

**Beacon Academy Charter District 4124**  
 Board Meeting Minutes, November 12, 2009 6:00 p.m.  
 9060 Zanzibar Lane N., Maple Grove, MN 55311

**CALL TO ORDER** Tam Harken called the meeting to order to at 6:01 pm.

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

Board Member	Present	Absent
Cathy Burke	✓	
Tam Harken	✓	
Kalin Farrell	✓	
Scott DesBles (Arrived 6:53)	✓	
Jordan Ford (ex-officio)	✓	

Board Member	Present	Absent
Rainey Miller	✓	
Candace Johnson	✓	
Anne Kronebusch	✓	
Mindy Grant	✓	
Anne Marie Roder	✓	

Board Member	Present	Absent
Terese Corey Blanck	✓	

**ADVISORY MEMBERS** Keith Johnson

**MISC. ATTENDEES** Christina Holmes, Paul Lentz

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

**APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA** (see meeting agenda)

<b>Motion:</b>	To approve the consent agenda.		
<b>Made by:</b>	Terese Corey Blanck	<b>Seconded by:</b>	Candace Johnson
<b>Discussion:</b>			
<b>Vote:</b>	<b>Yea:</b> all	<b>Nay:</b> none	<b>Abstain:</b> none
<b>Decision:</b>	passes		

**Open Floor Comments: None**

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

- Bank Balance as of 10-30-09: \$474,848.30 plus \$250,000 CD at 1.8%
- *The Projected Fund Balance for 6-30-2010 is 20.8%*
- *\$20,000 unemployment has been added to the personnel budget for estimated unemployment claims.*
- *The 2008-2009 financial audit is complete, approximately \$55,000 to the positive was identified.*
- *The board acknowledges the staff at Beacon Academy need to know about the tight budget situation because of the state holdback. Jordan Ford will discuss at the next staff meeting. Kalin Farrell will start attending finance committee meetings.*
- *Beacon Academy has been making deposits at Venture Bank in Golden Valley on a regular basis. The finance committee recommends adding Associated Bank as an additional bank for local deposits.*

<b>Motion:</b>	To designate Associated Bank as an Official School Depository; Authorize Jordan Ford or Keith Johnson to sign for investments on behalf of Beacon Academy; Authorize Terese Corey Blanck, Keith Johnson or Jordan Ford to make electronic fund transfers between school accounts.		
<b>Made by:</b>	Terese Corey Blanck	<b>Seconded by:</b>	Candace Johnson
<b>Discussion:</b>			

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<b>Vote:</b>	Yea: all	<b>Nay:</b> none	<b>Abstain:</b> none
<b>Decision:</b>	passes		

<b>Motion:</b>	To approve the financial report.		
<b>Made by:</b>	Kalin Farrell	<b>Seconded by:</b>	Rainey Miller
<b>Discussion:</b>			
<b>Vote:</b>	Yea: all	<b>Nay:</b> none	<b>Abstain:</b> none
<b>Decision:</b>	passes		

**Principal's Report (Jordan Ford):**

1. Enrollment Report (handout)- *Enrollment is down to 393, but the office staff is hoping to fill spots as soon as possible. One option to have a healthier budget in the future is to add one student to each classroom. Jordan Ford will talk to teachers about their thoughts on this issue. The board thinks it is a good idea to change class numbers slightly, but it might be a good idea to have flexible numbers because of attrition. The board will continue to explore options.*
2. November elections – Robbinsdale School District Board (3 of the 4 incumbents were re-elected to the school board)
3. Finance Award application submitted to MDE on 11/3/09 (the revenues and expenditure budget form has been posted on our website)
4. Race to the Top state grant initiative (see attachment)- *There is a \$4.35 billion dollar competitive grant program for states that have great teachers and leaders, standardized benchmarks and assessments, data systems to improve practices, and that turn around low performing schools.*
5. MACS Conference highlights (Ann Marie Roder) - *The conference discussed how schools can focus on quality, accountability, and innovation. Mr. Ford and Ms. Roder were able to network with board members, administrators, and teachers from other charter schools.*
6. Global Connect – test message sent 11/12/09- *Global Connect is a broadcast system that was tested at 2:00 today. The default was to home phone numbers, so some other phone numbers may need to be added.*
7. Math Fair (summary will be provided at the board meeting)- *The Math Fair was held last Saturday and there were about 100 students and 63 adults in attendance. The students had a great time playing math games.*
8. Title Programs audit – summary of findings- *According to Mr. Ford, the audit went well and had many positive findings including Q-Comp, parent involvement, and character education. The only thing we were "cited on" is that "Parents have to be notified each year that they have the right to request, and Beacon Academy will provide in a timely manner, information regarding the professional qualifications of the student's classroom teacher." The board needs to review and approve all Title programs each year. Mr. Ford and Ms. Harken will set a date yearly to bring the programs to the board for approval.*

