

CALL TO ORDER Wendy Terry called the meeting to order to at 6:34 p.m.

1.ROLL CALL	Present	Absent
present at time of meeting unless otherwise noted		
Board Member		
Wendy Terry (President)	✓	
Kris Gapinski (Vice President)	✓	
Aaron Price (Treasurer)		✓
Paige Roth (Secretary)	✓	
Elizabeth Brobeck	✓	
Heather Greibrok	✓	
Cameron Ward	✓	
Roxana Bruins	✓	
Joe Sears		✓
Sean Koster(ex-officio)	✓	
Mike Reeder (ex-officio)	✓	
Mike Pocrnich (ex-officio)	✓	

MISC. ATTENDEES: DALLA CAIN, CHRISTINA CAIN, JUSTIE VAVRA, WENDY SULZER, NORMA NISTLER, CAROLYN GRAVIER, CINDY JONES, DIANA JAIMES, AARON BROCKMEIER, STEPHANIE CRAMER, ALYSSA RODER, ASHLEI CRAMER, SHAWNA DAUN, JACQUIE TIMPERLEY, PAULA NIGHTINGALE

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

(Choral reading of the Pledge of Allegiance)

3. BEACON MISSION STATEMENT

(Choral reading of the Beacon Academy Mission Statement)

4. Approval of Agenda

Motion:	To approve the agenda with the following adjustments in Executive Director report move to A and Curriculum to C							
Made by:	*Paige Roth			Seconded by:	*Roxana Bruins			
Discussion:								
Vote:	Member	Yea	Nay	Abstain	Member	Yea	Nay	Abstain
	Aaron Price			x-absent	Paige Roth	x		
	Wendy Terry	x			Elizabeth Brobeck	x		
	Roxana Bruins	x			Heather Greibrok	x		
	Cameron Ward	x			Joe Sears			x-absain
	Kris Gapinski	x						
Decision:	Passes							

5. Public Comment –members of the community were here to comment on the proposed health curriculum.

- comments on the identity piece of the proposed curriculum. Parent was against teaching this portion in the curriculum due to confusion this could cause in students.
- parent commented on how happy she has been since her child has been here for the last 2 years. Felt blindsided by the proposed curriculum and has lessened faith in the administration and the school.
- parent that is her in her first year here, loves the school but feels the penalty for opting out is unclear. Health and sex education is value based and should not be taught by the school. Child with anxiety and is anxious just by the posters in the hallway in the school.
- Grandparent of a young boy that is here at Beacon. Loves the community and is a supporter of the school. Concern of timing of this curriculum piece. Confused about why parents were not given the time needed to look at curriculum and give feedback. Why is Beacon going ahead of the state timeline of looking at health curriculum?
- parent referenced the amount of time (30 days) given and why can't it be longer to digest the amount of curriculum. She reached out to the curriculum committee and wanted to know where this was on the review cycle. It has not been on board agendas in the recent past. It has come up very quickly.
- parent of 2 elementary students. Questions; where is the health curriculum in the school review schedule? Are we following the procedure and if not, why? The board should be accountable to our procedures. The communication has been given to middle school families only and only know about the curriculum because she was at the last board meeting.
- parent that has 3 children at Beacon. Appreciates that the board did reach out and ask for parent feedback. Was confused by the overview of the curriculum and has a hard time discerning what the end result of the curriculum is.

6. Approval of Consent Agenda

Motion: To approve the consent agenda:								
Made by: * Roxanna Bruins		Seconded by: *Elizabeth Brobeck						
Discussion:								
Vote:	Member	Yea	Nay	Abstain	Member	Yea	Nay	Abstain
	Aaron Price			x-absent	Paige Roth	x		
	Wendy Terry	x			Elizabeth Brobeck	x		
	Roxana Bruins	x			Heather Greibrok	x		
	Cameron Ward	x			Joe Sears			x-absent
	Kris Gapinski	x						
Decision: Passes								
A. Approval of Minutes: Regular Board Meeting – September 19, 2019 B. Policy 1 st Reading 1. 213 School Board Committees 2. 214 Out of State Travel by School Board C. Policy – 2 nd Reading 1. 534 Enrollment Policy								

7. Board Reports

A. Executive Director – Sean Koster

1. Enrollment Report

-Enrollment for the year; we’re at 669. We get the best turnout at tours by word of mouth. We will be adding one section of a grade next year per our expansion plan. Our new students come from a mix of the western suburbs.

