



## ReNEW Board Meeting - October 22, 2020 - Meeting Minutes

### I. Opening Items

Stephen Rosenthal called the meeting to order at 5:07 PM.

**Board members present:** S. Rosenthal, K. Conklin, CJ El-Dahr, M. Landry, B. Weimer, R. Kennedy, K. Edmundson, N. Hardie

**Board members not present:** S. Castellanos, M. Clem,

**Guests present:** Scott Satchfield, Tanya Bryant, Lisa Giarratano, Kael Saloy, Tammy Robicheaux

### II. Approve Minutes

K Edmundson moved to approve 8/6/2020 meeting minutes. CJ El-Dahr seconded. Members voted unanimously to approve the minutes.

### III. Public Comment Period

No public comments

### IV. Adoption of ReNEW Title IX Policy

Tanya Bryant explained this is a new policy that ReNEW must adopt as a K-12 educational organization. This policy includes language centering on sexual harassment and investigations of any alleged incidents. She explained the policy was drafted by ReNEW's attorneys. Bryant also stated that staff members listed in the document went through training session regarding this topic.

B. Weimer moved to approve the motion. R. Kennedy seconded. Board members voted to approve the motion unanimously.

### V. Academic Committee Report

Lisa Giarratano, ReNEW's Chief Academic Officer, explained that ReNEW has completed two major student assessments in recent weeks. Giarratano stated that ReNEW compared MAP results to last year. She said the results are similar. Giarratano also said winter data will be available in January.

Giarratano also discussed results from the oral reading fluency assessments. She stated students haven't experienced growth but have also avoided major drops in scoring.

Overall, Giarratano stated the results are better than the network was expecting, due to the disruptions from COVID and distance learning. She explained that 70-percent of students are back in school which is a positive as kids are now getting back into a more

normal routine.

## **VI. Finance Committee Report**

CJ El-Dahr explained that the financial picture hasn't changed much since the August meeting. He said the main takeaway is that the economic impact from the pandemic has created uncertainty. El-Dahr also stated that the organization is operating in a lean manner as a result.

## **VII. CEO Report**

### **A. Appreciation Award**

T. Bryant shared that ReNEW earned a Top Workplaces 2020 award, as well as the Appreciation Award, which is given to the local organization which makes an effort to ensure employees feel appreciated.

### **B. Renewal of SciTech and Schaumburg**

T. Bryant explained that SciTech and Schaumburg are currently in a renewal cycle for the 20-21 school year. She stated that NOLA Public Schools added new elements for renewal, due to the fact that testing was canceled for the 19-20 school year. She explained that the network submitted detailed reports on both schools, and she said that the Superintendent has visited both schools. She stated that a decision on renewal is expected in November.

### **C. Update on the 2020-2021 School Year**

T. Bryant shared details on the beginning of the school year, which began with all students taking virtual classes. She shared the timeline of students returning to in-person learning. She also stated that some teachers are currently teaching in-person and virtual lessons. Bryant expressed positive feeling about ReNEW teachers for remaining flexible and working hard during this time.

Bryant explained that the network saw an increase in student retention from last year. She also shared that the network also experienced promising teacher retention.

## **VIII. Motion to Adjourn**

With no further business to discuss, N. Hardie moved to adjourn. K. Conklin seconded. Members voted unanimously to adjourn at 5:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted, S. Satchfield.