

Beacon Academy Charter District 4124
 Board Meeting Minutes, May 13, 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 (6:22)	✓	

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

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

ADVISORY MEMBERS Sean Koster

MISC. ATTENDEES Erin Miller, Jennissa Wold, Steve Haagenson, John Cich, Erik Hinz, Jan Allen, Doug McGuire

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

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA Approval of agenda, Approval of Minutes from the 3-11-10 board meeting, and the contract renewals listed below.

Motion:	To approve the consent agenda.		
Made by:	Terese Corey Blanck	Seconded by:	Rainey Miller
Discussion:			
Vote:	Yea: all	Nay: none	Abstain: none
Decision:	passes		

Contract Renewals:

- A. Region V Computer Services
- B. Larson Allen LLP
- C. By Word of Mouth
- D. Evolution Therapy
- E. Minnesota Special Education Resources for Charters-at a level III
- F. Keith Johnson Financial Services Inc.
- G. Keith Johnson Special Education Services Inc.

Open Floor Comments:

A. Steve Haagenson from Accord Benefits

-Steve Haagenson presented information about the purpose of benefits, what kind of benefits they offer, how they help us, and why we should continue to use Accord Benefits. Steve mentioned that he has been our insurance broker since Beacon Academy started and has a good understanding of the needs of Beacon Academy since he served as an advisor to the board for several years.

-The rate increase for next year will be a little less than 9-13%, depending on if Mayo Clinic is included vs. excluded, which is not much more than medical inflation. He is looking into what health insurance companies would offer Beacon the best rates.

- Over the past 2 years Beacon employees have paid in less money to Health Partners than the company has paid out.
- Health benefit decisions need to be decided by May 30th and will be discussed in a special board meeting.
- Steve Haagenson will continue to work with the benefits committee this year on how we can save money and for recommendations for next year.
- Right now Beacon covers 75% of employees and 25% of dependents plan costs and this is something that we can continue to look at.

B. John Cich and Erik Hinz from Associated Financial Group

John Cich and Erik Hinz presented information about Associated Financial Group. They answered Jordan Ford's questions on what advantages or services they can offer to our employee group, what trends they see in the health insurance industry, and how we could make reductions to our current plan. (See handout)

- Jordan Ford would like an insurance broker that can give us sound advice, give us advanced warning when possible, and to provide good benefits to employees without breaking the bank.
- They work with many public schools in the area and could provide references.
- They use many different software programs that can help predict costs.
- Switching brokers would not require employees to fill out paperwork or get new cards. It would just require an administrator to complete a contract with the broker.

-Jan Allen stated that she has enjoyed working with Accord Benefits and Steve Haagenson over the years. We are looking elsewhere to be transparent and to do due diligence, as we have received benefits for over 3 years now, not because we are not happy. This will now go back to the benefits committee to make final recommendations to the board.

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

- Bank Balance as of 4-30-10: \$333,360.10
- The finance committee will meet before the next board meeting to go through this year's budget line by line to make necessary adjustments.
- Enrollment went up to 396 students.
- The lease aide was reduced by about \$8000 because of a decrease of lease aide from the state.
- The special education revenue increased from 90 to 95% of expenditures, which amounts to \$27,000.
- There was a discussion about the professional development budget line item being reduced from \$36,000 to \$25,000 and how that money is being spent.
- The \$95,000 building expense was added to the budget and that would bring our projected 6-30-10 fund balance to 20.2% if it is approved.
- At the next board meeting there were be a preliminary budget for the 2010-2011 school year.
- The cash flow projection for the 2009-2010 and the 2010-2011 school year has not changed much from the last board meeting. (See handout)

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

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Motion:	Whereby the Beacon Academy School Board has determined the building project costs were incurred knowing a funding source was not identified, and has concluded that these costs have no future value, the Board hereby approves expensing these costs up to \$95,000 from the school's general fund.		
Made by:	Terese Corey Blanck	Seconded by:	Leo Christenson
Discussion:			
Vote:	Yea: all	Nay: none	Abstain: none
Decision:	passes		

Principal's Report (Jordan Ford):

1. Enrollment Update (see attachment)- *Jordan Ford presented an enrollment report for this year and next year, including students that may not be returning next year. There are currently 403 students enrolled for the 2009-2010 school year and 422 students enrolled for the 2010-2011 school year. Kristi Pingel is taking over enrollment for Christina Holmes for the time being. Ann Marie Roder suggested having an exit interview with Beacon families that are choosing to leave.*

2. Personnel
 - Kindergarten offer – Michelle Liesmaki- *The position was offered to Michelle Liesmaki who is currently a paraprofessional in the first grade, and she has accepted.*
 - School Social Worker/Counselor offer – Abby Mogensen- *Connie Isle is retiring and Abby Mogenson has been offered the position and has accepted.*
 - Instrumental Band instructor update- *Per a discussion with MDE, we are not allowed to have a fee based program during the day. This could happen before or after school.*
 - Leave of Absence Request – Christina Holmes- *Christina Holmes has fallen ill and is not currently able to perform her job. She has requested a leave of absence from today until July 26th.*

Motion:	The board grants a leave of absence for Christina Holmes from May 13, 2010 through July 26, 2010.		
Made by:	Leo Christenson	Seconded by:	Rainey Miller
Discussion:			
Vote:	Yea: all	Nay: none	Abstain: none
Decision:	passes		