2. Insurance Claim for 8/20 Lightning Strike

-Our building took a strike. Our claim went through for \$180k. Everything is fixed now and things are working well.

3. Defendant Intervenors

-There is a local lawsuit against charter schools. Larger districts don’t look good on charter schools and they are trying to pick on charter schools. They want to eliminate school choice and force families to go to specific areas schools instead of choosing the charter school they want to go to. Much of the work that has already been done has been pro-bono. The consideration is for the board to approve \$3 per student donation to help support the mediation and court costs to defend school choice. MACS is collecting the money and they will handle the money that goes to lawyers for defending the cause.

Question on if this will continue or will this be a onetime cost. Sean said MACS anticipated this to be taken care of by end of year.

Motion:	To approve the donation of \$3.00 per student toward the defendant intervener protection:							
Made by:	*Roxanna Bruins			Seconded by:			*Kris Gapinski	
Discussion:								
Vote:	Member	Yea	Nay	Abstain	Member	Yea	Nay	Abstain
	Aaron Price			x-absent	Paige Roth	x		
	Wendy Terry	x			Elizabeth Brobeck	x		
	Roxana Bruins	x			Heather Greibrok	x		
	Cameron Ward	x			Joe Sears			x-absent
	Kris Gapinski	x						
Decision:	Passes							

4. MACS Annual Meeting

-We are a member of MACS. The annual meeting was Thursday, October 3rd. Sean attended with Ann Marie Roder and Jordan Ford, former principal. We were recognized for being in business 15 years. It was a nice accomplishment and a nice reminder of where we came from and where we’re going.

5. Snow Removal Bids

-We took three bids this year for snow removal. We weren't totally satisfied with our previous company. Contracts like this need a little more review. Precision Landscape, our last company is in the bid but they aren't being recommended. The company does not do our sidewalks, just the parking lot and de-icing of the parking lot. Sean is looking for approval of the contract from Uptown Lawn and Snow, the recommendation from facilities.

Motion:	To approve the contract with Uptown Lawn and Snow for snow removal for the 2019-20 school year:							
Made by:	*Roxanna Bruins				Seconded by:	*Heather Greibrok		
Discussion:								
Vote:	Member	Yea	Nay	Abstain	Member	Yea	Nay	Abstain
	Aaron Price			x-absent	Paige Roth	x		
	Wendy Terry	x			Elizabeth Brobeck	x		
	Roxana Bruins	x			Heather Greibrok	x		
	Cameron Ward	x			Joe Sears			x-absent
	Kris Gapinski	x						
Decision:	Passes							

6. Breakfast and Lunch Program Updates

-Sean introduced Carol Fox, our food service manager on site. She is going to give an insight into our food service program. Carol reported that in the last 5 years the breakfast program grew from under 100 students to over 160 students. Our highest lunch is 449. Free and reduced has grown to 43% and Carol anticipates it going up.

B. Finance Committee – Mike Pocrnich

1. Review/Approve September 2019 Financial Report

- The audit is substantially completed. Last year's surplus is \$275k. We are at a healthy fund balance.

-We are 25% through the fiscal year. We are doing fairly well since we are still expecting the holdback to show up. Our revenue is over 2million received. Expenses are 1.3 million and we are running a significant surplus because the teacher contracts don't kick in until September so that will decline rapidly as time goes on.

-We are at 1.8 million in cash assets. Our days cash on hand in around 77 days. We are doing well with our debt service ratio.

