

Beacon Academy Charter District 4124
 Board Meeting Minutes, March 11, 2009 6:00 p.m.
 12325 Highway 55, Plymouth, MN 55441

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	✓	
Bob Zarriello	✓	
Tam Harken	✓	
Kalin Farrell	✓	

Board Member	Present	Absent
Scott DesBles	✓	
Jordan Ford (ex-officio)	✓	
Gretchen McQuillan	✓	
Candace Newman	✓	

Board Member	Present	Absent
Anne Ingvaldson	✓	
Lori Karcz	✓	
Anne Marie Roder	✓	
Terese Corey Blanck	✓	

ADVISORY MEMBERS Keith Johnson

MISC. ATTENDEES Clint Carlson

SCHOOL MISSION STATEMENT *(choral reading) "To provide Twin Cities' families with a proven, rigorous and content-rich curriculum integrated with sequential Spanish language instruction. The School will create a results-driven small learning community built around a culture of positive character development and committed parental involvement."*

APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA: Forwarded by Candace, seconded by Gretchen, unanimously approved.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES 2-25-09: forwarded by Kalin, seconded by Cathy, unanimously approved.

Open Floor Comments:

Treasurers Report-Bob Zarriello-(see handout)

- Bank Balance as of 2-28-09: \$585,812.99, plus \$250,000 CD (opened 9/29/08)

Motion:	To approve the financial report.		
Made by:	Terese	Seconded by:	Ann Marie
Discussion:			
Vote:	Yea: all	Nay: none	Abstain: none
Decision:	passes		

Principal's Report(Jordan Ford):

1. Enrollment for this year – down one to 372.
2. Personnel
 - Notify faculty by 3/27/09 if they are invited back for 2009/10 *(Jordan will not have official contracts or salary figures until later in the spring.)*
 - Notify support staff by 6/1/09 if they are invited back for 2009/10

I am proposing a new or increased positions for next year – Technology/Middle School math position
 Increased Title I services
 Speech teacher (*Jordan would like to hire a speech teacher that would not have to be outsourced, which is what we currently do.*)
 Replacement for Janet (*coordinator of student services-transportation, curriculum*)

- ISES proposal for renewing our Special Ed. Director service at \$9350.00 (yr) *This will need to be decided by the board soon.*

3. Church of the Open Door Update

- PUD Amendment was passed in consent agenda by Maple Grove City Council on Monday, March 2nd
- Transition Team is gearing up for the move. *To date, we have received one moving company bid to move the entire contents of the school, but will be seeking more.*
- Church of the Open Door will be ready by 6/1/2009. *Even though the lease is scheduled to start 7/1/09, the church will allow an early occupancy for moving of supplies and getting set up.*
- Insurance requirement has been taken care of for multiple-site coverage
- Negotiating the lease to be submitted to MDE by May 1, 2009
- School calendars and events are being married to the church's calendar
- Open House for our parents will be on Thursday, March 26th from 7-7:45 PM
- All-school picnic will take place at Church of the Open Door on Thursday, May 21st from 6-8 PM.

4. Early closing procedures – currently being revised for next year -*The biggest problem this year for the early release was the communication with parents. There is a service called Global Connect that is a distribution that could notify parents about an early release or other emergency. It could be a text message, an e-mail, or a voicemail to parents. Jordan will move forward on purchasing this program.*

5. MACS Renewal of Annual Membership- *The fee has changed slightly and would be \$2500 and \$5.25 a student, which would be about \$3,900 total.*

6. other – *Keith has recommended that we enter an agreement with an HR firm for an as needed basis. The fee is \$340 an hour and they bill in 6 minute increments.*

Motion:	To approve an engagement of services with Fredrikson and Byron not to exceed 3 hours.		
Made by:	Bob	Seconded by:	Terese
Discussion:			
Vote:	Yea: all	Nay: none	Abstain: none
Decision:	passes		
	The emphasis will be for legal services related to human resource issues.		

Assistant Director's Report (Sean Koster): None

PTO Report: None

Board Chair Report (Tam Harken): *Gretchen announced that she is resigning from the board because of board schedule conflicts with child care. Rainy Miller (middle school science teacher) has indicated she is willing to replace Gretchen on the board. Thank you to Gretchen for all her hard work on the board and for finding a replacement.*

Motion:	To accept Gretchen's resignation as of 3/12/09.		
Made by:	Kalin	Seconded by:	Candace
Discussion:			
Vote:	Yea: all, but Gretchen	Nay: none	Abstain: Gretchen
Decision:	passes		

Motion:	To appoint Rainy Miller to fill Gretchen's board term until 6/30/09.		
Made by:	Anne	Seconded by:	Cathy
Discussion:			
Vote:	Yea: none	Nay: all	Abstain: none
Decision:	Does not pass		
	Tam will verify with Rainy that she is filling the term until 6/30/09. She will be appointed at the next board meeting when she will be present.		