9. PTO highlights- *The PTO meeting was cancelled this week.*
10. Personnel – Employee Allergy Illness- *An employee that had been reporting significant allergy symptoms is back to work.*
11. Alumni and Parents Focus Groups – 11/19/09- *The previous graduates and their parents are being invited back for focus groups. We want to find out how we did in their opinion in preparing their child for high school.*
12. H.S. Fair – 12/7/09- *Different high schools will come to Beacon Academy to present to 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade families about options after students leave Beacon Academy.*
13. MACS Health Benefits Meeting – 11/17/2009
14. Bank deposit resolution – Keith
15. Other – to be shared at the meeting
  - a. *The dishwasher was used for the first time today.*
  - b. *Mr. Ford will be making a revision to the annual report as we have received specific information from Friends of Education regarding the finance information section.*
  - c. *There are 3 sets of board training and all new board members are required to attend.*

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

**Chairperson (Tam Harken):** *The board needs to have a community member on the board starting at the next election cycle. The person cannot be a relative of someone at Beacon Academy. The board also needs to decide if we are going to continue to be a teacher majority board and needs to start recruiting teachers for the next election cycle. This discussion will continue at subsequent meetings.*

*Keith Johnson and Tam Harken have learned that 27 states have already said that their education budget has been reduced for the 2009-2010 school year and things are not looking to improve soon. In some Minnesota school districts, the teacher's union has agreed upon a 1.5% increase for teacher's including benefits. The board needs to start thinking about staff salaries in future years considering the tight budget situation.*

*Paul Lentz bid the move at 10% over what he thought the cost was going to be. Since the move went well, he is donating the money to the school (\$1,200).*

**Friends of Beacon (Jordan Ford):** *Ann Marie Roder was unanimously elected to the FOB board. Sheila Hanson and Stephanie Dean are realtors that have brought many new properties to Mr. Ford's attention. He is also meeting with certain groups that could help out with funding a new building. The Friends of Beacon Board and some members of the executive committee are meeting next week to discuss properties.*

**PTO Report:** *They have been working hard on the Sock Hop/Silent Auction. The book fair was a success and the Butterbraids fundraiser is going on currently. (See handout)*

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

- STANDING COMMITTEES
  - a. **Governance (Ann Marie Roder)** – *There was a meeting on 11/2 with Lorie Schultz to discuss the Title 1 policy. The next meeting is on 12/1 at 6:00. Mindy Grant will be joining the governance committee.*
  - b. **Executive (Tam Harken)** – None
  - c. **Technology Committee (Scott DesBles)** - *The technology committee met virtually on Tuesday night. The plan for the new website was discussed.*
  - d. **Curriculum (Rainey Miller)** - *The committee had a release day today to look at language arts curriculum. They are looking at supplemental materials.*
  - e. **Marketing and Public Relations (Cathy Burke)**- None
  - f. **Transportation (Tam Harken)**- None
  
- ON CALL COMMITTEES
  - a. **Fundraising and Grants**- None
  - b. **Long-Range Planning**- None
  - c. **Transportation**- None

**Board Correspondence and Communication-** *Tam Harken received a letter from the attorney representing Beacon regarding the return of the security deposit because she had received a letter from Grant Carlson at Quantum Development. We received a \$200 check and have now received \$775 out of a \$10,000 damage deposit.*

### Old Business-

**Health Insurance discussion- Jordan Ford/Tam Harken-** *The board needs to form an ad hoc committee to look into health benefits. An Associated Broker talked to Mr. Ford about the potentials their company can offer in a health plan. The committee should look into the pros and cons of changing health insurance companies and/or brokers. Jan Allen, Jordan Ford, and Rainey Miller, will be on the committee and will try to recruit more staff members. This committee will have a report for the January or February board meeting.*

**Exploring charging a fee for busing-** *Ann Marie Roder talked to Eagle Ridge Charter School and they charge \$350 per student or \$700 per family for transportation per year. We cannot charge to students that live in the Osseo School District (our neighborhood district), which is currently 112 students. There are possibly 160 students that we could charge for bussing. Right now we have \$165,000 budgeted for bussing and we receive \$100,000 for bussing from the state. Some board members stated that we should explain the tight budget situation to parents and should charge some fee to students for bussing. There was a discussion about families that could not afford to pay for bussing. The board would like the transportation committee to write up a scale of fees and to do some research in the area on bussing fees.*

**New Business-** None

**NEXT MEETING IS DECEMBER 15<sup>TH</sup> AT 6:00 P.M.**

**REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF NEXT MEETING AGENDA-**

Motion to approve agenda forwarded by Kalin Farrell, seconded by Ann Marie Roder. Approved unanimously.

**MOTION TO ADJOURN**

Motion to adjourn forwarded by Ann Marie Roder, seconded by Rainey Miller. Approved unanimously.  
Meeting adjourned at 9:09 p.m.

**Approved on** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Anne Kronebusch, Secretary**  
**Beacon Academy School Board**

APPROVED