

January 2016 Board Spotlight

Greetings, Beacon Academy community. Following are the highlights of our January board meeting. Hopefully this will give you an overview of what is happening on the board level. As always, if you find you want more detail, consider attending a future meeting. You can find the meeting schedule on the school calendar.

Our enrollment is currently at 96% with two immediate openings in 4th grade and two immediate openings in 5th grade. There are a few spots in each middle school grade as well. This is a great opportunity should you know of someone interested in making the move to Beacon Academy. Principal, Sean Koster, talked about how students who have been part of the Beacon culture for longer periods of time tend to achieve higher scores on their standardized tests. He also shared how happy he is with the academic rigor that students can be a part of in their middle school years at Beacon, regardless of when they join our school. Even with diverse academic backgrounds, we are ultimately pleased with the way our small learning community is able to meet the needs of our middle schoolers and prepare them for the rigor of high school and beyond. Mr. Koster would like everyone to know that we work extremely hard to achieve great things with all students, no matter when they arrive, and welcome new students with open arms.

Mr. Koster also gave a bussing update. The bus company that came in to help when our contracted bus company failed to meet its obligations this fall, seems to be covering routes well. We had a few delays last week, route five in particular, when we had snow falling in the morning. Mr. Koster is holding out on solidifying a contract for next year until we see if they are able to provide safe and on-time service this winter when road conditions aren't always ideal. Those who use the bus service can appreciate his discernment in this matter.

The Marketing Committee is researching options for getting a new and improved website built. Not only will it be a much better reflection of our fine school, but when combined with a better social media presence, Beacon will be more prominent in online searches and frequently visited social media sites.

The Facility Planning Committee (FPC) is working diligently with Cushman Wakefield Northmarq (CWN) and the City of Corcoran to continue to shape Beacon's possible expansion into a new building on a 15-acre plot of land just north of Bass Lake Rd./Cty. 10 and just west of Hwy. 101. Representatives from CWN as well as the FPC participated in the board meeting to present the current state of the project and answer questions. The board reviewed the current sketch of the site as well as the fit plan to ensure that there is ample space for all of Beacon's programs. A lengthy discussion followed regarding the financials that influence the total cost of the project. The cost projections are currently over budget and some expenses outside those that will be financed (such as expenses associated with the purchase of some furniture and IT

components) are larger than initially anticipated. CWN and the FPC are working closely with the Corcoran City Council to try to iron out the details and realign the budget, which is a natural part of the process. The board remains committed to guarding Beacon's financial strength and future as an award-winning charter school. We understand that there is a tremendous amount of interest in this expansion option, and the board welcomes input from the community as it continues forward with due diligence.

On behalf of Beacon Academy Board of Directors,

Heidi Sheard, secretary