

December Board Spotlight

Many of us were able to view the new construction and remodeling progress at the Crystal location earlier this month. The progress is stunning. What a privilege it will be for those who call Beacon home to work and learn in this beautifully updated and spacious environment! We are told the construction zone isn't safe enough for large groups of people to view but the project team will find a time when it is appropriate to do an open house for our community. Following are the highlights of our December meeting agenda and corresponding discussion. CliftonLarsonAllen came to present their annual audit report to the board. As in year's past, Beacon Academy received the highest rating possible. We have a very strong fund balance, a solid and responsible budget, and superior record keeping practices. Many thanks to our business manager, Keith Johnson, who attends all our board meetings and helps facilitate these best practices year round!

Enrollment is at 392 with a few students starting after winter break. If you know anyone considering attending Beacon at our new building in Crystal next year, be sure they contact our enrollment coordinator, Julie Brinkman, in the first couple weeks of January. In the near future is both a prospective family open house and also the enrollment deadline for the lottery which takes place in February. You could always send someone to our website enrollment pages for more information. www.beaconacademy.com. It's worth noting that any current openings will fill up and waiting lists will grow, so someone with a current K – 7th grader might consider transferring schools before year's end.

Start and end time for our school day was discussed. It seems our current schedule is in the sweet spot for learning as supported by research, but Mr. Koster thought it was timely to discuss this again to be sure. Many large districts are moving to later start times for high school and earlier start times for elementary. Our small K-8 school with dedicated busing service has the luxury of choosing the most optimal start and end times for school. Also discussed was that our families enjoy the perk of older siblings arriving home at the same time as younger siblings. The school day may lengthen just slightly due to longer passing times, but it will not be a significant change. There was a consensus that there is no compelling reason to change our overall daily schedule.

The Employee Retention and Compensation committee proposed that we make a slight change in the pay scale review process by adding the administrator's positions into the review cycle which currently includes teachers/support staff and office staff. This means all employee salaries will now be reviewed on an alternating three-year cycle.

On behalf of the board, warm wishes for a peaceful holiday break,
Heidi Sheard, Secretary