

**ReNEW Board of Directors**  
**8/23/18 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, Kathy Conklin, Noah Hardie, Pauline Parquet, Riley Kennedy, Liza Sherman**

**Guest:** Lynn Pope: New Director at SciTech Academy

**B. Call the Meeting to Order**

S. Rosenthal called meeting to order at 5:31 p.m.

**C. Approve Minutes**

Members voted unanimously to approve meeting minutes from 5/24/18.

**II. Governance Committee**

K. Conklin moved to nominate a parent, Ms. Susan Castellanos, to the board. Ms. Castellanos has five children enrolled at SciTech Academy. Members voted unanimously to approve Ms. Castellanos as a board member.

**III. Finance Committee Report**

**A. Finance Report**

J. Marshall provided a financial summary of the 2017-2018 school year, indicating that the end of the year fund balance was \$5 million. The projected adjusted fund balance percentage of the operating expense was 9.66%. S. Rosenthal stated that ReNEW should aim for a long-term fund balance of 15%, however ReNEW could manage quite well with an 8% fund balance. While ReNEW will be going into the 2018-19 school year with a \$927,084 fund balance

deficit, ReNEW will be in a stable condition. T. Bryant reported that she and the finance group have been developing a budgetary plan to manage over the next few years. J. Marshall also noted that ReNEW is aiming for a \$3.5 to \$3 million end of the year fund balance by summer 2020.

S. Rosenthal noted that while there was a lower MFP projection loss for the 2017-18 school year, the issue of loss in funding was discussed recently, and the revenue for the 2018-19 school year should be much more conservative.

### **B. 2018-19 Budget Final Approval**

Members voted unanimously to approve the final 2018-19 school year budget.

## **IV. Academic Committee Report**

### **A. Committee Report**

S. Rosenthal updated the board on DTA's charter renewal status, indicating that its score is extremely close to a C grade. That's ReNew's internal estimate is actually two hundredths of a point above the C threshold, however, the official SPS could differ by a several hundredths of a point.

R. Roig provided an update that during the Academic Committee's July 17, 2018 meeting at McNair, the committee members discussed the 2018 leap exam results. Specifically, the committee discussed calculations, various data reports, and what is to be anticipated in the upcoming year. R. Roig also reported that at the time of the meeting, progress points were unavailable, so no projections could be made at that time. The Academic Committee planned to meet immediately following the August 23, 2018 board meeting.

### **B. Additional Material Academic Results**

T. Bryant provided material academic results, including an explanation and summary of ReNEW's accountability system, DTA's estimated SPS, the implementation of the new curriculum, and overall academic update. Concerning DTA's estimated SPS, T. Bryant explained that the ReNEW team has

also been trying to estimate the outcome. At this time, the calculation is within five one-hundredths of a C, but the outcome can change.

K. Edmonson asked T. Bryant for a brief status update on SciTech Academy, to which T. Bryant stated that grade remains around a D at this time. S. Rosenthal noted that while DTA's progress looks promising, the other schools need improvement. T. Bryant ultimately reported that ReNEW hopes to complete a comprehensive evaluation of DTA for OPSB, including an analysis of past performance scores, what will be changed in the future to increase the scores, and what OPSB should be aware of in determining DTA's renewal. This comprehensive evaluation should be developed and completed within the next few weeks, and by the next board meeting, all letter grades and scores for each school should be received.

Finally, concerning the implementation of the new curriculum for the 2018-2019 school year, T. Bryant provided an outline of ReNEW's Corrective Reading Implementation Goals, which included school goals, individual student data goals, corrective reading implementation, corrective reading curriculum completion goals, and reading level correlation to corrective reading levels. T. Bryant also advised the board that ReNEW has divided the implementation plan of the new curriculum into three phases: 1) Implement with Fidelity, which began in July and will conclude in September; 2) Shift the Lift, which will begin in October and conclude in December; and 3) Plan to Adjust, which will begin in January and conclude in March.

Emily Waterfiled provided an update to the board on Shift the Lift and also detailed that one of ReNEW's major priorities has been to implement a strong literacy program, in which students in grades 3-8 will receive 50 minutes per day of literacy instruction through a scripted program for corrective reading. This program has been successfully utilized by schools in Texas and in several KIPP schools in New Orleans. ReNEW has also hired reading interventionists to teach lessons and have engaged more staff from AmeriCorps. Emily also reported that there are about 134 days from the beginning of the school year to the LEAP exam, which provides students with sufficient time to achieve significant growth.

T Bryant advised that ReNEW has developed a new data dashboard. Students are given reading fluency tests (the next one will be in December). The students must master each lesson before being allowed to move onto the next one. S. Rosenthal noted that if the data dashboard proves to be successful, it could provide crucial evidence of what efforts are working and what needs to be adjusted. Emily finally noted that the assessment results provide strong indications of how students will perform on the LEAP exam, and progress points are essential to how OPSB measures growth.

## **V. CEO Update – Curriculum and Vendors**

T. Bryant advised the board that at the last meeting, she discussed four academic priorities for ReNEW: organization, pride, culture, and branding. A major component of all four priorities is the organization's curriculum. All ReNEW schools officially began the school year on August 1, 2018, while the teachers began two weeks prior to the official start date, allowing them the opportunity to familiarize themselves with the new curriculum in every subject matter, specifically, math and the ELA curriculums. T. Bryant advised the board that ReNEW has chosen Zearn as a vendor for grades K-5, which grew out of Eureka Math, and Illustrative Math, as a vendor for grades 6-8. ReNEW has chosen Wit and Wisdom as the vendor for the ELA curriculum, servicing grades K-8. Approximately 4  $\frac{1}{2}$  to 5  $\frac{1}{2}$  days out of 12 days were spent working with the curriculum vendors to introduce and implement the first lesson. S. Rosenthal noted that a State expert visited with ReNEW and assisted in selecting the final curriculums.

## **VI. Additional Updates from CEO**

T. Bryant advised the board that a Classroom Setup Contest will be held during the week of September 10-14, 2018, during which a group of ReNEW network team leaders and board members will pop into classrooms, meeting areas, and hallways in each school building. Teachers and school leaders will have an opportunity to win prizes based on classroom setup and décor, according to the rubric items listed on the Contest Flyer. For the Classroom Competition, prizes will be awarded to two teachers in each building, one in grades PK-3, one in grades 4-8, and one in grades 9-12. For the Shared Spaces Competition, one school will

be awarded a pizza celebration for common spaces that demonstrate the most school pride. T. Bryant stated that the contest will be something exciting to promote school spirit.

## **VII. Closing Items**

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 6:29 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

M. Clem