

**Beacon Academy Charter District 4124**  
 School Board Retreat Meeting Minutes, August 27, 2020 6:00 p.m.  
 3415 Louisiana Ave N, Crystal, MN 55428

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**Call to Order**

Wendy Terry called the meeting to order to at 6:09 p.m.

<b>1.ROLL CALL</b> present at time of meeting unless otherwise noted	<b>Present</b>	<b>Absent</b>
<b>Board Member</b>		
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. ATTENDEES:**

**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:**

<b>Motion:</b>	To approve the agenda:							
<b>Made by:</b>	*Kris Gapinski			<b>Seconded by:</b>			*Elizabeth Brobeck	
<b>Discussion:</b>								
<b>Vote:</b>	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-lost computer service	Dennis Dane	x		
	Elizabeth Brobeck	x						
<b>Decision:</b>	Passes							

## 5. Agenda

### a. Reflections of the Past Year

- There was a document emailed ahead of the board training that outlined reflection questions for personal and group questions. Each board member had a chance to answer the questions and there was conversation among the group.
- Mentor program for new board members. Especially for members that are taking on a lead role; chair, vice chair, secretary and treasurer.
- The finance trainings during the board meeting with Mike Pocrnich have been very helpful.
- Debates are respectful and don't divide the board which was seen as a positive.
- It is helpful to give history on topics that have been ongoing for a few years to give perspective.
- The board has handled some volatile situations well. Communication has improved drastically since the beginning of the year. Delegating more has helped.
- Increasing teacher pay felt supportive to the teachers.
- There is evidence in care about the community.
- After delegating tasks think about how they impact one another and not just the issue as a whole.
- Make sure we are doing better and measuring how the board is doing based on administrative and community feedback. Are we achieving our goal and mission?
- Make sure the mission statement is brought into the discussion and is used in decision making.
- We need to make extra effort in doing big picture thinking.
- Distance learning is our greatest challenge this year.
- We will have budget challenges with the decline in enrollment and the pay scale that was approved last school year.
- Maintaining community is going to be very important since we can't come together in person.
- How is it going to look on the other end when we come out of this? Not just healthy physically but as a school.

The board took a recess at 7:00 p.m.

The board reconvened at 7:06 p.m.

### b. Board Member Training

#### 1. Expectations – Personal and Group

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#### 2. Roles and Responsibilities – Personal and Group

- What are words you would use about what the board does?
  - support or diversify the risk of building a community consensus among the stakeholders.
  - Looking up and out. The board is not looking inwardly but looking out at what's next and where are we headed?
  - Owners vs. managers. Admin is management, the board is ownership.
  - A line of defense to protect the school staff and administration and community.
- How do we do what we do? How do we bring our own personal experience into the conversation?

- Looking at issues from all angles
- Acknowledging that you are not an expert but talking up about something you have experience with.
- We get information not only in the packet that we get but we have a few days to prepare for the meeting in researching what is going to be talked about.
- Remember we are here as the school, not a parent, not a teacher.
- Policy is what sets the boundaries for issues that are brought to the board.
- Question about if the policies should be on the consent agenda. The policies are supposed to be read, and they are on the consent agenda twice to make sure they are being read. They can be pulled off the consent agenda at any time for review and discussion. The policies should be read, and you should be familiar with them.
- What is the difference between board work and administration work? The only hiring authority the board has is over the Executive Director. Any teacher performance should go to the teacher first and then to that teacher's supervisor.
- Concerns about administrators should go to the Executive Director. If that concern is the Executive Director, it goes to the board chair.
- Concerns about curriculum should go to the teacher, then admin, then wherever the administrator thinks it should go. The board provides the resources to teach the standards (purchase of curriculum).

### **3. Useful Resources**

- A list of resources was included in the Sharepoint. Besides the resources on the document, the state statutes are very helpful.

The board took a recess at 8:04 p.m.

The meeting reconvened at 8:10 p.m.

## **c. Strategic Planning: Vision and Mission**

### **1. Current Vision and Mission Presentation**

- The values; Community, Rigor and Character – they are all over the building and in our marketing materials.

### **2. Questions Regarding our Future Vision and Mission**

- There was a portion about technology, but we have emphasized that paper and pen is more widely used than technology. Why is that? Perhaps now that COVID is here it would have been helpful to have had technology implemented.
- It would be helpful to have technology but not one on one. A combination of the two would be beneficial.
- What is considered a small learning community and what do we define as small?

### **3. Development of a Plan for Next Steps**

- A brainstorming list is going to be put in the shared drive. We know the groups we're going to have to gather information from. We will get into groups of 2-3 so we can get feedback from the perspective groups. We will start with the board and gather feedback from each other first. The board will come up with the questions at a later time. The executive committee will come up with the set-up questions.

## **6. Adjourn**

**Board Workshop-** None

**Old Business-** None

**Action Items-**

**NEXT REGULAR MEETING IS: Thursday, September 17, 2020 at 6:30 p.m.**

**MOTION TO ADJOURN**

Motion to adjourn at 9:01 pm forwarded by Kris Gapinski seconded by Cameron Ward. Approved unanimously.  
Meeting adjourned at 9:01 pm.

**Approved on** \_\_\_\_\_

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**Paige Roth, Secretary**  
**Beacon Academy School Board**