

ReNEW Charter Schools

Minutes

Board Meeting

Date and Time

Thursday August 17, 2017 at 5:30 PM

Location

ReNEW McNair Campus, 1607 S. Carrollton Ave., New Orleans, LA 70018

Trustees Present

B. Weimer, J. Marshall, K. Conklin, N. Hardie, P. Parquet, R. Roig, S. Rosenthal

Trustees Absent

K. Parke, L. Sherman

Guests Present

K. Gutterrez, Nyeshia Veal, S. Satchfield, Sean Gallagher, T. Bryant

I. Opening Items

A. Record Attendance and Guests

B. Call the Meeting to Order

S. Rosenthal called a meeting of the board of trustees of ReNEW Charter Schools to order on Thursday Aug 17, 2017 @ 5:30 PM at ReNEW McNair Campus, 1607 S. Carrollton Ave., New Orleans, LA 70018.

C. Approve Minutes

J. Marshall made a motion to approve minutes from the Board Meeting on 05-18-17.

K. Conklin seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Brian Weimer made a motion to add an item the following item to the agenda: review and approval of minutes of the board meeting held May 18, 2017. The motion was seconded by John Marshall. The motion was unanimously approved. No public comments on either motion after opportunity for public comment were made.

II. Finance

A. Finance Committee Report

Finance Committee Chair John Marshall gave the Finance Committee report. Overall, the financial position of the organization is positive.

B. Adoption of 2017-2018 Budget

The proposed Budget for School Year (SY) 2017-2018 was presented by Finance Chair Marshall and CFO Tanya Bryant.

J. Marshall made a motion to to approve the School Year 2017-2018 Budget.

B. Weimer seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

No public comments on the motion after opportunity for public comment was made.

III. Academics

A. Academic Excellence Committee Report

Excluding the high school, drops in academic scores across the network (excluding high school). Not all data and score results are in yet to know what the final letter grades will be for each of the elementary schools. Social Studies test results are not in yet. New calculations on how school letter grades are given. Gives more value-add. Not sure yet what the outcome will be.

IV. CEO Report

A. CEO Report

Discussion was had as to the reasons for the drop in testing scores and what will be done to improve scores going forward. Gutterrez attributes a drop in scores last academic year to an over-emphasis on compliance with the CAP and not emphasizing mid-year assessments.

Discussion was had as to the root cause of turnover of students and turnover of employees in the previous school year, and the difficulties that turnover can cause in school culture. Board Chair Rosenthal asked to be provided turnover results compared to the year before. CEO Gutterrez will provide this for next board meeting.

CEO Gutterrez and Chief of Schools Sean Gallagher discussed what is being done currently: focus on support and building of directors, as well as engineering a culture shift around the school directors.

Board Chair Rosenthal asked CEO Gutterrez and Chief of Schools Gallagher what data they can provide to the board throughout the school year, what the board will look at and when. CEO Gutterrez and Chief of Schools Gallagher provided the following in responses. 1) "Insight" is conducted twice a year. It is a validated survey of turnover and retention of teachers developed by NTP. It allows comparison of current data to data from previous SYs. 2) Benchmarks and Step assessments results will be provided to the Board to review. First datasets will be available in October 2017. Chief of Schools Gallagher thinks that the Board will be able to see results then, and the results should be better fall 2016 results. CEO Gutterrez discussed culture assessments that are occurring currently. The Chair advised the CEO to invite NSNO attend the assessments.

Discussion was had on several points, including: 1) The RSD's rules apply until July 1, 2018. OPSB rules apply after that. 2) RCAA is showing improvements. 3) ReNEW's responsibility is to the students of New Orleans and the system and the integrity of the system. The Chief of Schools stated that the goal is for all "A" schools by 2020.

CEO Gutterrez discussed the OPSB initiative regarding sanctuary city and ReNEW's efforts regarding that initiative.

V. Closing Items

A. Adjourn Meeting

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 6:30 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

B. Weimer

Motion by R. Roig and seconded by J. Marshall to adjourn meeting. The Motion passed unanimously. No public comment on the Motion after opportunity having been made.