



CITY OF BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS
Office of the Mayor
Thomas M. Menino
PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
June 8, 2009

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**Mayor Menino Breaks Ground for New \$40M
Boston Renaissance Charter Public School in Hyde Park**

Mayor Thomas M. Menino joined the Boston Renaissance Charter Public School (BRCPS) to break ground on its new \$40 million school building in Hyde Park. BRCPS will restore two industrial buildings, a former mill and warehouse, at 1415 Hyde Park Avenue.

Approximately 97,000 square feet of educational, assembly and administrative space will be created in the existing buildings and a new almost 16,000 square foot addition will be built to connect the buildings. The mill building that fronts Hyde Park Avenue will form the focal point of the new school, and house most of the classrooms. The warehouse building will house the school's large public assembly spaces such as the gymnasium, cafeteria, music classrooms, and the library. The new addition will contain an administrative suite and six K1 classrooms. "Today we break ground on a \$40 million project that will not only offer Renaissance students a new campus and educational opportunities, it will also create 270 jobs and restore two industrial buildings," Mayor Menino said. "Further, the school's current site in the Back Bay will now come back on the tax rolls and make way for a future development."

BRCPS sold the site of its current 16-story home, located on the corner of Stuart and Arlington Streets in the Back Bay, in order to look for a site for a new school that would be closer to the majority of its students. The new facility will allow Boston Renaissance to enhance the programs and services it offers students, including 3.5 acres of outdoor play facilities, recess areas and kinder-play facilities, adequate gymnasium space, and a state-of-the-art multimedia center.

BRCPS expects to complete the new school in time for the September 2010 school opening. The construction phase is expected to produce 270 jobs. Once the school is operational, 150 people will be employed.

“The new Boston Renaissance is the realization of a dream to build an educational facility that will better meet the needs of our students and help fulfill our mission as an academic institution,” Dr. Roger Harris, the school’s superintendent, said. “More than a school building, we are creating a center for academic achievement, technology, and community and family engagement.”

Renaissance, the largest public charter school in Boston, is a Pre-K-6 school that educates children from 10 different neighborhoods of Boston and serves more than 1200 students. Its mission is to nurture and develop academic, social and emotional competence while building confidence, character and citizenship among its students.

The project site consists of approximately six acres of land located along the west side of Hyde Park Avenue, east of the MBTA’s Franklin Line Commuter Rail tracks. The two structures on the site include a four-story, 70,200 square foot mill building, and a one-story, 21,400 square foot warehouse building.

The school is being financed with the proceeds from the sale of the Park Square building, a loan from Century Bank, through \$5M in Qualified Zone Academy Bonds (QZABs), where the interest is subsidized by the federal government, and \$11.6M in tax-exempt bond financing issued by the Boston Industrial Development Financing Authority (BIDFA). Staffed by the Boston Redevelopment Authority, BIDFA promotes economic growth and increased employment in the City of Boston by issuing bonds that finance the capital needs of Boston’s businesses and institutions.

The school will also raise \$4 million in private donations and will be launching a capital campaign to achieve that goal.

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