

Beacon Academy Charter District 4124
 Special Board Meeting Minutes, August 4, 2020 6:30 p.m.
 3415 Louisiana Ave N, Crystal, MN 55427
 Meeting by Zoom and in Person

Call to Order

Wendy Terry called the meeting to order to at 6:41 p.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 Pocrnichex-officio)		✓

MISC. ATTENDEES:

ELIZABETH JAEN, NICOLE BAZZETT, MYLA JOHNSON, LORI FOECKE, ANN MARIE RODER, ELDRED BACH

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

5. Public Comment:

- Parent is concerned about her student who is in special ed. He has medical exemptions and would he be exempted from wearing a mask?
- Teacher addressed parents and wanted them to know that teachers are committed to making this the best experience for students. Socially distanced classroom cannot meet the needs of students. Do some research of what this kind of classroom would look like. She would not opt for her own child to go to school with social distancing. Frustrated that they are having a discussion based on not knowing what fall will look like.
- Teacher that is speaking on behalf of 30 staff members who are concerned about what fall will look like. They know this is a difficult decision for all. Concerned about the health and safety of staff and students alike. Concerned about the equitable education of students of color. Teachers feel that in person teaching is risky for staff.

6. Agenda

a. Discuss Fall Learning Plan

- Sean welcomed the family members. He showed a power point presentation about the fall learning plans.
- We are committed to a safe opening for all.
- Our values drive our plans.
- The three scenarios are In Person, Hybrid Learning and Distance Learning.
- There are challenges for every model.
- We started planning with a family survey in June. We had 328 families respond. 259 said they would attend in a Hybrid model
- We also surveyed our families about transportation in July. We had 296 families respond.
- Staff were surveyed in June. 58 of 105 staff responded. There were 2 hybrid learning models that were popular; Hi-flex and 1-2 sections per grade in the building on a rotation.
- At-Risk Staff continues to be evaluated and will be taken into consideration.
- Staff focus groups took place in July. One was elementary and one was middle school.
- MDE/MDH Guidance regarding how to safely open school. We are asked to look at county data in the state. This will be evaluated every two weeks.
- The data currently indicates a Hybrid model for the fall in Hennepin County.
- What does K-8 Hybrid learning look like for us? There is a mandatory opt in for families that want distance learning. In order to know how to proceed we must know who is opting into full time distance learning. We know we need pods of 12 or less to socially distance correctly. We would have to divide classes into thirds.
- We have a unique issue in that we use tables and not desks. Desks would allow more flexibility but we can't afford to outfit all our rooms with desks.
- Some benefits on Hybrid Learning are small pods, limited interactions with others, best learning is done with teachers and social distancing would be a challenge.
- Some challenges to Hybrid learning are sustainability for when there is a positive case in the school, staffing to cover distance learning, possibility of yo-yo effect going back and forth between models, staffing for a model that might not make it through the fall, room sizes, tables vs. desks, and pod size.

- some challenges to Distance Learning model are enrollment challenges, we would lose \$500-600k in funding, family challenges, difficulties with our high needs students and bringing them into the building and staffing.
- We are solidifying a plan. We need parents to opt into distance learning by August 7th. The goal is to announce a final plan by August 13th.
- No matter the plan, our number one priority is the safety and health of our community.
- Sean shared the safety measures we plan on having in place for students and staff while we are in a Hybrid model.
- We know school will look different for everyone. We must be flexible. There will be challenges. Be happy with whatever plan is announced and prepare children.
- Sean is asking the board to allow the administrative team to hire appropriately to staff whatever model we need.
- He also asked them to approve the COVID leadership team to work with MDE/MDH on when we need to switch models during the year.

