

Beacon Academy Charter District 4124
 Regular Board Meeting Minutes, November 21, 2019 6:30 p.m.
 3415 Louisiana Ave N, Crystal, MN 55428

*Beacon Academy is authorized by Innovative Quality Schools
 P.O Box 580, Hutchinson, MN 55350*

CALL TO ORDER Wendy Terry called the meeting to order to at 6:36 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: KATIE KRAUS, DAWN KNIGHT, MANDY MOSIER, CINDY JONES, PAUL JUDD, ROBBY JONES, JESSICA VOSS, CAROLYN GRAVIER, GLORY KIBBLEL, NORMA NISTLER, DALLAS CAIN, CHRISTINA CAIN, DANI JONES, DIANA JAIMES, DANIEL JAIMES, WENDY SULZER, YVETTE DUNN, JASON DUNN, NICKI HAWES, KATIE HOUGHTALING, RICK PILON, JENNIER PILON, ANDERS JOHANSSON, ANNA JOHANSSON, AARON BROCKMEIER, MARIE GEISLINGER, SHAWNA DAUN, ROSE PORWOLL, MYLA JOHNSON, QUINCY NIGHTINGALE, 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, add the PTO as item B, the board training audit will be removed along with the audit report in Sean Koster's report.							
Made by:	*Aaron Price				Seconded by:	*Roxana Bruins		
Discussion:								
Vote:	Member	Yea	Nay	Abstain	Member	Yea	Nay	Abstain
	Aaron Price	x			Paige Roth	x		
	Wendy Terry	x			Elizabeth Brobeck	x		
	Roxana Bruins	x			Heather Greibrok			x-absent
	Cameron Ward	x			Joe Sears	x		

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	Kris Gapinski	x	
Decision:	Passes		

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

- Parent spoke about the survey results and is asking that it not be used. Opinion was that it was skewed to get a positive result. Disagrees with asking Beacon staff to take the survey.
- Parent is in support of the curriculum. An email was sent to Mr. Koster from this parent as a transgender adult who wishes she had this curriculum when she was a child.
- Petition was signed by this parent. She signed the petition because the current curriculum development process wasn't followed as outlined on the website.
- Concerned parent about the proposed curriculum whose son will be a middle school student next year. There was not enough information to make a wise and informed decision about the curriculum.
- Parent concerned about gender identity lesson. Asking board to take the time to get this right and not rush into a decision. Let parents attend a curriculum night to make informed decision.
- Parent in complete support of the curriculum. Has an 8th grade boy that is talking about this topic and the things that are being proposed. Families have an out if they want to. They can opt out.
- Parent is concerned about the timing. The legislature will be voting on this anyway, let's wait and see what they say. This way we can get it right, just as Antil suggested.
- Parent of 5th grader. There is an educational side and there's a moral side. There is a push to get the moral side of the issue. Children develop at different times and the parent should make that decision about whether that child is ready. Please leave graphic sexuality out of the curriculum.
- Parent of 6th grader. Biggest concern is that the curriculum is in flux. It's not ready to be voted on. She is frustrated about the process since the last board meeting. The survey was not designed to get the right information from the parents. There needs to be discussions with the parents and the feeling is that the board is not listening to the community. Feeling voiceless.
- Parent of 4 children, two of which are attending or have attended Beacon. They teach their children respect of all mankind. They also teach that sex is for one man and one woman. They ask that any curriculum respect that point of view. Our current culture belittles this view.
- Parent that did not sign petition because she saw the curriculum and supports it. This is a public school and the school can and should teach this curriculum. An opt out is provided for families that wish to use it.
- Student who is in support of the curriculum and wants the curriculum taught.
- Parent is in full support of the program. Wants the curriculum taught and fear of what some parents are afraid of is not fair to the entire school. Petition that is going around was not given to every family in the school. Only given to a small, Christian group.

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- Parent of Beacon students. Values parent involvement and thanks the board for being able to be involved. Take the time to get it right. Would ask that abstinence be taught and a key component in the curriculum.
- Parent of 4 Beacon children. Reviewing the curriculum is concerned because of the cognitive content of the curriculum. With students on the spectrum this content is going to be difficult for his kids. Some of the content is more suitable for 20-year old. Slow down and think about how kids will be impacted.
- Parent of two boys. So happy for a charter school that teaches character development and that is important. Also values many cultures at Beacon. Assign values to the families and not in the school.
- Parent of 4 boys at Beacon. Beacon is a multi-cultural school with families that have many values. Because of this there may be families who do not understand the survey or what any of it means. This curriculum does not consider students with special ed needs.
- Parent of a student and a parent of a non-beacon transgender son. This is a public school and any school in the area will be teaching these topics.
- Parent of 7th grader. The way the curriculum was handled was uncharacteristic of the regular beacon way. Parent involvement is important, and parents need to come alongside educators in this process.

