

September 2017 Board Spotlight

The School Board held its first monthly meeting of the school year last week and following is a summary of our discussion. The finance report was fairly routine, especially since we are near the beginning of our fiscal year. Our historically healthy fund balance has dipped slightly due to the extra purchases related to getting settled into a new building. Things are looking good and we are committed to making sure we stay fiscally healthy. There is a fair amount of ambiguity in the enrollment numbers right now due to the fact that charter school law requires that we keep spots open for no-show students for two full weeks. The expiration of that time means we can now call to offer those open spots to students on our waiting list. Next month's enrollment numbers should be much more accurate.

Mr. Koster shared that the admin team and the Crystal Police department are reviewing the final details of the emergency plans that were created by the transition committee last spring for lock downs and fire drills. The administrative team feels prepared to keep the students safe and communicated that the school does five drills for each situation. Student achievement was also discussed. Standardized test scores help define the effectiveness of a school and we have always come in above the surrounding districts. Those numbers dipped a bit last Spring in three particular grade levels. Mr. Koster explained that this is being looked at seriously and is one of the primary topics of the 2017-2018 professional development sessions. It was interesting to note that those three grade levels were the ones that saw the greatest turnover in student population. So, the goal moving forward is to look at how we can reach our new students most effectively to bring them up to speed, and to make sure we are helping all students gain the knowledge base and confidence they need to do their best.

These spotlights are summaries meant to help keep you informed. If you find you wish a greater level of detail, please feel free to attend a meeting. The meeting schedule is on the school calendar and in the front office.

On behalf of the Beacon Academy Board of Directors,
Heidi Sheard, Secretary