Board Discussion:

- there was discussion on bussing and how students will stay masked and the capacity on the bus.
- What is the plan for high risk staff? We would like to place them within their licensure. We will work with them to make sure they don't have to go on unpaid leave.
- Students cleanliness with masks; cleaning every day, etc. – we cannot have disciplinary action for those who refuse to wear a mask or have an exemption. We don't have the authority to mandate washing either.
- Q-Comp and PLC trainings will take place online. A video camera can be put in the room and watched later. There is more guidance coming for that.
- Daily cleaning will happen by teachers, support staff and facilities staff. We will not be hiring additional staff for cleaning.
- We are not requiring staff to be COVID testing before school starts.
- Grading in Distance Learning vs. Hybrid learning. Mike said we want to make sure we are honing in on the standards. We need to make sure students are doing the work and learning the content.
- Specialist teachers will be pushing into the classrooms. Students will not be moving about the building like before. We will also utilize outdoor space as much as possible. All students will be getting specialist classes regardless of the type of instruction they are getting. We will not be having students sharing supplies. They would have their own. We are also looking into getting keyboard covers.
- We have not finalized a plan for how communication will happen when we have to switch between learning. We are working on it.
- Students and staff that don't pass a screening will be sent home and documentation will be sent home. There will be protocol if there is a fever, sore throat, etc if it's not COVID related.
- What is the protocol for students receiving services like special ed, 504, EL, etc.

b. Discuss/Approve Impacts to 2020-2021 Budget

- there has been a request that if needed, administration would like to hire for a hybrid model. This would start before the decision is made on how we are starting school. Admin is thinking two teachers would be needed as a starting point.
- We may need additional funds for tech needs like hot spots, etc.
- This decision does not automatically assume we are starting in Hybrid learning mode.

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Motion:	To approve the decision to hire two staff for a hybrid model with a plan to be presented at the next school board meeting:							
Made by:	*Aaron Price			Seconded by:			*Dennis Dane	
Discussion:								
Vote:	Member	Yea	Nay	Abstain	Member	Yea	Nay	Abstain
	Wendy Terry	x			Heather Greibrok	x		
	Kris Gapinski	x			Aaron Price	x		
	Paige Roth	x			Joe Sears			x-absent
	Cameron Ward	x			Dennis Dane	x		
	Elizabeth Brobeck	x						
Decision:	Passes							
Motion:	To give the COVID Leadership Team autonomy during the school year to move through learning models based on community spread:							
Made by:	*Kris Gapinski			Seconded by:			*Aaron Price	
Discussion:	The board discussed adding a licensed staff member, para and parent to the committee. The motion was amended.							
Vote:	Member	Yea	Nay	Abstain	Member	Yea	Nay	Abstain
	Wendy Terry		x		Heather Greibrok		x	
	Kris Gapinski		x		Aaron Price		x	
	Paige Roth		x		Joe Sears			x-absent
	Cameron Ward		x		Dennis Dane		x	
	Elizabeth Brobeck		x					
Decision:	Does not pass							
Motion:	To give the COVID Leadership Team autonomy during the school year to move through learning models based on community spread. The COVID Leadership team will add a licensed staff, para and parent to the team:							
Made by:	*Aaron Price			Seconded by:			*Dennis Dane	
Discussion:								
Vote:	Member	Yea	Nay	Abstain	Member	Yea	Nay	Abstain
	Wendy Terry	x			Heather Greibrok	x		
	Kris Gapinski	x			Aaron Price	x		
	Paige Roth	x			Joe Sears			x-absent
	Cameron Ward	x			Dennis Dane	x		
	Elizabeth Brobeck	x						
Decision:	Passes							
Motion:	To approve the COVID Leadership Team the ability to make a decision about how the school year will start:							
Made by:	*Aaron Price			Seconded by:			*Kris Gapinski	
Discussion:								
Vote:	Member	Yea	Nay	Abstain	Member	Yea	Nay	Abstain
	Wendy Terry		x		Heather Greibrok		x	
	Kris Gapinski	x			Aaron Price	x		
	Paige Roth		x		Joe Sears			x-absent
	Cameron Ward		x		Dennis Dane	x		
	Elizabeth Brobeck		x					
Decision:	Does not pass							

There will be a special meeting a day next week, no later than the 13th to make a decision about how school will start

7. Adjourn

Board Workshop- None

Old Business- None

Action Items-

NEXT MEETING IS

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Motion to adjourn at 10:00 pm forwarded by Kris Gapinski seconded by Cameron Ward. Approved unanimously.
Meeting adjourned at 10:00pm.

Approved on_____

Paige Roth, Secretary
Beacon Academy School Board