

Beacon Academy Charter District 4124
 Board Meeting Minutes, January 14, 2010 6:00 p.m.
 9060 Zanzibar Lane N., Maple Grove, MN 55311

CALL TO ORDER Tam Harken called the meeting to order to at 6:03 pm.

ROLL CALL (present at time of meeting unless otherwise noted)

Board Member	Present	Absent
Cathy Burke	✓	
Tam Harken	✓	
Kalin Farrell	✓	
Scott DesBles	✓	

Board Member	Present	Absent
Jordan Ford (ex-officio)	✓	
Rainey Miller	✓	
Candace Johnson	✓	
Anne Kronebusch	✓	

Board Member	Present	Absent
Mindy Grant	✓	
Anne Marie Roder	✓	
Terese Corey Blanck	✓	

ADVISORY MEMBERS Keith Johnson, Sean Koster

MISC. ATTENDEES Dennis Hoogeveen (Larson Allen), Darrin Enerson, Christina Holmes, Shawn Hartzel, Sandy Jendro

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE (choral reading of the Pledge of Allegiance)

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA (see meeting agenda)
 Policy 204 (School Board Meeting Minutes) will be discussed under governance.
 The agenda was taken off the consent agenda and the audit (#5) was moved before open floor comments (#4).

Motion:	To approve the consent agenda.		
Made by:	Candace Johnson	Seconded by:	Kalin Farrell
Discussion:			
Vote:	Yea: All, but Cathy Burke	Nay: none	Abstain: Cathy Burke
Decision:	passes Cathy Burke abstained because she did not attend the meetings that the minutes were approved from.		

Motion:	To approve the agenda with the changes.		
Made by:	Rainey Miller	Seconded by:	Candace Johnson
Discussion:			
Vote:	Yea: all	Nay: none	Abstain: none
Decision:	passes		

Financial Audit Presentation-by Dennis Hoogeveen from Larson Allen, LLP

- *Beacon Academy received a clean audit report and does not have any findings.*
- *Larson Allen recommended that Beacon Academy have a 20-25% fund balance at the end of the school year and Beacon Academy had a 22.4% fund balance.*
- *The revenue and expenditure numbers are very close to what the budgeted amount was.*
- *The school board should have a discussion at some point regarding the money that has been set aside for a building (\$95,000).*
- *Beacon Academy should continue to be mindful of what is going on at the state and federal level regarding education funding.*
- *Thank you very much to Keith Johnson and Jordan Ford for excellent preparation before the audit.*

Open Floor Comments: None

Treasurers Report-Keith Johnson & Terese Corey Blanck-(see handout)

- Bank Balance as of 12-31-09: \$332,151.74, plus \$250,000 CD at 1.8%
- *Enrollment is staying steady and there are now 395 students.*
- *The original health/dental budget was \$80,500 for the 2009-2010 school year and the projected budget for next year (2010-2011) is \$120,000 (which is a 48% increase). The Beacon Academy Benefit Committee should look at all options. Committee will have further information at the February meeting.*
- *State Funding Issues (See handout)- Currently the state is holding 27% of the money that we normally receive. Beacon Academy has a strong fund balance, so that will help us for now, but we need to continue to carefully monitor the situation.*
- *Right now it does not appear that Beacon Academy will need to borrow money. The board has not discussed eliminating teaching positions and does not need to borrow money to pay teacher salaries. The school has been fiscally managed very well and though the budget will be very tight we currently sit in a good financial situation.*

Motion:	To approve the financial report.		
Made by:	Scott DesBles	Seconded by:	Candace Johnson
Discussion:			
Vote:	Yea: all	Nay: none	Abstain: none
Decision:	passes		

Principal's Report (Jordan Ford):

1. Enrollment Update – Attachment- *We currently are at 395 students and 4-5 more students will be coming before February 1.*
 - *Open Houses – 12/10, 1/9, & 1/21- Open Houses have been well attended and families are very interested in Beacon Academy.*
2. Workroom Copier – Replacement Quotes- *The board purchased a copier three years ago that is worn out and needs to be replaced. Jordan Ford and others went to visit 3 different copy places to get quotes and Jordan is recommending leasing a copier. They met with the Toshiba representative, Ricoh, and Loffler. Marketing materials could be printed on site with the new copier and that could help save money.*

Motion:	To let Jordan Ford, Darrin Enerson, Gretchen McQuillan and Jeanette Olsen make a decision on the copy machine not to exceed \$600 a month total cost.		
Made by:	Ann Marie Roder	Seconded by:	Candace Johnson
Discussion:			
Vote:	Yea: all	Nay: none	Abstain: none
Decision:	passes		

3. Updates

- Title I- *The audit has been completed and went very well.*
- Race to the Top- *The Race to the Top application was submitted. Many of the other schools that applied for the grant had many of the same concerns that we did.*