Motion:	To approve the finance report:							
Made by:	*Paige Roth				Seconded by:	*Elizabeth Brobeck		
Discussion:								
Vote:	Member	Yea	Nay	Abstain	Member	Yea	Nay	Abstain
	Aaron Price			x-absent	Paige Roth	x		
	Wendy Terry	x			Elizabeth Brobeck	x		
	Roxana Bruins	x			Heather Greibrok	x		
	Cameron Ward	x			Joe Sears			x-absent
	Kris Gapinski	x						
Decision:	Passes							

2. Board Training – Funding Formula and Fund Balance

-General Education Revenue for Charter Schools – We are looking at a revenue generator. It compares last year to this year. There are 10 items that determine our revenue regardless of who our students are. We get a paid on pupil units and we earn more money for 7th and 8th gr students. Our annual entitlement is a sum of several lines. This does not include anything in special ed.

Fund Balance – each year we have to report all our finances to the department of education. It is our cumulative profit and loss year after year since the day we were incepted. Our fund balance is currently at 14.47%

C. Curriculum – Kris Gapinski, Norah Antil and Wendy Terry

1. Discuss Curriculum Review and Approval Process

-There has been a lot of feedback from parents since the last board meeting. The questions centered on the process for curriculum and the language used when talking about curriculum.

-a document was handed out explaining the curriculum review cycle. Curriculum is the state standards. The program is not the curriculum. It is what is used to help teach the curriculum. The committee looks at what the possibilities are to teach. Samples are brought in and it is reviewed by all stakeholders.

-When the standards change and it's not time to review that curriculum teachers supplement until the review cycle takes place. There's also a time lapse for the companies to have the new curriculum ready. It could be 2-3 years.

-The legislative standards do apply to charter schools. Local school districts have leeway with the fine arts. The state does not have a state standard for health education. Beacon does not have set standards for health.

-In 2011 we didn't have a health class. Sean went to the board. The state was in the second year in a budget freeze. There were no monies for extra spending on anything. Teacher pay and spending was frozen. There were two tracts being discussed for a health curriculum. They were abstinence only and abstinence based. At the time our school was so small that we didn't have anyone on staff that could teach the health curriculum and we couldn't afford to hire one because of the freeze. So we have been out of statute for teaching a health curriculum. There are several things we teach that do not need to come to the board. Sean takes the blame for not communicating that we were looking at a health curriculum because it's not coming up on the review cycle until 2023-2024. Sean knows that the health curriculum on a whole should have been brought last year when it was starting to be taught.

-Wendy explained that often times health curriculums come alongside family values. That is why it is important to be having this discussion.

-The timeline to start teaching this is quarter 2 which starts on November 4th. Wendy commented that due to the large amount of parent feedback there needs to be more time for families to get the information and feel better about this. There's also confusion for parents on what is actually being taught.

-Paige commented that there has been more communication on this than on other curriculums. The process is being followed but according to the review cycle it's out of cycle. So that is why its feeling rushed.

-Wendy explained that the sexual content of the curriculum is not included in the state standard. What is being taught now is part of the state standardized curriculum.

- There is some legal questions about the opt out portion of the program. We have consulted a lawyer and Sean concurs that we would have to come up with an alternative that is not part of what is being taught. It would be an alternative of a health topic realm or curricular area.
 - Wendy expressed concerns about moving to approve this too soon as there needs to be time for more parents to see the curriculum and to vet out what is actually going to be taught and to possibly determine how many students may be opting out.
 - Cameron suggested omitting lesson 2 for now, which is the lesson most families are having difficulty with and letting families teach it at home. This way the curriculum can start getting taught.
 - there was concern about the board deciding what pieces and how curriculum will be taught. That is a problem.
- Wendy is proposing that the board take time to go over the national health standards.
- between now and the November board meeting, Wendy will email out the link of the national health education standards. Each board member should read it thoroughly and determine whether the board should adopt that as their standards. Sean will send survey out to families regarding the proposed program and gather feedback to give to the curriculum committee. The curriculum committee will have a special meeting to discuss just this topic. On the topic of opting out, there will be a letter sent to families and that letter will be reviewed by administration and Norah before being sent home.

D. Adjournment

Board Workshop- None

Old Business- None

Action Items-

NEXT MEETING IS November 21, 2019

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Motion to adjourn at 9:48pm forwarded by Kris Gapinski seconded by Heather Greibrok Approved unanimously.
Meeting adjourned at 9:48pm

Approved on _____

Secretary
Beacon Academy School Board