

Beacon Academy Charter District 4124
 Board Meeting Minutes, April 8, 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
Tam Harken	✓	
Ann Marie Roder	✓	
Terese Corey Blanck	✓	
Anne Kronebusch	✓	
Scott DesBles (6:20)	✓	

Board Member	Present	Absent
Cathy Burke	✓	
Kalin Farrell	✓	
Mindy Grant		✓
Candace Johnson	✓	
Rainey Miller	✓	

Board Member	Present	Absent
Leo Christenson (6:09)	✓	
Jordan Ford (ex-officio)	✓	
Keith Johnson(ex-officio)	✓	

ADVISORY MEMBERS Sean Koster

MISC. ATTENDEES Jennissa Wold, Erin Miller, Shawn Hartzel, Doug McGuire, Shawn Bryant, Sharon MacFarlane, Kristi Pingel, Christina Holmes, Jenny Conway

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

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA (see meeting agenda)

Motion:	To approve the consent agenda.		
Made by:	Anne Kronebusch	Seconded by:	Ann Marie Roder
Discussion:			
Vote:	Yea: All, but Cathy Burke.	Nay: none	Abstain: Cathy Burke
Decision:	passes		
	Policy 403 was taken off the consent agenda and will be discussed during governance.		
	Cathy Burke abstained since she was not present at the 3/11 board meeting.		

Open Floor Comments: None

Board Candidate Forum: *Erin Miller asked about the board committees and what they do.*

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

- Bank Balance as of 3-31-10: \$436,462.42
- *The finance committee will go through the budget line by line at their next meeting and will bring a revised budget to the board at or before the June meeting.*
- *There is a \$5,000 loss this year on the lunch program because of a purchase of a dishwasher and refrigerator.*
- *The fund balance is at 21%.*
- *The cash flow projection is very similar to last month's report and is based on 400 students. (See handout).*
- *The legislature has not talked much yet about education funding, but there have been rumors that there could potentially be up to a 5% cut. The session is scheduled to end on May 17th. The finance committee should have a more accurate indication of the legislative initiatives at the May board meeting.*

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

Principal's Report (Jordan Ford):

- 1. Enrollment Report (Attachment)** - *There is currently 403 students enrolled for this year and 424 students enrolled for next year with 176 students on the waiting list. Some sections will be overenrolled if the office receives strong indications that a student may not be coming back next year.*
- 2. Health Insurance Update (Attachment)** - *Jordan Ford has been waiting to hear from MACS about a possible consortium for health insurance to reduce rates. They have yet to get back to us with information and they are currently engaged in talks with Health Partners. The health insurance committee will reconvene to research options and will have a recommendation for the May board meeting.*
- 3. Special Education Director Contract (Attachments)** - *The board needs to renew its contract with the special education director for the 2010-2011 school year. There are 2 options for a director (Minnesota Special Education Resources for Charters and Innovative Special Education Services). Jordan Ford and Sean Koster will talk to the special education team to get their opinions. Erin Miller stated a provider that can spend more time at Beacon Academy and can give them more guidance would be a great benefit. Jordan Ford will have a recommendation at the May board meeting.*
- 4. Additional Cameras Quotation (Attachment)** - *The camera system is effective because it provides additional security for the school and it can capture inappropriate incidents in the hallway. Jordan Ford would like to add 2 cameras because of dead spots in the hallway. The quote for 2 more cameras is \$1365.35 and there is money to pay for it in the technology budget.*

Motion:	To authorize Jordan Ford to purchase 2 cameras at the cost of \$1365.35.		
Made by:	Candace Johnson	Seconded by:	Leo Christensen
Discussion:			
Vote:	Yea: All, but Scott DesBles	Nay: Scott DesBles	Abstain: none
Decision:	passes		
	Scott DesBles thinks that this could be paid for in next year's budget because of the tight financial situation that we are in. Tam Harken brought up that the cameras will improve security in the building and will improve safety for all students.		

- 5. Instrumental Music Position-** *Jordan Ford was approached by the executive director of Cedarcrest Academy to see if we would be interested in collaborating on an instrumental music program. Parents would pay a fee for individual lessons and large group ensembles. Jordan Ford and Sean Koster met with a potential instructor to talk about schedules, fees, etc. There were discussions about where lessons would take place, what class students would miss, how many students would be needed for a break even program, and whether or not the would be an employee or a contracted service. The board needs more information before a decision can be made. Jordan Ford mentioned that this could be a good marketing tool for our school. Parents in attendance offered positive comments regarding this addition.*
- 6. Other- to be shared at the meeting-** *Jordan Ford continues to send MACS and legislature updates and encourages the board to read them. Jordan attends meetings with other charter*

schools to respond to legislation, so he would like feedback from the board regarding these issues.