6. Approval of Consent Agenda

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

- A. Approval of Minutes:
 Regular Board Meeting – October 24, 2019
- B. Policy 1st Reading
 - 1. 404 Criminal Background Checks
 - 2. 406 Public and Private Personnel Data
 - 3. 408 Subpoena of a School District Employee
 - 4. 409 Employee Publications, Instructional Materials, Inventions and Creations
 - 5. 541 Weapons on School Grounds
 - 6. 543 Reporting of Dangerous Weapons
- C. Policy – 2nd Reading
 - 1. 213 School Board Committees
 - 2. 214 Out of State Travel by School Board
- D. Hanover Insurance – Commercial Property and Liability Insurance
- E. Hanover Insurance – Umbrella Policy
- F. Employee Preferred – Workers Comp Insurance
- G. Staffing Update

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7. Board Reports

A. Finance Committee

1. Review/Approve October 2019 Financial Report

- October financials were discussed as well as the audit
- the audit was positive. There was a surplus in the end of year report and in the lunch service. \$20k above what was projected at the end of the fiscal year.
- Days cash on hand was calculated at 20 but we can request a waiver.
- There was a clean audit.
- October financials: We are 1/3 through the end of the year. \$1.3 million in cash and we'll see that decrease as we received the holdback.

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

2. Board Training – Audit via CLA

- Removed from agenda

B. Beacon Parent Teacher Organization – Marie Geislinger

1. Approve Fundraisers for 2019-2020

- Marie is the current vice president. There is a document that outlines the major fundraisers for the school year.
- Wendy commented that the Board needs to approve any fundraisers that are going to raise over \$5,000.

Motion:	To approve the fundraisers as reported by the PTO for the 2019-2020 School Year:							
Made by:	*Roxanna Bruins				Seconded by:	*Elizabeth Brobeck		
Discussion:								
Vote:	Member	Yea	Nay	Abstain	Member	Yea	Nay	Abstain

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Aaron Price	x	Paige Roth	x	
Wendy Terry	x	Elizabeth Brobeck	x	
Roxana Bruins	x	Heather Greibrok		x-absent
Cameron Ward	x	Joe Sears	x	
Kris Gapinski	x			
Decision: Passes				

C. Technology Committee – Paul Judd

-Paul is the It Administrator at Beacon. Projects that are being worked on is student printing for all students in grades 5-8. Computers for classrooms is also being looked at. Future projects: backup project, disaster recovery solution in case something happens to our servers. Hope to have this in a year or so. Upgrade/replacement SAN (storage area network). Server 2019 upgrades. Want to decommission old servers and get all the information over to our new servers.

-Budget: some of the budget was pre-spent on the technology curriculum purchases. There was an unexpected expense of replacing the projector in the PAC. We are on track for spending. The only big purchase that will happen is a laptop order to replace out of warranty laptops. We will purchase 30 of them this year.

D. Transportation Update – Mike Reeder

-In September we asked for about 30k to get another bus. We have 416 riders. Only 32 are without siblings. There are many families that are affected by transportation. We did some routing changes and that made a big improvement in getting the buses here on time. Five of the stops were affected and we communicated twice with parents the end of September about the changes. Due to the routing changes money didn't have to be spent.

E. Vice Chair – Kris Gapinski

1. Review Executive Director Goals for 2019-2020

-the executive committee met and developed goals for Sean. He has 5 goals; Climate, communication, collegiality. Live out our tradition of being a Character Education school. Support the ADSIS, EI, ELL, etc. Work with ERCC and HR to maintain and highly diverse and trained faculty. Teacher development and evaluation process.

F. Chair – Wendy Terry

1. Notes from IQS Annual Report

-Each year our authorizer produces their own annual report. There is a scorecard on how beacon academy is doing. Things are going quite well. There are some areas of improvement but overall, we are doing well.
 -Cultural diversity is called out in the report. We have a big deviation from the state norms. Our demographics are much more diverse.

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- We are closely aligned with state averages with free and reduced lunch, etc.
- the cadre review section or report card. It's a 4-point rating scale and our numbers are all over 3.0.
- The opportunities for improvement are exploring opportunities to share the mission and vision with new audiences, website and keeping documents updated, update our strategic plan. School performance is our biggest challenge as our MCA scores went down last year. When we moved, we took a large influx of students from other districts. It will take at least 3 years to get these students up to speed. Finance was a positive for us. We won the finance award last year. Operations had no recommendation for improvement.
- In summary we celebrated 15 years of serving students this last year. We just received a longevity award from MACS.

