

**Beacon Academy Charter District 4124**  
 Board Meeting Minutes, December 15, 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 5:59 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 (Left 8:30 p.m.)	✓	

**ADVISORY MEMBERS** Keith Johnson, Sean Koster

**MISC. ATTENDEES** Christina Holmes

**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>	Anne Kronebusch	<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 11-30-09: \$231,954.81, plus \$250,000 CD at 1.8%
- *Donations are up to \$18,000 due to PTO grants and gifts from families*
- *State funding issues (see handout)*
  - *Minnesota state budget projections continues to deteriorate and it is impossible to predict how the legislature will work it out.*
  - *Currently expecting 2009-2010 holdback (27%) to be returned to us during August, September, and October*
  - *Possible scenarios include cuts to the general education fund or a "perceptual" holdback*
  - *This situation is facing all public schools in Minnesota, so we are not alone*
  - *The best defense is maintaining a strong fund balance, and remaining flexible*

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

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

1. Enrollment Update – Attachment

- Add student in Grade K –(1)
  - Add students in Grade 1 – (2)
  - Add students in Grade 2 – (2)
  - Add students in Grade 3 – (2)
  - Add students in Grade 4 – (2)
- Total     **9**

*All teachers were polled and said that they would be willing to add an additional student to their class. Jordan Ford would recommend adding one to two additional students to classes per the chart above. Christina Holmes will begin making phone calls to fill the spots.*

<b>Motion:</b>		To increase target enrollment in first grade to 44 students and increase enrollment in second through fourth grade to 48 students.			
<b>Made by:</b>		Kalin Farrell		<b>Seconded by:</b> Terese Corey Blanck	
<b>Discussion:</b>					
<b>Vote:</b>	<b>Yea:</b>	all	<b>Nay:</b>	none	<b>Abstain:</b> none
<b>Decision:</b>		passes			

2. Senate Sub-Committee Meetings – Update

- Charter group is drafting a unified response
- Invite legislative representatives to visit our school
- Write to the sub-committee about our plight to find a permanent home

3. Open Door – Winter Break Schedule- *Open Door will not be open during the break.*

4. Race to the Top – Competitive Grant Initiative- Attachment

- Webinar being put together for board members and faculty
- 100+K over 4 years for our school
- "Our shot at the moon" Education Secretary
- Jan. 13<sup>th</sup> deadline
- *Jordan Ford will try to get more information about this program before we make any decisions.*

5. Title Audit – Final Report- *The official document sited us for not overtly telling parents that they have the right to review teacher qualifications every year and that will be changed. There were many other positive comments about Title in the report.*

6. Alumni & Parent Focus Group Summary – Attachment- *There were four families that attended the session that shared their opinions.*

7. Charter School Health Benefit Plan – Pooled Resources- *This group is trying to reduce costs for health benefits and will have more information in January.*

8. Other

- Q Comp Proposal- *The Q Comp goal has been submitted and approved by the Minnesota Department of Education. The goal is related to math and includes about \$89,200 that is available to Beacon Academy.*

<b>Motion:</b>	To approve the Q Comp annual application for the 2009-2010 school year.		
<b>Made by:</b>	Kalin Farrell	<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		

- *Conflict of Interest- All board members present completed the form and member Cathy Burke will be asked to complete it tomorrow.*
- *The copier that the school purchased 3 years ago is worn out. Jordan Ford will go with teachers and office staff over the break to look at copiers.*

**Assistant Principal's Report-as needed (Sean Koster):**

1. Student Behavior (see attached) - *Student referrals for 2009-2010 are down 43% from this point last year.*
2. Special Education Update- *Evaluations have been completed and services begun (more than half) and the remaining are in progress. A paraprofessional has been hired in first grade to help out with 2 special education students. Rainey Miller and Mindy Grant stated that the middle school special education restructuring has been effective and they have seen many positive changes.*
3. DARE program- *The DARE program will begin in January for 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade students.*
4. Climate Survey- *A climate survey was sent to all parents to get information about the climate of our school from a parent perspective. Sean Koster will bring information to the January board meeting.*

**Chairperson (Tam Harken):**

- *Currently there are not viable options for relocation for Beacon Academy for the 2010-2011 school year, so Jordan Ford and Tam Harken will begin talking to the Church of the Open Door about lease negotiations.*
- *Teacher Majority on the board- The board needs to decide if we want to retain the teacher majority on the board. To change the board composition a 2/3<sup>rd</sup>'s majority vote of the board and a majority vote of all licensed teachers on this issue is required. Some teachers stated that since there is not a teacher's union, the board is the way for teachers to have a say in what goes on. Scott DesBles mentioned that having teachers as officers can be a conflict of interest and by only having a few non-teachers on the board, it makes filling these positions difficult. This decision will need to be made at the January board meeting.*

**Friends of Beacon (Ann Marie Roder):** *Some members of FOB and the executive committee went to look at a building today. They are still working on ways to purchase and/or lease a building.*

**PTO Report:** *The PTO sent a report about the Scholastic Book Fair, Butterbraids, the Sock Hop, and the Barnes and Noble Book Fair. The Sock Hop/Silent Auction raised \$14,000 revenue and the board would like to thank PTO for all their hard work! (See attachment)*

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- **STANDING COMMITTEES**
  - a. **Governance (Ann Marie Roder)** – *The governance will be sending the board policies to review over the winter break. The committee will now be meeting at the end of the month instead of the beginning.*
  - b. **Executive (Tam Harken)** - None
  - c. **Technology Committee (Scott DesBles)**- *The security system is fully in place and is recording, so that information can be accessed if necessary.*
  - d. **Curriculum (Rainey Miller)**- *The last meeting was cancelled due to the snow. Rainey Miller and Michelle Thyren will be presenting at the staff meeting tomorrow.*
  - e. **Marketing and Public Relations (Jordan Ford)**- *The StarTribune has an opportunity for Beacon Academy to put an ad in their January Education Guide for \$100-\$200. The board has declined the opportunity.*
  
- **ON CALL COMMITTEES**
  - a. **Fundraising and Grants**- *Candace Johnson is investigating grants for LCD projectors.*
  - b. **Long-Range Planning**- None
  - c. **Transportation**- *Recommendations from the principle transportation committee members regarding charge a busing fee.*

At this time the committee recommends to not charge a transportation fee at this time. The following is the rationale used to arrive at this decision:

- A significant amount of administrative cost would potentially be involved
- A new level of entitlement may arise regarding stop location "since I am paying this fee the stop should be located at a location more convenient for me"
- The monetary cost vs. benefit carries too much risk financially to the school.
- Given the current economic climate it is very difficult to arrive at a fee that will not cause a loss of the families on "the edge"
- Could be seen as "adding insult to injury" since bus ridership has been up

The members would recommend the potential of a fee when:

- When a permanent location is determined as there will be more lead time to inform the Beacon community
- A potential unintended consequence could be a decrease in the fees received as the number of students who we are able to bill may decrease.

*The board has decided to not begin a transportation fee at this time but given the unknown of the education funding for the 2010-2011 school year the board in all likelihood will need to reconsider this decision within the first months of 2010.*

**Board Correspondence and Communication**- None

**Old Business**- None

**New Business-** None

**NEXT MEETING IS JANUARY 14<sup>TH</sup> 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 Kalin Farrell. Approved unanimously.  
Meeting adjourned at 9:12 p.m.

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

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

APPROVED