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

- **Student Behavior-** *The referral total was low for trimester 1 with only 76 total referrals. This was made up for in trimester 2 with 153 referrals, which is an all time high. There were 353 students that have not received an office referral this year, meaning that 50 students received all of the referrals. (See handout)*

Chairperson (Tam Harken)

- **Schedule Summer Board Retreat-** *The goal of the retreat is to decide board committees, decide who is going to serve on committees, establish goals for the 2010-2011 school year, and possibly do some board training. The board will be on June 26th from 9-2 and the place is to be determined.*
- **Current Curriculum-add discussion to board agenda-** *Some Friends of Education Schools do a curriculum update each month at their board meeting. A grade level would present a 15 minute update of what students in their class are doing to educate the board. There could be a template for what teachers would present so that everyone would be on the same page. This will continue to be discussed and Rainey Miller and Michelle Thryen will work on a PowerPoint template. The board agreed this could provide valuable information.*
- **Friends of Education Meeting Update-** *Jordan Ford and Tam Harken met with Beth Topoluk from Friends of Education. They discussed our contract with Friends of Education as our contract expires June 30th. MDE has stated that all schools will be automatically renewed for 1 year if their charter contract expires on June 30, 2010. Ms. Topoluk indicated that Friends of Education has submitted their request to be an authorizer. Ms. Topoluk stated that Friends of Education would extend a charter contract to Beacon Academy, but the length of the contract is yet to be determined.*

Ms. Topoluk presented information about test scores for Beacon Academy compared to other schools. As part of its evaluation process Friends of Education sends a secret evaluator who poses as a prospective parent to all its schools. This evaluator sent a report that includes topics such as school leadership, financial viability, academic program, school climate, etc. (See handouts)

- **Executive Committee Report-** *The executive committee met today to go through and revise Sean Koster and Jordan Ford's evaluation. The evaluation will go out to staff and board members soon on Zoomerang. Almost two years ago the board tasked Jordan with finding a new building and we have not given him another direction. Tam Harken estimates that at least 30% of his time involves finding a new building. Jordan also spends considerable time with legislative action and sponsorship activities. Sean has been given a considerable work load that includes student discipline, faculty and staff observations and evaluations, and many other day to day operations at Beacon Academy. The board should have done a better job communicating with the staff and parents about what Jordan and Sean are doing and what their roles involve.*

The executive committee is asking the board for permission to sit down with Jordan and Sean to redefine their duties. This may involve changing job titles and job duties for the 2010-2011 school year. If Beacon is always going to have 2 administrators in the future, the roles and responsibilities need to be better defined and communicated to the Beacon community. The board gave the executive committee permission to have discussions with Jordan Ford and Sean Koster about their job duties and responsibilities.

Cathy Burke brought up that we are currently happy at Church of the Open Door and that right now we don't have money for a new building. We should plan to be here for 2-3 years and should focus Jordan's efforts elsewhere.

The long range planning of Beacon Academy needs to involve more than just facilities. Strategic planning (10 years) is something that the board and administration need to start to look at. This discussion will continue.

Friends of Beacon (Ann Marie Roder): *On Wednesday March 30th the Friends of Beacon board met with the Executive Committee. The Friends of Beacon board discussed properties that have been looked at, and the lack of financial support for a building project. As to date an investor has not been identified and the bond market remains in the 8% range. Based on their discussion it was recommended that undertaking a new building project is not viable right now. As the executive committee and Friends of Beacon looked at properties that were not viable, they realized that the short comings of each location were not at our current location at Church of the Open Door. The executive committee charged Jordan Ford with talking to Church of the Open Door about the potential for a long term partnership.*

Jordan Ford presented a map of where the bus routes are, where students live, and where some possible locations for buildings have been. He has spent the past 2 years identifying properties to find that they are not viable due to a variety of issues such as zoning, location, size, price, and lack of green space.

Beacon Academy and Church of the Open Door have had a very positive relationship thus far. The church has been flexible and accommodating with all of our needs and seems very willing to continue to do this in the future. The church personnel whom Jordan Ford spoke with indicated that they may be open to a long term partnership with Beacon Academy and has many creative ideas of how this could work.

The board gives Jordan Ford and Tam Harken the direction to talk to the church about a long term plan in the range of 5-10 years.

The Beacon Academy Board recommends that the Friends of Beacon board stop looking at properties until a potential long term relationship with the Church of the Open Door is fully explored.

PTO Report: None

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- STANDING COMMITTEES

- a. **Governance (Ann Marie Roder)- Policy 403-** *Leo Christenson feels comfortable with the discussions that have taken place with the policy and does not see any other changes need to be made.*

Motion:	To approve the second reading of policy 403.		
Made by:	Leo Christenson	Seconded by:	Candace Johnson
Discussion:			
Vote:	Yea: all	Nay: none	Abstain: none
Decision:	passes		

- b. **Technology Committee (Scott DesBles)-** None
- c. **Curriculum (Rainey Miller) -** *The health survey has been sent to parents and there have been 32 responses. All parents so far have been in support of a middle school health curriculum.*
- d. **Marketing and Public Relations (Cathy Burke)-** *The committee will have to start marketing based on the discussions we had tonight. One family has volunteered to make a float for Plymouth on Parade.*

- ON CALL COMMITTEES

- a. **Fundraising and Grants-** None
- b. **Long-Range Planning-** None
- c. **Transportation-** *Routes may need to be looked at in the future based on tonight's discussion.*

Board Correspondence and Communication- Friends of Education documents (see attachment)

Old Business- None

New Business- None

NEXT MEETING IS MAY 13, 2010 AT 6:00 P.M.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF NEXT MEETING AGENDA-

Motion to approve agenda forwarded by Terese Corey Blanck, seconded by Cathy Burke. Approved unanimously.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Motion to adjourn forwarded by Scott DesBles, seconded by Kalin Farrell. Approved unanimously.
Meeting adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

Approved on _____

Anne Kronebusch, Secretary
Beacon Academy School Board