

Beacon Academy Charter District 4124
 Special Board Meeting Minutes, August 13, 2020 5:30 p.m.
 3415 Louisiana Ave N, Crystal, MN 55427

Call to Order

Wendy Terry called the meeting to order to at 5:36p.m.

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

MISC. ATTEENDEES:

Elizabeth Jaen, Marie Geislinger

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:							
Made by:	*Kris Gapinski				Seconded by:	*Elizabeth Brobeck		
Discussion:								
Vote:	Member	Yea	Nay	Abstain	Member	Yea	Nay	Abstain
	Wendy Terry	x			Heather Greibrok			x-absent
	Kris Gapinski	x			Aaron Price	x		
	Paige Roth	x			Joe Sears			x-absent
	Cameron Ward			x-absent	Dennis Dane	x		
	Elizabeth Brobeck	x						
Decision:	Passes							

5. Public Comment:

- None

Wendy addressed the board and guests. She explained that the COVID Leadership team has been working to serve the community in the safest and most positive year of learning. Wendy thanked the team and the work they have done thus far.

6. Agenda

a. Discuss Approve Beacon Academy's Safe Opening Plan

- Sean welcomed everyone to the school board meeting. He presented a power point presentation on the COVID Leadership Team's Safe Opening Plan.
- We are confident we are putting the best plan in place and we know not everyone will be happy.
- The MN Dept. of Ed has given us guidance on how to open school safely through a safe learning model.
- Beacon Academy is recommending a safe opening through Distance Learning with Supports. This will be all year. We are committed to doing one model and doing it well.
- The benefits of Distance Learning outweighed the struggles with the Hybrid model.
- Students need the positivity of this plan from their parents. Please talk to your students in a positive way about the plan.
- This is not our new normal. This is a one year plan to deliver the best learning to our students.

Questions from the school board:

- Dennis asked how we would weather the storm if we have a large number of students leave due to the distance learning plan. Sean replied that we don't have an accurate number of people who will leave but we are confident that by not spending money on teachers and extra staff that will be a benefit.
- Paige asked if we have a plan for if we are told to all go back to school. Yes, there will be much guidance from the Dept. of Ed should the pandemic go away. It's a slim chance.
- Dennis asked what would have to change so that this is not the new normal. Sean explained that after 12 months there should be a lot more information and how we have weathered the pandemic. We came up with a plan to put the best teachers in the seats to educate our kids. It may not be the best plan for our families but it's the best we could do for our organization. This stops the learning loss for our students.
- Paige asked about additional funding for technology equipment. Sean explained that we just received new funding two days ago that has to be spent by December 30th. We will use that funding for equipment and operations.
- Dennis asked about the critical age of elementary ages and how they need to be in the classroom for the best learning. Going a full year will be difficult for these early learners. How will the learning gap be evaluated for these students? Sean said there are many online schools that are successful for students of all ages. We are looking for ways to monitor all the students and make sure no one is falling through the cracks. We will be looking to be bringing small groups of students in to assess and grow relationships with.
- Dennis stated that in spring the distance learning model included meals for families. Will meals be provided to families? Yes, meals will continue. Meals were free last spring

but we believe they will be charged to families this year. We are still waiting for confirmation on that.

Motion:	To approve the plan as presented by the COVID Leadership Team:							
Made by:	*Paige Roth			Seconded by:	*Elizabeth Brobeck			
Discussion:								
Vote:	Member	Yea	Nay	Abstain	Member	Yea	Nay	Abstain
	Wendy Terry	x			Heather Greibrok			x-absent
	Kris Gapinski	x			Aaron Price	x		
	Paige Roth	x			Joe Sears			x-absent
	Cameron Ward			x-absent	Dennis Dane	x		
	Elizabeth Brobeck	x						
Decision:	Passes							

7. Adjourn

Board Workshop- None

Old Business- None

Action Items-

NEXT MEETING IS

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Motion to adjourn at 6:32 pm forwarded by Kris Gapinski seconded by Aaron Price. Approved unanimously.
 Meeting adjourned at 6:32pm.

Approved on _____

Paige Roth, Secretary
Beacon Academy School Board