

**ReNEW Board of Directors
5/24/18 Meeting Minutes
Recorded by M. Clem**

I. Opening Items

A. Record Attendance and Guests

Board members present:

**Stephen Rosenthal, Mykell Clem, Randy Roig, John Marshall, Kathleen Edmonson,
Noah Hardie, Riley Kennedy**

Guest: Danalyn Hypolite (OPSB)

B. Call the Meeting to Order

S. Rosenthal called meeting to order at 5:37 p.m.

C. Approve Minutes

Members voted unanimously to approve meeting minutes from 4/19/18.

II. OPSB Transition

OPSB Representative and Director of the Office of School Performance, Danalyn Hypolite, presented to the Board an overview of the transition process, including, but not limited to, a description of the similarities and differences between the experience of OPSB and BESE authorized charter schools, specific oversight functions of the Office of School Performance, and detailed oversight efforts relative to charter board governance.

D. Hypolite explained that as part of the office's oversight duties, a team member will randomly attend charter school board meetings, ensuring that Boards are in compliance with all laws and regulations, such as the open meeting laws and providing feedback to the Board Chair and CEO. [See section on notices of non-compliances below].

Other charter board governance oversight activities include annual submissions such as financial disclosures and ethics training assurances, charter board member information, charter board meeting calendar for each school year, financial documents (budgets, annual audit, and quarterly statements), and charter board website reviews. The notice of a board meeting, including agenda, time, and location, must be physically posted on the building where the meeting will be held, at least 24 hours prior to the meeting. D. Hypolite noted that this information should also be posted on the school website at least 24 hours prior to the meeting, but it is not required. S. Rosenthal noted that ReNEW would continue to adhere to the 24 hour requirement for both the physical location of the meeting and the school website. Board minutes must be posted to the school website within 2 weeks (10 business days) after the minutes are approved by the Board.

Under the Charter School Accountability Framework (CSAF), D. Hypolite discussed all standards held for schools relative to accountability, such as organization performance, financial performance, and academic performance. The office will ensure that school leaders are aware of expectations and will notify leaders of issues needing correction. The office will also maintain data on school performance, conduct annual sight visits.

D. Hypolite explained that there has been extensive discussion relative to the renewal process for D-graded schools. Specifically, simply because a school has received a D grade does not automatically mean that the school will not qualify for renewal. Instead, OPSB would analyze the school's progress and growth index to determine whether the school advanced students forward.

Important Transition Dates:

- a. Contract and Lease Signing: S. Rosenthal noted that ReNEW has signed all contracts and leases.
- b. Board Composition Grace Period: 90 days after the contract is signed, schools are required to have at least 1 parent/legal guardian of a current student or recent graduate as a member of the Board of Directors. T. Bryant still needs to name a parent to the Board.

The Office of School Performance also plays a large role in family and community concerns and, if necessary, will issue notices of non-compliance, depending on the need that will direct schools to undertake various remedies. Remedies include: 1) an inquiry email; 2) Notice of Non-Compliance Level 1; and 3) Notice of Non-Compliance Level 2. Level 1 notices are not sent to the Accountability Committee and are not made public. On the other hand, Level 2 notices are sent to the Accountability Committee and are made public.

III. Finance Committee Report

S. Rosenthal provided a brief background on the status of charter school funding city-wide. OPSB advised schools that the MFP projection is lower than expected for the upcoming school year. While the news is disappointing, S. Rosenthal noted that ReNEW has a surplus such that the organization is not in serious trouble.

J. Marshall discussed the current financial status for the 2017-2018 school year, indicating that initially, a \$500,000 loss was projected for the year, which was later adjusted to \$932,000. However, due to the lower MFP projection the loss is now projected to be \$1.7 million. After this loss, the end of year fund balance will be \$4.9 million. So although this year's loss was much larger than expected, ReNew's fund balance will be a healthy 13% of 2018-19 expenses. The finance group will develop a budgetary plan to manage over the next few

years, especially with MCPA closing and other charter schools coming up for renewals. J. Marshall noted that additional information will be presented at the next meeting in August.

- T. Bryant noted that significant work needs to be done in re-imagining ReNEW with the late notice relative to funding.

IV. CEO Report

- T. Bryant advised the Board that there is a possibility that certain D-graded schools may still be approved for renewal. T. Bryant also discussed the planning process for the upcoming 2018-2019 school year. Specifically, plans to adopt and implement the state's Tier 1 curriculum, and provided a detailed breakdown of which vendors would be used for which subjects. The state does not have an approved curriculum for several subjects, including Math and Science, but ReNEW is looking at working with Zearn for the K-5 math curriculum and Illustrative Math for the 6-8 math curriculum. T. Bryant stated that ReNEW has not found a vendor and/or curriculum for Science, so schools must continue to work with the current textbooks and use two of the previous three LEAP data sets. Amplify is working with the state to become a Tier 1-approved vendor for Social Studies in August.
- T. Bryant also explained that there has been positive feedback and cooperation from school leaders and faculties concerning the new curriculum. T. Bryant leads a weekly team meeting comprised of 11-12 people for 4 hours to plan for the next school year. T. Bryant further emphasized her implementation strategies, such as ensuring inclusive decision making and evaluation of various curriculums and webinars, as well as encouraging leaders and faculties to attend the upcoming Teacher Leader Summit. Finally, T. Bryant advised the Board that she will follow up about coaching strategies and providing teachers with the most support. Teachers can get preview at next week Teacher Leader Summit

V. Closing Items

- S. Rosenthal noted that he would send notices of scheduled board meetings for the 2018-2019 school year. There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 6:51 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

M. Clem