

March 2015 Board Spotlight

Hello Beacon parents and staff,

We know that many of you are interested in the discussions and decisions that take place in the board room at Beacon Academy. The following is a brief summary of our March meeting.

Treasurer's Report

Jacque Lee, Treasurer, and Keith Johnson, Business Manager, updated us on the budget. We reviewed and approved the IRS tax form that is to be submitted soon. In addition, we discussed the growing concern about a discrepancy in state government funding for public school districts compared to public charter schools. A few credible reports have come out recently and awareness of this issue is growing.

Principal's Report

Sean Koster has negotiated a favorable agreement with our new bus company, American Transportation. The board feels very good about this new partnership, which begins next school year. We also approved the 2015-2016 school calendar. It is attached for your reference. You will see that the testing dates are included. As you consider vacations and appointments, please avoid taking your students out on these important days.

Assistant Principal's Report

Kris Achter represented Beacon Academy at the Charter School Day at the Capital in March. While he was there, he made connections with the legislators who serve the district where Beacon is located. He felt he was able to raise awareness for our school and also the funding discrepancy between traditional public school and charter schools in Minnesota.

Facility Planning Committee

Rob Kalinsky and the FPC are continuing to partner with Cushman Wakefield Northmarq to pursue any and all available expansion options within our search area. We spent time reviewing and confirming our vision to expand to a K-8, three section school. That means the committee is focused on taking measured steps toward our options to fulfill this vision. Though we do not have an absolute timeline, Rob assured the board that the FPC is committed to making a recommendation to the board by or before April 2016, with much discussion between now and then, of course. Should the decision be to renovate, build, or expand in our current location, this would keep us on track for 2017-2018 occupancy.

Employee Retention and Compensation Committee

The ERCC has been working to fine tune its proposal for a new pay structure for teachers at Beacon Academy. Board members and the parent community are in agreement that it is time for an improvement in this area. We are pleased to say that the board adopted the recommended pay structure, which takes into account years of service but also rewards those who have sought out advanced degrees. Unlike our last pay structure, there is a compensation increase every two years. We value our teachers at Beacon Academy!

On behalf of the Beacon Academy School Board,
Heidi Sheard, school board member