

Beacon Academy Charter District 4124
 Special Board Meeting Minutes, December 22, 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. 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:

Motion:	To approve the agenda:							
Made by:	*Kris Gapinski				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:

- Teacher, Nora Antil: Two questions

1. Can staff and community members view COVID Leadership meetings
2. Why are day to day operations not a discussion item at board meetings?

Parent, Alex and Sarah Johnson: Concern is that things that were stated in August, the character and integrity of the school are looking different. Reasons are contradicted and isn't sitting right with them. Would feel better knowing teachers and staff were part of this decision. If not a pause needs to be put on this. The quality of the school is going to come from staff being supported.

Parent, Theodore Evans: was initially one who wanted to pull his 3rd grader and soon to be kindergartener. After discussion he decided to stick with Beacon and very impressed with the product delivered in distance learning. It has been positive for their family. How many families are planning on home schooling permanently and he is also happy that this is being discussed and that the school is willing to pivot.

6. Agenda

Agenda item: We are here for a singular reason. Are we going to stay the course and stay with DL for the remainder of the year or are we going to give families that want it the option to have their student come into the building? We are all shocked to be sitting here and thought we would be going the full year of DL. With the Governors announcement we have decided to entertain this conversation and it's important to make this decision now so families would have the time to pivot.

The reason the board is involved in this discussion is because in August the plan that was approved in August did not include any plan changes for the school year. This conversation would be a change in the plan so that is why the board is going to vote on it.

A presentation from the COVID Leadership Team (CLT) was given. Details: Sean welcomed the staff and families to this meeting with the unique set of circumstances that came from the Governors announcement. Discussions with the COVID leadership team and the finance committee have been ongoing. Sean introduced the COVID leadership team. This team has been working since last spring. This team deals with the operations. This recommendation is a financial one. It must be. We have one main income source and that is students. In August we were ready to absorb \$300k in lost revenue. We've been tracking COVID rates at county and city data. We projected a loss of 40-50 students. We actually lost 140 students. That's a loss of \$915K in revenue. We did get some state funding for COVID relief. Even with that we lost \$458,865. There's another relief package that passed this week. We are slated to get around \$40k. We are anticipating a 0% increase from the state where we usually get about 2%. We are not getting any Coronavirus relief funds next year.

Cuts to the budget by September this year: we cut \$360k. We may need to get a loan for the 20-21 school year to make payroll and accounts payable. In October the CLT talked about opening the building quarters 2 and 3. They knew we needed to do something to get more revenue to the school. December, CLT talked about starting to get a plan for the fall in Jan/Feb.

Next year finance conversations: No state aid increase. We will be planning a deficit budget two years in a row. There are many areas that cuts are being planned for to help keep us afloat. Even if we gain 100 students next fall and the board approves all the cuts Sean is proposing we'll still be in deficit spending.

Survey this week: 74 families said they would pull if we stayed in DL. We would lose \$190k in additional revenue. We could weather this, but it compounds over time and we will feel it. Additional cuts would be teachers and gen ed and support staff positions.

Kris Gapinski: clarified at the Thursday board meeting that 5 districts around us are coming back to in person learning. The families that said they would pull and would go to their perspective districts.

Paige: bussing costs and sub costs

Heather: asked about when the survey went out and did staff get to answer the survey.

Aaron: how long will it take for a safe plan for the staff. We will work the first week in January to solidify our safe learning plan.

Cameron: Will teachers teach DL and online? The recommendation would be to have students come back so teachers don't have to do this. The CLT would have to do that planning on this.

Heather: What will happen with the families that choose DL? Classmates will change and teachers might as well.

Elizabeth: Timing and dates; are they flexible? County and city data will no longer be taken into account. We would only be looking at in school data and are they related?

Cameron: Did families get asked if they would pull if their teacher changed? The survey was one question about whether they would pull if we stayed in DL.

Paige: High risk staff, the CLT has the updated list. Are we asking students to commit for the rest of the year? The quarter point would be the time for families to switch. Uniforms? There will probably be exemptions and exceptions. Enrollment, are we reaching out to families that unenrolled and are we reaching out to them?

Cameron: How many teachers are not coming back because they are high risk? How would we handle that? We would follow the recommendations from MDE about who is an essential worker and as public workers and would work with lawyers.

Elizabeth: How would we deal with employees that get COVID and payment, etc. They would have 80 extra hours on top of PTO I they need to take time off due to COVID.

Heather: What happens if someone goes over their 80 hours and PTO

Dennis: The survey was only asking families that had K-2 but what about families in 3-5. We have plans to bring back 3-5 but those dates haven't been talked about it.

Paige: Change in learning model; does it require a calendar change. We don't need to change calendar. We are granted two days and we can appeal and ask for another day.

Motion:	Covid Leadership Team's recommendation on our ongoing learning plan approve the recommendation of the CLT to go in person on January 25 th for K-2							
Made by:	*Kris Gapinski				Seconded by: *Paige Roth			
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							

Cameron asked if there can be a more detailed plan before the vote to make teachers feel better about coming back. Kris explained that we must remember that we are talking about the financial viability of the school. It's unfortunate but that's what we are talking about. Wendy commented that a fund balance of 6% is extremely scary. There is going to be a survey to staff and families about the options.

Motion:	Motion to grant the COVID leadership team authority to make changes to the ongoing learning plan:							
Made by:	*Kris Gapinski				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							

7. Adjourn

Board Workshop- None

Old Business- None

Action Items-
NEXT MEETING IS

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Motion to adjourn at 7:33 pm forwarded by Kris Gapinski seconded by Aaron Price. Approved unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:33pm.

Approved on _____

Paige Roth, Secretary
Beacon Academy School Board