



RENAISSANCE COLLEGIATE ACADEMY

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**Office of the Chairman of the Board of Directors
Stephen Gilchrist**

Meeting Agenda for THURSDAY, April 30, 2020

Renaissance Collegiate Academy - Board Meeting Thursday, April 30, 2020, 6:00pm

Location: Video Conferencing via RingCentral

Commencement Time: 6:00 p.m.

1.Meeting Opening

1.1 Welcome – Chairman Gilchrist

1.2 Roll Call – **Chairman Gilchrist**

Dr. Vareva Harris

Dr. Walter Curry

LaShandra Hubbard

Angelena McFadden

Fran Boyd

Taylor Lloyd-Prestige School Solutions

Margie Reece-Prestige School Solutions

1.3 Approval of Previous Minutes for the February 25th Meeting (motion to defer due to state mandated closing)

1.4 Review of the School's Mission and Vision

Chairman Gilchrist as the usual practice of school board meetings reviewed the mission, vision, and goals of RCA. He spoke in the light of covid-19 and the mandated school closings and how this has really changed the landscape of public education as we know it. However, he reiterated the need for us to stay true to the school's guiding mission, vision and determined goals. He applauded the hard work of the staff and the administration as they dealt with a number of hurdles to get the school operating as it should.

Mission Statement: 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 Statement: 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

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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 Discussion

2.1 Finance Update and Introduction - Prestige School Solutions Inc.

He introduced the representatives of Prestige School Solutions Inc. to introduce themselves to the Board and to share on the progress of the work to bring balance to the financial condition of Renaissance Collegiate Academy. Margie Reece and Taylor Lloyd introduced themselves as the individuals that are handling our BILLS.com account and managing our P&I reporting process. They also shared the school’s most recent financial report, ledger and balance sheet. They also shared with the board the newly developed and amended budget for 2019-2020, with adjustments made for insuring that our accounts lined up the SC state charter of accounts format. They discussed how the administration has done a great job on cutting out unnecessary expenditures to lower our liabilities. Questions were raised by the Board concerning how we may be able use P&I grant funds to cover some expenses for the school. They explained that the Implementation Year Two grant funds were actually more relevant to FY 21.

The Board determined that they would formulate a Finance Committee with Angelena McFadden, Chairman Gilchrist, Dr. Vareva Harris and Dr. Walter Curry who would meet to discuss the fiduciary responsibility of helping to frame the new school year budget.

Dr. Vareva Harris raised the question of whether the budget took into consideration summer expenses related to additional instruction that may have to be offered in the Summer months due to covid-19. Ms. Boyd, Director of Operations responded to this query by saying, “She emphasized that the finance report is a picture of our financial expenses in the past up to date.” She also shared that we have applied for the PPP grant through Wells Fargo our school’s bank to help with the costs that we have incurred as a result of covid-19.

Chairman Gilchrist added to the discussion that the State Education Department was looking into ways that CARES ACT funds could be utilized to help public schools, of which charter schools are included, to offer summer enrichment programs to students who have been home and displaced from their classrooms due to covid-19.

2.2 SC Education Subcommittees Legislative Update

The legislative updates included conversations concerning some of the ideas that are being raised concerning opening schools-

-Comprehensive Virtual Learning System as well as a hands-on component that helps students that are victims of the digital divide.

-Consistency in quality of educational delivery regardless of if is virtual or paper-pencil assignments.

-Teachers needs to be more diagnostic in their approach to teaching and learning.
-Ensuring the teachers are receiving PD's around effective distance learning approaches.
-Spending more time on our teachers focusing more on depth rather than adding more days to our instructional calendar. Depth vs. Days
-Dr. Harris mentioned that SC Accelerate said that it would costs the state somewhere in the ballpark of \$4.5 million for schools to be properly prepared to open safely.

Ms. Boyd discussed that we are currently as an administrative team conducting a curriculum audit to determine how we may need to adjust our curriculum structure and approach to facilitate the needs of distance learning that may be a permanent concern of schools going forward.

2.3 Commencement Update

Ms. Boyd explained that unfortunately, we will not be able to host a commencement but the plan is to recognize each scholar for their achievements this year via distributing promotion certificates to each student. We were also asked about having a virtual graduation ceremony but as already discussed we have families that may not have broadband or internet access, and will not be able to participate in such an activity. In addition, we have scholars who have been sent to stay with relatives and those students will not be able to be a part of such a celebration. Nevertheless, our intent is to use social media to recognize our honor roll scholars, and to serve as a marketing tool for the school.

2.4 School Activity and Condition Report

-Renaissance Response to State Mandated School Closing
-End of Year Implementation and Planning
-Administrative Plan for Student Promotion/Retention
-Student Retention and Recruitment Plan
-Year II Implementation and Planning

2.5 Resolution of the meeting