

May 2017 Board Spotlight

Hello Beacon families and staff,

The board of directors held their May meeting last week and following is a brief synopsis of the discussion. Prompted by Mr. Koster's monthly update, we covered the latest enrollment report from Ms. Brinkman, and it is looking great. There are a number of families who need to turn in their registration packets, and once they do, we will have a much better idea of which grades have the longest waiting lists. This information may influence a decision on whether or not we have the numbers to support opening a third section of fifth grade next year.

The Marketing Committee reported that we are branching into a few new advertising channels we haven't used before. One of them is billboard marketing on highways near the school and the other is in the ads that appear before the summer movies at the New Hope Cinema. We will use a 30 second version of our new promo video for this. Both of these efforts match our desire to be recognized by and involved with the neighborhood community surrounding our school.

We approved a slight change in the school calendar for next year, two conference release days for elementary school (k-5). For those of you who have been planning, big breaks remain the same. The two daytime conference options for elementary school take place on October 27 and February 26. (Middle school will still hold classes on these days.)

The dress code policy came back to the board for discussion because concerns were raised about requiring logos on shirts and how this impacts our families. (We do have a new vendor that is more affordable than Land's End and those details will come to you shortly) The end result is that the board has given our administration the latitude to consider extending some sort of grace period for families to comply with the new requirement that shirts have the Beacon lighthouse logo. Mr. Koster will be in communication with you about all these details soon. There will be plenty of time this summer to make sure your student is ready for classes in September.

We approved the Beacon Academy budget for fiscal year 2018. We've been reviewing and discussing it for several months and the budget was approved without concern or much additional discussion. Thanks to the Finance Committee for their work in researching and preparing all the data for us to consider. The Curriculum Committee's recommendation to purchase several different types of books to be used for Spanish language instruction was a part of this budget approval. Thank you, Mr. Goodman, for leading this committee and your thoroughness in following our 10-year curriculum review cycle.

Lastly, since charter schools in Minnesota approve working agreements for teachers and staff one year at a time, we are pleased to say that a working agreement has been extended to Mr. Koster for next school year. We, of course, are all grateful for his dedication to our school and to the culture of our school, as we look to settle into our forever home, 12 miles away in Crystal, MN.

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