



Board Meeting Minutes

Meeting Information	
Date:	September 16, 2015
Time:	7:00pm
Location:	Renaissance Academy, 3435 North 1120 East, Lehi, UT. 1 st floor
Next Meeting:	October 28, 2015

Attendee Information			
Board Members		Invited Guests	
Attended	Name	Attended	Name
	Carolyn Bayly, Board Chair		
x	Jared Barfuss, Board Vice Chair		Public in Attendance
x	Ryan Hunter, Board Member		
x	Mike Bentley, Board Member	Attended	Name
x	Jennifer Orten, Board Member		
x	Monica Wonnacott, Board Member		
	Chris Wareham, Board Member		
Schoolhouse			
Attended	Name		
x	Mark Ursic, Executive Director		
x	Stephanie McCappin		
x	Holly Lyons, Executive Assistant		

1			
#	Motion made by	Motion	Vote
1	Jennifer Orten	Jennifer moved to approve the minutes from the August 26, 2015 Board Meeting.	Ryan Hunter seconded. All voted in favor.
2	Ryan Hunter	Ryan moved to go into a closed session.	Monica Wonnacott seconded. All voted in favor by name.
3	Ryan Hunter	Ryan moved to close the meeting.	Monica Wonnacott seconded. All voted in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 9:26 pm.

Time	
7:10pm	<i>The Board toured the Space Ship Simulator to view progress.</i>
7:13pm	Welcome and Call to Order.
7: 23pm	Approval of Minutes Jennifer moved to approve minutes from the August 26, 2015 Board Meeting. Ryan seconded the motion. All voted in favor.
7:25pm	Red Apple Update Jared from Red Apple summarized what had been discussed at the finance committee meeting just previous to the Board Meeting. Adjustments to the allotment memo and State funding will come in the January Board Meeting. Ryan asked Jared what trends he has been seeing in the charter school industry. Jared said a lot of schools are struggling, and charter schools are becoming more competitive.

	He said he was pleasantly surprised that RA is doing so well in enrollment this year.
7:33pm	<p>State Reporting and Compliance</p> <p>Mark reviewed what has happened in the accreditation process so far. An action plan developed two years ago outlined goals for student performance and organizational stability (to come from a clear definition of faculty roles). Student advocates were also a concern during development of this plan with the accreditation committee. Mark has been preparing a report updating the status of those accreditation goals for an approaching State meeting. He said the school has seen a lot of progress in those goals.</p>
7:45pm	<p>Space Center Update</p> <p>Jared asked about the status of the space center. Mark said there are a few websites for the space center, one of them provides information about the program and how to join, one of them explains the program and asks for donations and one of them is Victor's blog. The grand opening has been pushed from October 1st to the first week of November, which will be the 25th anniversary of when Victor Williamson opened his first ship, the Voyager, which is the inspiration and namesake of the ship at RA. The opening will probably not be hosted for the general public, but will be by invitation. A recent news story on the center boosted donations, primarily through the sale of the maiden voyage.</p>
7:54pm	<p>HR update</p> <p>Mark and Stephanie are initiating the interview process for a 5th grade teacher, so that Ms. Hopkins can put together the gifted and talented program. He said they are also looking for a reading aid, which could be filled by a part time Language Arts teacher if they were to find one for 5th grade. There will also be a need for a couple permanent/long term substitutes.</p>
7:57pm	<p>Enrollment update</p> <p>Today Renaissance enrollment is at 751. This hasn't changed since the last Board Meeting, because spots opened due to withdrawals, but then they were filled with new students. Stephanie read grade level enrollment numbers for the Board. Mark said some who had been enrolled never showed up and did not give notice. Before school started, Mark emailed everyone on the waitlist asking if parents would accept offers before school started or before October 1st. Almost all who replied to his email were able to get registered and put into spots. Enrollment strategies will need to be reviewed and modified for next year.</p> <p>Last year was the lowest middle school enrollment year, but this year we've tied with our record high (in 2011). This year 8th grade has doubled in enrollment and 9th grade almost doubled. Mark raised the class caps higher for every grade level (up 10-15 kids in some grades in June and July), and that helped offset for students who were enrolled but did not show up.</p> <p>Jennifer asked if we had a way to communicate with potential new families once they've put their information in the lottery. Stephanie said that next year we need to put them on an email list right away. This year we did not secure contact information from the lottery into a consolidated group until they were enrolled and entered into Aspire, otherwise, they were primarily being contacted as individual families over the phone. Some tweaks could be made to the system to make communication easier. Jared asked if there had been any consideration for a new system for the lottery, but Mark responded that the best option would be to have Treg Bayly continue to develop it. When the lottery system was changed three years ago, the enrollment data from the previous years was lost.</p> <p>Jared said it sounds like the biggest game-changer this year was reaching out with phone calls in the enrollment process, and he suggested using parent volunteers to make those calls next year. Mark talked about appointing community liaisons for that task.</p>

8:17pm	<p>10 Year Anniversary</p> <p>Stephanie spoke about monthly marketing focus topics for emails to parents. The tagline for the celebration activities will be “Celebrating 10 Years of Excellence-How Cool is Our school!” Some ideas for focus topics include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Highlighting our award-winning teachers -A school service opportunity to donate or give back to the community -Highlighting Renaissance student alumni, possibly with an assembly for older kids to come back and tell younger kids about their World Language experiences -Highlighting field trips - A 10 year anniversary video <p>One of the aims in the 10 Year Celebration marketing would be to create awareness of the school and get some form of press release out in the community, so that a third party mention can be posted to Renaissance social media. The Board suggested and discussed ideas to create community awareness.</p>
8:28pm	<p>SAGE Results and School Grading</p> <p>Renaissance received a B for the overall school grade in State testing, the same as last year. Stephanie presented Renaissance SAGE performance in comparison to other schools and the Alpine School District. She said it was great to see that we are ahead in a lot of areas. Jennifer asked if immersion affects our Language Arts scores (the answer was not necessarily). Mark pointed out that our opt-out rate hurts our scores. Jared suggested that for marketing purposes, a positive spin could be put on the Language performance because of the school’s World Language focus. Stephanie pointed out that the middle school in comparison to district middle schools ranked 15%+ higher.</p> <p>Mark said the Science curriculum issue is prevalent. It stuck out to him because the school saw a significant increase in Math scores after implementing the new Math curriculum, but Science currently does not have a consistent curriculum. In going through the accreditation report, one of the things identified as an area for improvement was Math. The school saw marked improvement over the course of 3 years in the effort to meet that goal, and then the change in curriculum created a significant positive bump. In Science, every grade level is creating their own curriculum based on the standards, and that hurts student performance. So Science will be the next area of focus for curriculum changes.</p>
8:50pm	<p>Motion. Ryan moved to go into closed session as described under Section 52-4-204 will be held for: <i>(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.</i> Monica seconded. All voted in favor by name.</p>
9:26pm	<p>Motion. Ryan moved to close the meeting. Monica seconded. All voted in favor by name. The meeting was adjourned at 9:26pm.</p>