Friends of Beacon Update (Bob Zarriello): *The purchase agreement says that we can extend the agreement by \$7500 per month for 5 months to keep the land. The first date is 3/19/09 and Cedarcrest needs to be given 5 days notice before this time, which puts us at this Saturday 3/14. The current rate in the market is around 9% and was at 6.75% when we first started negotiations. Dick Ward, from Dougherty & Co., sent correspondence to Bob noting that a bonding deal may soon take place in the 9% range but that he doesn't see the rates coming down to 8.5% until possibly late in the year. It was the rates jumping to 8.5% last fall that put our development to a halt. Buying and building through bonds as our funding source is not a viable option right now. The market value of the land we have a purchase agreement for most likely has dropped. There have been discussions to do a joint venture with Cedarcrest and Cedarcrest's board has not come to a consensus. If we were to cancel our purchase agreement with Cedarcrest, we would also terminate our agreement with Anderson Builders and notify the bonding company. Money that we have spent so far could still be carried over into future building projects even if it is at a different site. We will continue to work with our business manager and accounting firm to determine the appropriate way to account for these expenditures in the interim. We could take the risk of \$7500 for another month or we could pursue other options and sever the purchase agreement for now. Members of the Beacon Academy board may feel there are other land options that could be pursued if we chose not to go forward with the purchase agreement.*

Motion:	To recommend that Friends of Beacon terminate the purchase agreement with Cedarcrest Academy.		
Made by:	Anne	Seconded by:	Scott
Discussion:			
Vote:	Yea:	Nay:	Abstain:
Decision:	Does not pass		
	This motion is amended below.		

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Motion:	To charge Bob and Cathy as Beacon's representatives on the Friends of Beacon Board to terminate the purchase agreement with Cedarcrest Academy.		
Made by:	Ann Marie	Seconded by:	Scott
Discussion:			
Vote:	Yea: all	Nay: none	Abstain: none
Decision:	passes		

Motion:	To charge Bob and Cathy as Beacon's representatives on the Friends of Beacon Board to terminate the relationship with Anderson Builders.		
Made by:	Scott	Seconded by:	Terese
Discussion:			
Vote:	Yea: all	Nay: none	Abstain: none
Decision:	passes		

Jordan will communicate updates from Friends of Beacon and Church of the Open Door in his letter to the parents scheduled to go out tomorrow.

COMMITTEE REPORTS
STANDING COMMITTEES

- a. **Governance (Ann Marie)** – *First readings of Policy 503 (Attendance), 713 (Student Activity Accounting), 511 (Student Fundraising), 806 (Crisis Management)*

Board Elections

Tomorrow's communication to families will announce school board elections. Right now it is not clear who is planning on returning to the board next year. Ballots will go out April 30th to families. There was an idea of having an informational board meeting for interested board members to give them more information about what being on the board involves. Ann Marie advised this was already scheduled to occur at 6:00 p.m. on the April 8th board meeting. It was also suggested that there be an open house to meet board members that are running.

- b. **Executive (Tam Harken)** - *Tam is working on surveys for Jordan and Sean to evaluate their performance. Once the executive committee reviews and approves, they will be sent out to staff and board members.*
- c. **Finance (Bob Zarriello)**- *None*
- d. **Technology Committee (Scott DesBles)**- *None*
- e. **Curriculum (Lori Karcz)**- *The curriculum committee met to discuss student support services. Lorie Schultz said that things are going well for her with Title 1, but that she needs more time because she is not able to reach all of the students that she is trying to teach. It was suggested that Kari (art) and Mari (music) could get a sub for a day to do curriculum development. (See handout) The next meeting will be on March 16th at 6:30 to discuss science.*
- f. **Marketing and Public Relations (Cathy Burke)**- *This committee should start meeting again to prepare for the move to Church of the Open Door. The website should be updated to reflect current news at Beacon Academy.*

- g. New Building (Ann Marie)-** None
- h. Transition (Gretchen McQuillan)-** *This committee is meeting next Tuesday morning at 8:00 a.m. in Gretchen's room.*
- i. Transportation (Tam Harken)-** *This committee is meeting next Thursday evening at 6:30 p.m. in room 111.*

ON CALL COMMITTEES

- a. Fundraising and Grants-** *Pennies for Patients raised \$2,624.96 in one week. This amount doubled from last year. Candace surveyed teachers, staff, and parents to get their feedback about the fundraiser. Candace wanted to thank everyone for their participation in the event.*
- b. Long-Range Planning-** None

Board Correspondence and Communication- None

Old Business- *Calendar Update – The calendar committee, along with 8-10 parents met, and have 2 calendar proposals to present to the board (see handouts). The only difference between the 2 calendars is a teacher day on September 28th, which is Yom Kippur. The issue of childcare during days off from school came up and is something that should be looked into. Gretchen suggested that the last day of school should be on June 10th and have teachers return on June 11th and then be done. The proposed calendars have 169 or 170 school days.*

The calendar has 169 student days and 10 teacher days.

Motion: To approve the 2009-2010 school year calendar version blue modified. (See attached)				
Made by: Ann Marie		Seconded by: Gretchen		
Discussion:				
Vote:	Yea:	All, but Scott	Nay:	Scott
Decision:	Passes			
Abstain: none				

New Business- None

NEXT MEETING IS MARCH 25, 2009 AT 5:30 P.M.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF NEXT MEETING AGENDA- THE AGENDA WILL BE CHANGED FROM A WORKING SESSION TO A SPECIAL MEETING.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Motion to adjourn forwarded by Terese, seconded by Candace. Approved unanimously.
 Meeting adjourned at 10:10 p.m.

Approved on _____

Anne Ingvaldson, Secretary
Beacon Academy School Board

APPROVED