3. Events and Recognitions

- Charter School Essay Contest Winners- *These winners read their essays at the Capitol.*
 Nicholas Jackson – Gr. 5 First Place
 Daniel Elsner – Gr. 4 Third Place
- Grandparents Day- *We had a successful Grandparents Day and thank you to Ann Marie Roder for all her help organizing the event.*
- Grades 1-3 Music Concert & Art Show- *Thank you to Mari Scott and Sara Fabian for a successful event.*

4. MACS and Legislative Update

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- MACS Membership Renewal - \$4426.35 (see attachments) *-We would get a 3% discount if we pay in full by July 15th. Jordan Ford recommends renewing our contract with MACs.*

Motion:	To approve the MACs membership renewal for the amount of \$4426.35.		
Made by:	Scott DesBles	Seconded by:	Candace Johnson
Discussion:			
Vote:	Yea: all	Nay: none	Abstain: none
Decision:	passes		

- Authorizer Fees for 2010-11 (see attachment) - *The authorizer fees are set at \$10,400. Our authorizer has indicated there would be a potential rebate system put in place in our new contract if financial and academic thresholds are met.*
- Senate passed facilities bill, House has passed it today- *Stay tuned to legislative updates for more information.*

5. Lease Negotiations Update- *Tam Harken and Jordan Ford met with the church today and had a productive discussion. They discussed plans for next year and in future years. They are looking at a 10 year lease that would be reviewed each year. They would like to have a lease agreement to present to the board by mid-June at the latest.*

- 3 & 7 year benchmarks
- Greater control of space during the week
- More space to use during the lease
- Tied to enrollment targets

6. 2020 Vision Plan- *This would be an active board committee that could replace the long range planning committee. Jordan Ford would like to include board members, teachers, and community members from different geographic locations. Jordan Ford will compile a list that he will present at the June board meeting.*

- 10 year vision plan to redefine/reaffirm Beacon Academy
- Task Force made up of stakeholders to examine vision and mission, facility, programming, enrollment, and sustained financial health
- Recommendations to the Board by March 2011.

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

Chairperson (Tam Harken):

-Tam Harken would like to propose having an audit committee as a sub committee to the finance committee, as recommended by MACs. Their purpose would be to do an in depth review of each line item once a trimester or more frequently if directed by the board. They would then make recommendations to the finance committee. She suggested that the committee could include business manager, principal, and board chair. Terese Corey Blanck suggested that this committee should include the board treasurer and not the board chair.

Motion:	That an audit subcommittee be added to the finance committee, which would consist of the business manager, principal, and board treasurer.		
Made by:	Leo Christenson	Seconded by:	Candace Johnson

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Discussion:			
Vote:	Yea: all	Nay: none	Abstain: none
Decision:	passes		
This would go into effect with the 2010-2011 school year.			

-Tam Harken sent an e-mail about the second annual charter school law conference. Tam Harken, Sean Koster, and Ann Marie Roder went last year and found it very helpful. Tam would like some board members to attend this in August.

-A special board meeting has been scheduled on May 20th at 6:30 a.m. to discuss insurance benefits and teacher contracts.

Friends of Beacon (Ann Marie Roder): Friends of Beacon will meet next week to cancel an account with Associated Bank.

PTO Report: PTO sent a report. (see handout)

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- STANDING COMMITTEES

- a. **Governance (Ann Marie Roder)-** The ballots for the school board election were tallied today and the results are:

Erin Miller-140

Jennissa Wold- 134

Michael Kuehn- 55

Doug McGuire- 93

Leo Christenson-145

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

- c. **Technology Committee (Scott DesBles) -** The committee is looking for direction on what our legal requirement is for data retention. This will have an impact on next year's budget and it should be documented by the board as a business policy. Governance will look into this.

- d. **Curriculum (Rainey Miller) -** Rainey Miller sent the board the survey results from the current 5th-7th grade parents. Forty-seven families responded to the survey and all but one was in favor of a health curriculum in middle school. Sixty percent of the families were in favor of a unit on sexuality and 80% favored a drug prevention program. The Great Body Shop is a curriculum that is currently being used by many districts in the area. A representative will present at the curriculum committee next week. The cost of this program ranges from \$200-\$1000 per student depending on whether or not the students get to keep the brochures. Administration is still working through who would teach health, how it would fit into the schedule, and how it will be communicated to parents.

- e. **Marketing and Public Relations (Cathy Burke) -** Beacon Academy is no longer a participant in Golden Valley Days. Maple Grove Days is the second weekend in July and we are going to be in the Business Expo.

- ON CALL COMMITTEES

- a. **Fundraising and Grants-** None

- b. **Long-Range Planning-** None
- c. **Transportation-** *The chair of the committee will start evaluating routes for next year. Rates will go up by 3% next year.*

Board Correspondence and Communication- None

Old Business- None
New Business- None

NEXT MEETING IS JUNE 10, 2010 AT 6:00 P.M.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF NEXT MEETING AGENDA-

Motion to approve agenda forwarded by Anne Kronebusch, seconded by Cathy Rawitzer. Approved unanimously.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Motion to adjourn forwarded by Anne Kronebusch, seconded by Cathy Rawitzer. Approved unanimously.
Meeting adjourned at 9:54 p.m.

Approved on _____

Anne Kronebusch, Secretary
Beacon Academy School Board

APPROVED