- School Finance Award 2010- *Beacon Academy is on the draft list for this award.*
 - Health Insurance- *We are waiting to hear back from MACS on the Health Insurance consortium- hopefully in February.*
 - Marketing – Prime Advertising and Family Times- *We currently have an ad stating that Beacon Academy is located in Maple Grove.*
4. Kindergarten – Mid-Year Checkup- *Jordan Ford met with the kindergarten teacher (Ms. Wold) and the Title II teacher (Ms. Drake) about how all day every other day kindergarten is going. They believe that the students will be more prepared for the schedule for 1st grade, but may not have made as many academic gains as they had previously with half day every day kindergarten. Evaluation of the academic gains is ongoing. They would prefer all day everyday kindergarten and this is something that Jordan Ford is looking into. There was a discussion to have parents pay for all day kindergarten. Osseo charges \$3,843 this year for all day kindergarten. Jordan Ford and Tam Harken will ask the church if there is availability for another classroom. The kindergarten sections will be at 20 students per section next year.*
5. Senate Sub-Committee Hearing My Testimony – Attachment- *They are suggesting that charter schools use existing public school buildings or be allowed to own buildings without having to utilize a holding company.*

Assistant Principal's Report-as needed (Sean Koster): None

Chairperson (Tam Harken):

- Open Door Situation- *They currently have a team in Haiti that was present for the earthquake. They also have had 2 major losses in the past year. Tam Harken is asking that all staff members and board members try to be flexible and understanding.*
- Community Member- *Terese Corey Blanck is working to recruit a community member and has one in mind that would be an asset to the board. He will come to a meeting in February. He is preparing his bio for the board to review.*
- Open Door Lease Negotiations- *Jordan Ford and Tam Harken met with the leadership team at Church of the Open Door to discuss the possibility of a 3 year lease with annual renewals. The Church stated they were open to the option. The possibilities for relocation are expensive and not very prevalent. Things like middle school storage, a playground, and more space for kindergarten may be negotiable with a longer lease. The church has been very happy with us as tenants and has been flexible. Jordan Ford and Tam Harken will continue to have discussions with the church and report back at the next regular board meeting.*
- Clarifications on rumors that Tam Harken has heard from parents:
 - *We are not cutting teachers at this point due to budget concerns.*
 - *We are not borrowing money to pay teacher salaries.*
 - *We are not increasing class size because we are out of money.*
- Teacher Majority Board- *To make a change to not have a teacher majority on the board is a change in our governance structure. The state legislature removed the teacher majority requirement during their last session. The process to remove the requirement would be to first have a majority of the board, second to have a majority of the licensed teachers in the building approve it, and finally our authorizer would need to approve. Kalin Farrell brought up having at least 4 teachers, at least 3 parents, 1 community member and then having the remaining spots open to parents, teachers, or community members.*

- *If this motion is approved it does not preclude teachers from having the majority, it just removes the requirement.*
- *The next several years will require skill sets and experience such as financial expertise, potentially real-estate background and management skills that most teachers have not had experience in therefore it would be incumbent upon a parent or community member to do these tasks.*
- *Some board members stated they felt that a teacher should not serve in the Chair or Treasurer position and if more parents or community members were on the board this would help fill these positions.*
- *It removes the "us verses them" mentality as we are all one board working in the best interest of the "children" not parents or teachers first.*
- *Some teachers stated that since they are not part of the teacher's union, having a majority on the board gives them more of a voice.*
- *In supporting the teacher's majority, the teachers are at school on a daily basis and can see the ins and outs of what is going on.*
- *If the majority of the board was to change and a vote went against the staff members, it could create a school board versus teacher conflict.*

Tam Harken encouraged the teachers to be very careful what they are discussing at school so that they are not violating open meeting laws.

Motion:	To remove the teacher majority as a requirement for the Beacon Academy school board and reserve 4 spots for teachers to serve.		
Made by:	Terese Corey Blanck	Seconded by:	Scott DesBles
Discussion:			
Vote:	Yea:	Terese Corey Blanck, Anne Kronebusch, Ann Marie Roder, Scott DesBles, Kalin Farrell	Nay: Mindy Grant, Rainey Miller, Candace Johnson, Cathy Burke
	Abstain:	none	
Decision:	Passes, with a formal consultation of Robert's Rules		

Friends of Beacon (Ann Marie Roder): None

PTO Report: *PTO sent a report about the Brilliance campaign, Breakfast and Bingo, the carnival, and the Barnes and Noble Book Fair. They also sent the mid year budget for the 2009-2010 school year. (See handout)*

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- STANDING COMMITTEES
 - a. **Governance (Ann Marie Roder)** – *Policy 204- Ann Marie Roder will make a change from publishing the minutes in a newsletter to on the website.*
 - b. **Executive (Tam Harken)** - None
 - c. **Technology Committee (Scott DesBles)**- None
 - d. **Curriculum (Rainey Miller)**- None
 - e. **Marketing and Public Relations (Cathy Burke)**- *Jordan Ford put a \$500 advertisement in the Maple Grove Quarterly and he wants to put an advertisement in the Maple Grove newsletter.*

- ON CALL COMMITTEES

- a. **Fundraising and Grants-** None
- b. **Long-Range Planning-** None
- c. **Transportation-** None

Board Correspondence and Communication- None

Old Business- None

New Business- *Kalin Farrell is interested in starting an early childhood committee. This will be discussed at the regular February meeting.*

NEXT MEETING IS FEBRUARY 11TH AT 6:00 P.M.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF NEXT MEETING AGENDA-

Motion to approve agenda forwarded by Anne Kronebusch, seconded by Candace Johnson. Approved unanimously.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Motion to adjourn forwarded by Anne Kronebusch, seconded by Candace Johnson. Approved unanimously.
Meeting adjourned at 10:04 p.m.

Approved on _____

Anne Kronebusch, Secretary
Beacon Academy School Board

APPROVED