

Beacon Academy Charter District 4124
 Board Meeting Minutes, February 11, 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 6:05 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 Jennissa Wold, Melissa Engel, Erin Miller, Lori Karcz, Leo Christenson, Jenny Conway, Ramona Flores, Christina Holmes

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

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA (see meeting agenda)
 The agenda is removed from the consent agenda. The early kindergarten/early childhood discussion will take place after the finance report. Policies 409 and 204 have been removed from the agenda and will be further discussed in governance. The 1/14 minutes will be taken off the consent agenda.

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|--------------------|------------------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| Motion: | To approve the agenda. | | |
| Made by: | Rainey Miller | Seconded by: | Candace Johnson |
| Discussion: | | | |
| Vote: | Yea: all | Nay: none | Abstain: none |
| Decision: | passes | | |
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| Motion: | To approve the consent agenda. | | |
| Made by: | Terese Corey Blanck | Seconded by: | Kalin Farrell |
| Discussion: | | | |
| Vote: | Yea: all | Nay: none | Abstain: none |
| Decision: | passes | | |
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| Motion: | To approve the minutes from the 1-14-10 meeting as they are amended. | | |
| Made by: | Candace Johnson | Seconded by: | Rainey Miller |
| Discussion: | | | |
| Vote: | Yea: all | Nay: none | Abstain: none |
| Decision: | passes | | |
| Changes were made under the teacher majority discussion. | | | |
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Open Floor Comments: None

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

- Bank Balance as of 1-31-10: \$184,817.36 plus \$250,000 CD at 1.8%
- *The fund balance is currently at 20.1%.*

- *New students were added to several classrooms after the first of the year and that will improve our bottom line by about \$6000. The current budget is set at 394 students, but we will be at about 397 students in a few weeks.*
- *Beacon Academy received \$20,000 in donations.*
- *We may need to expense the \$95,000 that was set aside for building this year because right now it does not look like a building project is going to take place.*
- *The finance committee started looking at next year's budget. They discussed changes in the legislature, teacher contracts, and ways to trim back the budget.*

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| Motion: | To approve the financial report. | | |
| Made by: | Kalin Farrell | Seconded by: | Cathy Burke |
| Discussion: | | | |
| Vote: | Yea: all | Nay: none | Abstain: none |
| Decision: | passes | | |
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Kindergarten Discussion for the 2010-2011 school year

- *Jordan Ford talked to Church of the Open Door and confirmed that we would be able to have an additional room which would enable us to have 2 kindergarten classrooms for next year.*
- *Jordan Ford looked at kindergarten programs in the area and found many different scenarios with half-day, full-day, different fees, etc.*
- *Jennissa Wold (the current kindergarten teacher) presented a PowerPoint presentation about options for kindergarten. She feels that being consistent is the most important. She presented 5 different options: all day everyday with no charge, all day everyday with a fee charged to parents, ½ day everyday, full day charge and ½ day everyday, and all day every other day (current schedule). Ms. Wold presented pros and cons and questions for the different scenarios.*
- *Jordan Ford polled the families for next year's kindergarten and 7 out of 26 chose half day kindergarten, 14 chose all day every other day, 15 chose all day everyday without a fee, and 0 chose all day everyday with a fee. There has to be a mid-day kindergarten bus if we chose to do half day kindergarten which is \$17,000 per bus. If we need 2 busses, one for each direction, it would be \$34,000. If we chose to add another employee to teach kindergarten that would be approximately \$45,000.*
- *Students that are in school all day every day will make more academic gains and this will come through in marketing the school.*
- *There was a discussion that it would be very hard to fund all day everyday kindergarten free of charge with the current budget situation that we are in.*
- *The board agreed that the current schedule (all day, every other day) is not working well. We either need to have 2 sections of half day kindergarten and pay for a mid day bus or fund 2 sections of all day everyday kindergarten. The cost between two kindergarten busses (after morning and before afternoon) and another teacher is approximately \$11,000. Board members agreed that they want to put the needs of the students first and would rather pay for another teacher and not for transportation. Keith mentioned that with the current financial situation adding expenses to kindergarten will put us into a negative balance, unless the finance committee can find a way to trim back expenses. Our authorizer (Friends of Education) is a big proponent of all day everyday kindergarten. Keith Johnson asked if it is possible to increase kindergarten class size to 22 students. Four additional students would bring in an additional \$13,000.*

