



RENAISSANCE ACADEMY

Board Meeting Minutes

Meeting Information	
Date:	February 15, 2017
Time:	7:00 pm
Location:	Renaissance Academy, 3435 North 1120 East, Lehi, UT.
Next Meeting:	March 15, 2017

Attendee Information	
Board Members	Schoolhouse in Attendance
x Carolyn Bayly, Board Chair	Mark Ursic, Executive Director
x Jared Barfuss, Board Vice Chair	Stephanie McCappin, Dean of Students & Families
x Ryan Hunter, Board Treasurer	Patti Davis, Office Manager
x Monica Wonnacott, Board Member	Emily Simons, Executive Assistant
Mike Bentley, Board Member	

Motions			
#	Motion made by	Motion	Vote
1	Monica Wonnacott	To approve the 2017-18 School Calendar	Ryan Hunter seconded the vote. All voted in favor.
2	Ryan Hunter	To approve the January Board Meeting minutes with a correction.	Monica Wonnacott seconded the motion. All voted in favor.
3	Ryan Hunter	To move to closed session.	Monica Wonnacott seconded the motion. All voted in favor by name.
4	Ryan Hunter	To close the Board Meeting.	Monica Wonnacott seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Time	Topics
7:10pm	Welcome and Call to Order
7:13pm	<p>Monthly Finance Report</p> <p>Mark went over the monthly finance report with the Board. The report shows that our net income is \$55,000, the forecast is \$96,000, and the actual is \$104,000. The issue with the actual number, however, is that we still have revenue coming in and expenses. That column is to help look at individual line items and see what percentage we are at for that line item for the year.</p> <p>The past few months has been a lot of cleaning up the issues that had been found in the budget, but Mark feels really good about this budget. We have gotten to a point that this is accurate enough and usable for making decisions. A few months ago we took over from Red Apple. We didn't have a really good understanding of how they accounted for certain expenses. We had huge outstanding liabilities that weren't quantified or finalized. We didn't have enough</p>

	<p>information to make an accurate budget. However, we had a mandated statutory requirement to have a budget completed and voted upon by June 30. One of the things that we did was we provided only the minimum amount of information that was required. Once the budget was approved, they worked backwards to find where the information needed to go. They were able to work a lot of that out. Now they know every single line item and how it has been put together.</p>
7:36pm	<p>Space Center Program Update The board went with Mark to see the Space Center and observe a mission.</p>
8:07pm	<p>2017-18 School Calendar Mark presented with the academic calendar for the 2017-18 school year to the Board. This calendar differs from the Alpine School District calendar in a few ways.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Our calendar provides two weeks off at Christmas break. - Due to the two weeks at Christmas break, the days needed to be made up somewhere. We will end school a few days after Alpine School District.
8:10pm	<p>Motion Monica made a motion to approve the proposed academic calendar for the 2017-18 school year. Ryan seconded the motion. All voted in favor.</p>
8:11pm	<p>Schedule Mark and Stephanie brought up a discussion of potentially changing the school day times for various reasons. There have been studies that show that a later start in the day is more beneficial for the students. Another reason is that Fridays seem to be not as effective as the other days. Some teachers take it seriously and some don't. Some of the ideas that were proposed were...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A later start time which would be 8:30-3:00 but we would lose early out Fridays. - There is a minimum requirement by law. We have to reach 990 hours and 180 days the in school year. <p>The board discussed this and other options as well as some of the advantages to a change like this.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - For Elementary school, it would only means losing 15 minutes a day of instruction - There will be smaller amounts of time between breaks. - Research shows that students, especially in Middle School, are more productive and do better if there is a later start to the day. - One of the positive aspects to not having a short day on Friday is that there will be much more instruction.
8:38 pm	<p>Marketing Plan Review The Board went over a flyer that Mark had put together. They discussed different ideas for flyers and promotional materials. The main focus should be on the individual student. Mark and Jared will get together to come up with a marketing plan.</p>
9:18 pm	<p>Homework Survey Mark and the Board went over the homework survey that was taken by teachers. Through the survey, Admin wanted to look at the attitudes about homework. A lot of the survey was to get answers to the questions why they give homework and why they give that type of homework.</p> <p>The admin did a follow up with the teachers after they did the survey. About 51% of teachers said the students got 90-95% homework completed. In the discussion with the teachers grades K-5, they said they were referring to traditional homework, not online practices at home.</p>

	<p>Teachers need to understand the impact of homework at home. Mark asked them what types of things they think are least effective for take-home homework. The answers were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Spelling - Projects - Online assignments <p>One teacher said they assign homework because it will foster creativity. There needs to be a clearer understanding of what makes homework effective. Homework should be individualized for students. There are some easy ways to do that. In 1st grade, there should be 10-15 minutes of homework given and an additional 10 minutes for every grade above that.</p> <p>Two grants have provided free software for us to use: Imagine Learning and Aleks. We are able to continue to use them based on the amount of hours that students use them. However, they have now become optional which could mean if we do not have enough participation that we would lose the grants.</p> <p>There was a survey also put out to the middle school students that was created by a student. About 1/3 of middle school students took the survey. Some of the kids felt that the amount of homework is just right. The subject with the most responses of too much homework was math.</p> <p>Next step as admin team</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Nee to find what is appropriate homework for each age group - We have to bring the teachers along in this discussion - Going to take more details and an individualized approach - Will take until next year to have some meaningful guidelines
10:33pm	<p>Motion Ryan made a motion to approve minutes with a correction. Monica seconded the motion. All in favor.</p>
10:34pm	<p>Motion Ryan made a motion to move to a close meeting “described under Section 52-4-24 held for: (a) discussion of the character, professional competence, or physical or mental health of an individual and (d) strategy session to discuss the purchasing, exchange, lease or sale of real property.” Monica seconded the motion. All voted in favor by name.</p>
11:05pm	<p>Motion Ryan made a motion to close the board meeting. Monica seconded the motion. All voted in favor.</p>