

## November 2015 Board Spotlight

A representative came from Clifton Larson Allen to present their 2015 independent financial audit of Beacon Academy. In presenting the 55 page audit summary, Mr. Lorenzini gave us high marks in financial health, noting that our fund balance of 34% is exceptional. Thanks to our Business Manager, Keith Johnson, and our Treasurer, Jacque Lee, for their expertise and leadership in this important area.

The Principal's report included the much-awaited news that all five bus routes are running on schedule. We also discussed that our waitlist numbers by grade are historically low. While we have zero waiting for kindergarten, we have 19 waiting to get into first grade. Several new charter schools moving into our quadrant of the metro have been a direct influence on our waitlist numbers, particularly in the lower grades. Even so, our actual enrollment numbers are right where they should be. We are watching this.

The Curriculum committee gave a report on their work so far this fall. According to Beacon's ten-year curriculum review cycle, it is the year to review the math curriculum. The committee has begun researching over a dozen options. It is going to be an arduous process. They have not necessarily decided to move away from Saxon math, but are going to do due diligence on the best options that are out there and will come to the full board with a recommendation in the spring. If you have questions or comments for the committee as they roll up their sleeves on this important task, contact committee chair and middle school social studies teacher, Matt Goodman. [mgoodman@beaconacademy.com](mailto:mgoodman@beaconacademy.com).

The Facility Planning committee is actively pursuing the option of expansion in the city of Corcoran. The land is best described as ½ mile west of 101 on Bass Lake Rd. The board approved a draft of a purchase agreement for the land. This draft will initiate the negotiation process with the land seller. The committee is also having a simple sketch of a possible building layout prepared for the city of Corcoran to review. The board studied an updated ten-year financial forecast for possible expansion by building a new facility. As part of this process, the board increased the authorized class size in a new building to 28 students. The increase in class size was suggested by our partners in order to make the economic realities of a new building achievable. This decision was not made quickly nor was it made lightly. Our small learning community is a distinction of our school and a source of pride for all of us. The board is confident that the feeling of community can be achieved even with the authorized increase. And, to be clear, the board simply authorized an increase in class size at a new building – school administration can always decide to set a smaller class size as warranted, particularly in the lower grade classrooms.

If you find that you wish you had a greater degree of detail than this, please consider attending a board meeting or a committee meeting, all are open to the public.

Heidi Sheard  
Board of Directors, secretary