

February 2016 Spotlight

The board of directors met last week in special session to continue its expansion exploration on the Corcoran site and continued its discussion during the regular board meeting. With its partners, including RJM Construction, Rivera Architect, and Cushman Wakefield, the board has approved a vision as to how the possible school in Corcoran will be configured. This will continue to be refined over the next few months. The next steps involve submissions to the City of Corcoran and Minnesota Department of Education.

The board has also been presented with another expansion option in the city of Crystal. The board toured this new site last weekend and decided to ask its partners to explore this option more fully. This project could involve both renovation of an existing structure and a new addition. The board seeks to weigh both this option and the Corcoran option to arrive at the best value for the Beacon community.

The board is scheduled to complete the due diligence process in June. At that time, we hope to be in a position to have bonds issued on its behalf to proceed with expansion. The Beacon community is encouraged to participate in the various opportunities to shape this important milestone in Beacon's growth. There are opportunities to both participate in the Facility Planning Committee meetings and regular board meetings. Both provide excellent information about expansion plans. Details are provided on the Beacon web site for dates and times of these meetings.

Other topics covered in our February board meeting include approving the bus contract for the remainder of this school year. We also reviewed the enrollment report. There are 95 students on the waiting list for next year. The kindergarten lottery already took place and the lottery for 1st-8th grade will be on March 7th at 4 p.m. The Marketing Committee is moving forward with developing a new website and social media strategy. The Employee Retention and Compensation Committee brought to the board a plan that brings every employee into a tiered pay structure. The Finance Committee is taking a month to review the plan, and we will discuss again in March.

On behalf of the Beacon Board of Directors,
Heidi Sheard, secretary