

Meeting Agenda and Minutes for September 24th, 2019

Renaissance Collegiate Academy-Board Meeting Tuesday, September 24th, 2019

7:00pm

Location: Via FreeConferenceCall.com

Dial in number (US) (605) 472-5291

Access Code: 446166#

Online Meeting ID:

Executivedirector73

Commencement Time: 7pm

1.Meeting Opening

1.1 Welcome-

Meeting was called to order at 7pm via FreeConferenceCall.com.

1.2 Roll Call-

Stephen Gilchrist, Veronica Reynolds, Laura Declouetsmith, Tracey Tucker, Angelena McFadden, Lashandra Hubbard, Hugh Harmon, Arthar Bush

1.3 Previous Minutes

Due to the emergency nature of the meeting the previous minutes were tabled until the next official board meeting.

1.4 Review of the School's Mission and Vision

As per usual procedure Mr. Gilchrist reviewed the mission and vision of RCA and highlighted our charter goals.

Mission

The mission of Renaissance Collegiate Academy is to provide ALL children regardless of their backgrounds, or socio-economic status with the academic foundation and ambition to earn a college degree and pursue a career. Through the transformation of students into scholars, we intend to produce critical thinkers, innovators, life-long learners and thought leaders of the next generation for whom college is a next step.

Consistent with the purpose of charter schools in South Carolina, Renaissance Collegiate Academy intends to employ flexible and innovative ways of educating children within the public school system to close the achievement gaps between traditionally low performing student groups and high performing student groups. Through providing increased learning opportunities for traditionally underserved students, Renaissance Collegiate Academy will assist South Carolina in reaching academic excellence for all children.

Vision

The reason why we exist is to ensure that matriculating eighth grade students are fully prepared for the demands and opportunities of a rigorous secondary school of their choice. The preparation that scholars will receive at RCA will greatly increase their academic and career

aspirations, and positively affect the social, cultural and economic trajectory of families in the midlands, and ultimately the communities in the Northeast Columbia areas that we serve. Scholars will graduate with the academic skills, social-emotional skills and character strengths that rival the outcomes of the best schools in the country. Thus, Renaissance Collegiate Academy ensures that – at each grade level prior to the eighth grade year – all scholars are firmly and measurably on the path to success in high school and ultimately college.

1.5 Review of the School's Goals

Goal #1-Renaissance Collegiate Academy will assist South Carolina in reaching academic excellence.

Goal #2-Renaissance Collegiate Academy will improve student learning as evidenced by individual student learning gains on a school administered nationally normed assessment. (MAP/NWEA)

Goal #3-Renaissance Collegiate Academy will increase learning opportunities for students as evidenced by the results from annual student and parent climate surveys.

Goals #4-Renaissance Collegiate Academy will establish new forms of accountability for schools, as evidenced by the school's sound financial management practices and results.

2. Matters of Decision/Discussion

2.1 Facilities Update-Report from the Facilities Committee Chair-Ms. Angelena McFadden

Ms. McFadden, the Treasurer of the Board, and a registered Real Estate Agent and the one tasked with researching the feasibility of prospective new facilities shared about her visit to the property. She talked about the convenience of its location in a highly populated multi-family community. She talked about its close access to other local public elementary and middle schools like Summit Middle and North Springs Elementary and she highlighted that this proximity answered the concerns of many parents with multiple students in multiple schools and wanting to make sure that accessing their students would be more feasible if the school relocated to the Summit Terrace Court community in question. She explained how the facility had the requisite classroom space and common study areas that would allow for each class to have the space and working room needed unlike the current situation where much of the learning space is shared space. In addition, she mentioned that the landlord was willing to work with us on a reduced rent or lease fee in comparison to our current commitment. The Board asked various questions about how the school leader felt that this space would serve the vision of the charter. Even the possibility of being able to access the North Springs Elementary playgrounds which are directly adjacent the property was discussed and the school leadership felt confident that an agreement could be gained with the local school district to co-use the playground facilities.

2.2 Charter Institute of Erskine-Report from the Executive Director/Chairman of the Board.

Mr. Gilchrist then shifted the focus of the meeting to discussing and sharing information gained from the board's requested look into the Charter Institute of Erskine. He expressed that prior to the called meeting he had asked Cameron Runyan and Mr. V., the respective leadership of the Charter Institute of Erskine to come onto the conference call and share the vision of the Charter Institute of Erskine and answer any questions that board members may have about what they

offer and that could be beneficial to Renaissance Collegiate Academy as an authorizer. Mr. Runyan took approximately 15 minutes to share the story of the Charter Institute of Erskine and to basically share about what they believe that they offer the schools that they have the opportunity to authorize. Questions were asked by the Board about what makes them different, and how we would know that they were an adequate fit for the vision, mission and goals of our charter. Mr. V reiterated that the Charter Institute of Erskine was not a one-size fits all authorizer and that they understood that each charter had unique needs, and also that some charters would find that the Charter Institute of Erskine may not be the authorizer that is a best fit for our school.

Mr. Harmon and Mr. Gilchrist were asked by the Board to give their opinions as to why the Charter Institute of Erskine may be the good fit that RCA needs and they both spoke of the level of support and seeming focus on helping small charters to develop into more independently functioning bodies. They spoke of the initiatives that the Charter Institute of Erskine although in their infancy as an authorizer has been able to accomplish and the positive feedback that has been heard from other schools that have sought and obtained transfer to the Institute.

After Mr. V. and Mr. Runyan presented they gave the RCA Board an opportunity to ask questions, and essentially exited the call. After the Charter Institute of Erskine representatives got off the call a discussion opened up with the Board about whether RCA should pursue transfer. After some discussion back and forth about the pros and cons of a change of authorizer the Board resolved to go to a vote on whether to give Mr. Harmon the authority to pursue the process of seeking transfer to the Charter Institute of Erskine given the vision alignment that was expressed in the discussion with the Charter Institute of Erskine.

3. Meeting Resolution

The Board of Directors voted unanimously to allow the Executive Director to pursue transferring our charter to the Charter Institute at Erskine (the Institute). While we are thankful for the South Carolina Public Charter School District partnership, we are expressing an interest in the charter sponsor change for a few reasons. The Board of Directors and the administrative team would like to partner with a charter sponsor that focuses exclusively on charter schools and understands best how to support us in our efforts. We could also benefit from the knowledge and guidance the Institute team would provide; understanding that collectively their staff holds sixty-four years of experience specifically in charter schools. The Institute's mission aligns with ours, and we feel confident that the Institute will look for innovative ways to support Renaissance Collegiate Academy in delivering our school's mission to students, families, and our community.

Votes-

Stephen Gilchrist, Laura Declouetsmith, Lashandra Hubbard, Veronica Reynolds, Angelena McFadden, Tracey Tucker, Arthar Bush