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| Motion: | For the 2010-2011 school year to have 2 all day everyday kindergarten classes with 22 students in each section. | | |
| Made by: | Kalin Farrell | Seconded by: | Scott DesBles |
| Discussion: | | | |
| Vote: | Yea: all | Nay: none | Abstain: none |
| Decision: | passes | | |
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Principal's Report (Jordan Ford):

1. Enrollment Update (attachment)- *The enrollment could soon be at 405 students, which would be an all time high. The lottery numbers for next year are down about 100 students from what they were this year.*
2. MACS Day at the Capitol – March 9, 2010- *Jordan Ford and Tam Harken along with others will go to meet legislatures.*
3. Charter School Coalition meeting summary (attachment)- *There are 3 groups that are lobbying on behalf of charter schools.*
4. Robbinsdale School District Supplemental Enrollment Report- *Beacon Academy is competition for Robbinsdale and has taken about 200 of their students.*
5. Open Door Lease Negotiations Update- *Jordan Ford continues to talk to the church about lockers and other things for next year.*
6. *We need to formally accept the IRS form 990 tax return from Larson Allen.*

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| Motion: | To accept IRS tax form 990 from Larson Allen ending June 30, 2009. | | |
| Made by: | Ann Marie Roder | Seconded by: | Terese Corey Blanck |
| Discussion: | | | |
| Vote: | Yea: all | Nay: none | Abstain: none |
| Decision: | passes | | |
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Assistant Principal's Report-as needed (Sean Koster):

1. Climate Survey Responses (see attached)

| Question | White | Students of Color | Difference |
|---|-------|-------------------|------------|
| #2 – I am treated with respect at Beacon Academy | 97% | 84% | 13% |
| #7 – I can talk with Beacon Academy's administration when I need to | 95% | 84% | 11% |
| #8 – Beacon Academy has informed me of a clear process for addressing my concerns | 83% | 73% | 10% |
| #11 – It is easy to get a translator if I need one | 88% | 67% | 21% |
| # 14 – My child's teacher(s) keeps me well informed about how my child is doing in school | 83% | 73% | 10% |
| #18 – I am satisfied with the quality of Beacon Academy | 96% | 84% | 12% |

- *All teachers, office staff members, and administration need to be aware of these results so that we can make changes.*

- *We need to make the community aware that we have a cultural competency committee and work hard to diversify our staff and board.*

2. Academic Probation Data

- 5 students went on academic probation for 1st Trimester
- Via our policy – 5 conferences have occurred and plans are in place

3. New students to the middle school

- 2 of the 5 Academic Probation students are new this year
- 2 were new last year as 5th and 7th graders
- 9 new students have failing marks at mid-Tri

4. Calendar from Leadership

- See attached
- *The calendar was created at the Leadership committee with input from teachers.*
- *There are 173 student contact days with professional development days for teachers near school breaks. There are 12 teacher workshop days, which include 2 mandatory open houses for teachers. There was a discussion about having separate conferences for middle school and elementary school students. Elementary conferences could potentially be on March 17th and March 21st and middle school conferences would be on February 24th and 28th. Leadership committee will continue to discuss the calendar.*

5. Speaker Expansion/additions to enable our PA system

- See attached (*This will be discussed with the technology report.*)

6. DARE program

- The program is set to go for March and April
- 2nd grade and 4th grade
- 4 sessions for 2nd and 5 sessions for 4th
- The 6th grade will be an addition next year

Chairperson (Tam Harken): *Terese Corey Blanck introduced Leo Christenson as a potential community member for the rest of the year and then someone that could run for the board next year if he desired. Leo lives in Minneapolis and has 2 children. He has training in vocational technical education and has served on other boards in the past. He has a background in statistics and research, and he has state connections with MDE. Leo is very interested in being involved in the board and wants to be a part of committees as well.*

