

## January 2017 Board Spotlight

We are pleased to have received the High Quality Charter School Designation for the fourth year in a row. There are 160 charter schools in Minnesota and 26 achieved the designation this year. Mr. Koster commended our ongoing commitment to look at every decision through the student lens and believes that is the underlying reason why we continue to be able to achieve this elite designation.

Some recent efforts by our marketing committee include two postcards, one geared to elementary school students and one geared to middle school students. They were sent to homes with those age students in several communities surrounding the school.

Mr. Koster gave an update on busing. He said he is getting a pretty good response from his long list of possible satellite bus stops. As soon as we have more concrete data on where our student body is coming from, the transportation committee will confirm bus stops and start planning the actual routes. We also received a staffing update that we have filled our two open teacher positions, a special education teacher and a middle school Spanish teacher position. We are pleased to welcome such experienced teachers to our school as Mr. Fjelstad and Señora B!

The renewal of our membership to Minnesota Association of Charter Schools (MACS) brought up a conversation about why it is important for us to belong. MACS is an organization that lobbies in St. Paul on behalf of charter schools. They have been long-time advocates for the full dollar amount per student following the student. As you may know, our government funding is not equitable compared to the traditional public schools. MACS has also been lobbying the legislature to allow charter schools to be able to own their own schools and have access to government-backed bonding. MACS is a resource for us throughout the year when questions about governance and procedures arise.

Mr. Achter took some time to share some general referral data for first trimester. He noted that feedback from teachers has been helpful and adjustments have been made that are working. Mr. Koster added that students who transfer typically need a trimester or so to adjust to our culture and our high standards of behavior. The teachers on the board who have a pulse on our school said they are encouraged.

Lastly, at a special board meeting on January 9<sup>th</sup>, we voted unanimously to open up a new position for Dean of Students. The job is now officially posted and applications are being accepted. This is approximately 1 ½ years ahead of our forecast but decided it best to bring a Dean of Students into the fold ahead of our anticipated growth and move to the new location.

As always, if you'd like more detail, please feel free to read the meeting minutes that are located in the front office and posted online once they are approved or attend one of our upcoming board meetings.

On behalf of the Beacon Academy Board of Directors,

Heidi Sheard, Secretary