

August 2015 Board Spotlight

The Board held a workshop prior to its regular meeting to entertain a refresher primer from Beacon's counsel on open meeting laws. These laws assure that all members of the public, including Beacon's students and parents, have the opportunity to witness and be part of the governance of the school. The Board takes this commitment seriously and works towards an open and free dialog with all of its stakeholders.

In our regular August meeting, the Board reviewed Beacon's current enrollment and waiting list numbers. There are currently 131 students on the waiting list for this upcoming school year, with one opening in 6th grade, two openings in 7th grade, and seven in 8th grade. We have an incredibly strong and cohesive team of middle school teachers who would be happy to welcome students into these positions. If you are aware of a family considering Beacon Academy, encourage them to apply as soon as possible. As you know, having a student enrolled at Beacon gives other students in that family sibling priority when space becomes available in their respective grades. Have them talk to Kristi Pingel, Enrollment Coordinator, 763-546-9999 or kpingel@beaconacademy.com.

Sean Koster brought a letter he received from the Totino-Grace high school principal, Cheri Broadhead. She shared the good news that they have accepted two Beacon graduates into their rigorous Scholars Program. In Principal Broadhead's own words, "Thank you for the great preparation you provided these students. I believe they will continue to find success at TG and become some of our strongest leaders in the classroom." Beacon students transfer to a variety of high schools around the metro and we feel confident that they are prepared not only for the academic rigor, but also for the transition.

The Facility Planning Committee updated the board on its progress. While the committee continues to keep tabs on the defined search area, it is narrowing in on two viable options. The goal is to keep taking steps forward in both scenarios in order to arrive at a final recommendation for Beacon's future expansion plans. We will be able to share more information with you next month after the committee has had time to meet with the key partners we have selected to help us in a potential renovation or new-build project.

We are privileged to serve the students, parents, and staff that make up our great Beacon community. Enjoy your last days of summer!

Heidi Sheard, Board Secretary