*The board took a recess at 8:06pm.
 The board reconvened at 8:17pm*

2. New Online Board Training Options

- IQS has provided us an online board training option. Log-ins were sent to everyone this month. New board members need to complete training by the end of their first year.
- Not only is there board training but lots of good resources for other information.

G. Health Curriculum – Kris Gapinski, Wendy Terry

1. Discuss/Approve National Health Education Standards

- Each district is on their own for setting their own standards for their school. The board for beacon academy is going to do that for the school.
- There is a band for certain grade levels. We are looking at the band for 6-8. Wendy asked the board if these are the standards we want to adopt.
- Aaron commented that the community is looking for more parental input. Were they given input on the standards? The board needs to approve the standards and then the community can give input on the actual curriculum. Approving the standards give us a framework for the curriculum.
- Sean asked why we would not also approve the performance indicators. We do this with other standards. Paige commented that there is a research and development phase that still needs to happen.
- Kris read a letter presented to the board by Norah Antil as Norah was not able to be at the board meeting tonight.

Motion:	To approve standards 1-8 and the performance indicators of the National Health Education Standards							
Made by:	*Aaron Price				Seconded by:	*Paige Roth		
Discussion:								
Vote:	Member	Yea	Nay	Abstain	Member	Yea	Nay	Abstain
	Aaron Price	x			Paige Roth	x		
	Wendy Terry	x			Elizabeth Brobeck	x		
	Roxana Bruins		x		Heather Greibrok			x-absent
	Cameron Ward	x			Joe Sears		x	
	Kris Gapinski	x						

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Decision:	Passes

-this motion was amended to include adopting the performance indicators. The board needs to back out of the first motion which is below.

Motion: To approve standards 1-8 of the National Health Education Standards								
Made by: *Aaron Price			Seconded by: *Paige Roth					
Discussion:								
Vote:	Member	Yea	Nay	Abstain	Member	Yea	Nay	Abstain
	Aaron Price	x			Paige Roth		x	
	Wendy Terry		x		Elizabeth Brobeck		x	
	Roxana Bruins	x			Heather Greibrok			x-absent
	Cameron Ward		x		Joe Sears	x		
	Kris Gapinski		x					
Decision: Motion does not pass								

The board has tasked governance with reviewing policy 601. Removing anything with no child left behind and update with anything Beacon specific.

2. Curriculum Proposal –

-We have received much feedback from the community and a petition. Our community is very diverse. The bottom line is that our families want to know as much information as possible so that they are prepared to have conversations at home. Families do want the discussions, but they want detail on the discussions and that we do this well.

-Wendy wants to make sure we do this with rigor.

-Kris gave an update on what the curriculum committee discussed last week. They reviewed the survey. 71 people took the survey even though we have over 400 families and staff. Kris would like to propose a start over within the curriculum committee based on the standards that were just adopted. Health should be reviewed school year 22-23. She would like to move it to this year for review. The curriculum would be developed this year and implemented next year.

-Sean thanks everyone that is here tonight. He wants to back up and be transparent in the process. He supports the recommendation from the curriculum committee.

Sean suggested having two curriculum nights and have PTO ask Norah to teach a lesson at a Parent Education Night so parents can see what will be taught.

Motion: To move the health curriculum review from 2022-2023 to school year 2019-2020								
Made by: *Kris Gapinski			Seconded by: *Cameron Ward					
Discussion:								
Vote:	Member	Yea	Nay	Abstain	Member	Yea	Nay	Abstain
	Aaron Price	x			Paige Roth	x		
	Wendy Terry	x			Elizabeth Brobeck	x		
	Roxana Bruins	x			Heather Greibrok			x-absent
	Cameron Ward	x			Joe Sears	x		
	Kris Gapinski	x						
Decision: Passes								

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The board does not have a policy currently written out. We have a practice. Wendy is tasking Governance with reviewing policy 603.

H. Executive Director – Sean Koster

1. Enrollment Report

-we are at 661 we are budgeted at 654.

2. SEAC Update

-SEAC is a student advocacy group for students that live with special needs. Our sped department has 5 out of 6 new teachers. There was a lot of change over the past year. Conversation was around having an inclusive environment, communication, thank you to board for increasing special ed teacher pay. Setting 3 was brought up and how do we deal with the age difference in a setting 3 environment?

3. CLA Audit

-this was removed from the agenda

Board Workshop- None

Old Business- None

Action Items-

NEXT MEETING IS December 19, 2019

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Motion to adjourn at 9:32pm forwarded by Cameron Ward seconded by Kris Gapinski. Approved unanimously.
Meeting adjourned at 9:32pm

Approved on _____

Secretary
Beacon Academy School Board