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|--------------------|--|---------------------|----------------------|
| Motion: | To move that we accept Leo Christenson as a board member to fill the vacant board seat for the 2009-2010 year. | | |
| Made by: | Terese Corey Blanck | Seconded by: | Candace Johnson |
| Discussion: | | | |
| Vote: | Yea: all | Nay: none | Abstain: none |
| Decision: | passes | | |
| | | | |

Our charter is up with Friends of Education this year. MDE just announced the process to approve charter school Authorizers. We will need to make a formal decision about our intent to remain or leave our current authorizer at the next board meeting. If we were to change Authorizers there is a potential the new authorizer could require new curriculum or other significant changes.

Per the state statute, the licensed teachers voted regarding the teacher majority requirement on February 2/4-2/8. The votes were counted on February 8, 2010 and the results were as follows:

23 licensed staff voted to retain the teacher majority requirement

7 voted to not retain the teacher majority requirement

Kalin Farrell brought up capping the teacher board members at 6 members and leaving the other 5 spots open to parents and community members to keep a variety of perspectives. This conversation will be tabled until the next board meeting.

Friends of Beacon (Ann Marie Roder): *Cathy Burke and Ann Marie Roder will be meeting tonight about Friends of Beacon and will have more information at the next board meeting.*

PTO Report: *The PTO sent a report about the Brilliance campaign, the Usborne Book Fair, the family movie events, Breakfast and Bingo, and the Beacon Carnival. (See attachment)*

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- **STANDING COMMITTEES**

- a. **Governance (Ann Marie Roder)** – *Governance met on January 26th and set the timeline for the school board elections. Information about school board elections will go out to families on 3/18 and the 4/8 board meeting will be an informational session for interested candidates. Election materials will be due on 4/18. Ballots will be due in the office on 5/7 at 4:00 p.m. and results will be announced at the 5/13 board meeting.*

- b. **Executive (Tam Harken)** - None

- c. **Technology Committee (Scott DesBles)**- *Scott recommended adding an additional phone line for \$250 for the emergency communication system so that the caller ID would not read Beacon Academy and would say Beacon Emergency System or something like that.*

The technology committee met on Tuesday with Carol Tracy (technology teacher) and Nicky Cronin (special education teacher). They discussed making the website more user friendly and ways to continue to cut back the budget.

- d. **Curriculum (Rainey Miller)**- *The committee finished aligning language arts standards with Minnesota state standards, Core Knowledge, and Houghton Mifflin.*

- a. **Supplemental vs. full curriculum-** *It is hard for the middle school English teacher to teach many language arts skills from the Core Knowledge curriculum only. The committee would like to spend \$1000 on books for middle school to supplement their curriculum. It would cost about \$2500 per grade level to supplement Houghton Mifflin for the elementary grades. The committee is looking for direction from the board on if they should continue looking at materials. The board supported purchasing materials for middle school, but did not think it was necessary at this time for elementary.*

- b. **Health-** *The committee started talking about health and how this needs to be incorporated into the middle school curriculum. The board agrees that it is important for the curriculum committee to research options for health and have this information available to review by the board possibly by the March 11 meeting. Overall the board agreed it was important for parents need to be informed about*

what is being taught in health before it is taught. A career exploration unit also should be taught to middle school students.

e. Marketing and Public Relations (Cathy Burke)- None

• **ON CALL COMMITTEES**

a. Fundraising and Grants- None

b. Long-Range Planning- None

c. Transportation- None

Board Correspondence and Communication- None

Old Business- Health Insurance Discussion- *We are in a holding pattern because we have not heard back from MACS. Jordan Ford is hopeful that we will hear something before the March board meeting.*

New Business- None

NEXT MEETING IS MARCH 11, 2010 AT 6:00 P.M.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF NEXT MEETING AGENDA-

Motion to approve agenda forwarded by Anne Kronebusch, seconded by Leo Christenson. Approved unanimously.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Motion to adjourn forwarded by Anne Kronebusch, seconded by Candace Johnson. Approved unanimously.
Meeting adjourned at 10:03 p.m.

Approved on _____

Anne Kronebusch, Secretary
Beacon Academy School Board