. Mariah made a motion to approve the Board Management Delegation Process and Board Governance Policy. Ryan 2nd the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Credit-Grade Recovery Policy – Brenda Hedden presented the school house plan to assist in the recovery of failing math students in grades 6-9th. K12.com (Aventa) retaking the failed class which costs \$200 per subscription per class. C-based approach – purchased 26 seats. 75-100 students are failing in math. The student can take a pre assessment test and the score has to be above an 80%. It is aligned with Utah Standards and Benchmarks. After May 31, we can start charging students and open up the lab to a first come first serve basis. NCAA accredited. Land Trust has made it clear that they do not want to sustain this program next year. Brenda hopes to have this be self-sustainable. Heather Miller made a suggestion to incentivize the program and reward the students somehow upon completion of the program. Branton made a motion to accept the Credit-Grade Recovery Policy with the change noted in the first paragraph (which may be ...). Mariah 2nd the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Working Calendar for Board Policy Review and Action Items – Branton made a motion to table this calendar for next month. Ryan 2nd the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Executive Update:

Red Apple –

Financial report through the end of February 29, 2012. Everything looks great with the school's finances. School received the Confucious Classroom Grant (Line 1930) which is a new line item. Federal money should be coming to the school by the end of April or hopefully May. Heather asked if the school was getting a new printer. Mark is purchasing 2 new printers. Thomas explained the reserves fund on the front page. There should be approximately \$300,000 in the account. The approximate cost of the printers are \$18,000 will come from the reserves fund. (1.1 debt cover ratio with \$70,000 for income for the year.) Charter Schools to refinance their bonds due to new state legislation. Our school needs to be solid and financially sound! If we qualify, our bond could be reduced by 2% points. Carolyn asked Thomas if there is a budget line item for board training. Thomas put Board Services back into the report.

Executive Update:

Lottery and Re-enrollment Update – 531 people in the lottery. 610 students returning. We are in good shape with re-enrollment. Re-enrollment numbers will come down from 94% to possibly 84% being realistic. Wednesday, March 28 will be the lottery. Those families will be notified by March 31.

Math and Credit Recovery - Alecks has been purchased. Students have been assigned class time to work on their math recovery. Only a few kids have been signed up but no student has logged in to the program.

Evaluation Tools /Strategic Plan: Mark will discuss Strategic Plan at the next meeting. Would Mark like a mid-year evaluation? Yes, so he knows where he stands with the Board and what adjustments should be made.

Teacher Evaluation is 100 % positive feedback from staff and going well. Teachers are being challenged and this is a new experience for the teachers not to have a scheduled time. Brenda's goal is to get an accurate evaluation of their teaching. Evaluations will be given to Mark at the end of the month.

Dual Immersion Funding Update: Things are looking better. Mark believes that the funding will be reinstated. Mark has been so impressed with the parent response to the

legislature. Congratulations Renaissance parents! Mark spent all day yesterday at the capitol meeting with legislators and sponsors of the bill, etc. Chris asked if the funding is denied how it would impact our school. The legislators have renegotiated funds and the priority has been increased.

Town Hall Meeting/Meet the Candidates with Governor Herbert

Outsource some of the work to prepare the school. The Governor will speak for 30 minutes. It has turned into a more formal event and there will be other candidates in attendance. It will begin at 12noon and to till 2 pm. How can we showcase our school? Mark needs photos of our school, students, languages, costumes that can be worn to reflect the language and culture. Is there time at the beginning to introduce our school? Mark will welcome the delegates, politicians, and families to the school.

Communication with the Board : Deleted from the agenda.

Items of Discussion:

Schoolhouse Policy Approval Schedule:

Mark will put on an Excel spreadsheet Google.Docs all the policies and the board will decide which items should be discussed with Board discussion and approval.

New Board Member Selection Process: Accepting board applications immediately and Mariah will write something to be included in the RAPP: Looking for up to 3 board members. Chris has accepted an assignment to write up questions to ask potential prospective board members. Those interested in serving as a board member should submit a letter of intent and a resume. No applications are needed. Interviews for potential board members will take place and board members are welcome to attend those interviews. April meeting vote on Board leadership and positions. They will be given 2 months of attending board meetings and what their position will be. At the June Board meeting they will be allowed to vote. The new board members will be assigned a board mentor. Ryan said he would find out if the newspaper would print our RA board openings.

UAPCS Charter Conference – June 12 & 13, 2012 and it will be held at the South Town Expo Center. The first day of the conference is focused on board members. All are board members are encouraged to attend.

Carolyn asked each board member if they would like to remain in their respective

positions on the Board. Chris is Ok moving from the Vice Chair position. Carolyn would like Mariah in that role.

Closed Session: Ryan Hunter moved to go into closed session pursuant to Utah code 52-4-205. (a) discussion of the character, professional competence, or physical or mental health of an individual. Ryan seconded that motion. The board voted by name to go into Closed Session.

Time at end of Board Meeting before going into Closed Session is 9:55 pm.

Back to Open Session: Reconvene the Board Meeting at 10:46 pm. Branton Richter motioned to close the meeting. Mariah Fralick 2nd the motion. The board meeting concluded at 10:50 pm.

Next Board Meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 25 at 7 pm in the Rousseau Room.