

May 2015 Board Spotlight

At our May meeting, we ratified the board election results. New board members, Todd Alle (middle school Spanish) and Brandon Huberty (7 & 8 English), will be seated for three-year terms at the June meeting as well as returning board members, Jacque Lee (current treasurer and parent) and Heidi Sheard (parent). We also appointed Meg Herlofsky (special ed. teacher) to fill the two years that remain on a term recently vacated by a teacher on the board.

Finance

We are in a multi-month process of reviewing and discussing the 2015-2016 budget ahead of our expected approval of the final budget at our June meeting. Those of you following the events at our capital in St. Paul know that school funding for next year is not yet set. We are keeping conservative numbers in our budget until we know for certain if and how much additional funds we will receive. If you are inclined to contact your Minnesota legislator on important matters such as this, ask for support of the new Long Term Maintenance Aid (could be used for any need in the school) and support for Full Funding for Extended Support Aid for Charter School Students (will help balance the current and significant discrepancy in funds between charter school students and traditional public school students).

School Lunch Program

Mr. Koster brought to us an update on the school lunch program. We will be staying with Done Right Foods for our caterer next year. There are some cost increases in the food and milk we supply our students each day. We decided to keep our lunch prices at \$3.00 and raise milk prices from \$.40 to \$.50 per carton. As usual, the lunch meal will come with salad bar and a milk.

Facility Planning Committee

The FPC is working in the best interest of our school community by studying, researching, and narrowing our options for expansion. The board's vision continues to be a k-8, three section charter school that maintains the values outlined in our mission statement. The FPC is focusing on two main options, new construction on some land identified near the Corcoran/Maple Grove border and expanding at our current facility in such a way that we would have more classrooms dedicated to Beacon alone. As you can imagine, there are distinct pros and cons to each. The FPC is actively pursuing both options.

Technology Committee

It is time to upgrade our server at Beacon Academy. The technology committee was tasked with finding the best server for our needs at the best price. We gave them permission to move forward on ordering the server they have selected so that it can be installed this summer while the students are away. This is an important and necessary capital investment for our school.