

Beacon Academy Charter District 4124

Regular Board Meeting Minutes, March 18, 2021 6:30 p.m.

3415 Louisiana Ave N, Crystal, MN 55427

Meeting by Zoom

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 6:33p.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	✓	
Heather Davis	✓	
Cameron Ward	✓	
Dennis Dane	✓	
Joe Sears		✓
Sean Koster(ex-officio)	✓	
Mike Reeder (ex-officio)	✓	
Mike Pocrnich (ex-officio)	✓	

MISC. ATTENDEES: ELIZABETH JAEN, JAKE ABEL, MYLA JOHNSON

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:	*Heather Davis		
Discussion:								
Vote:	Member	Yea	Nay	Abstain	Member	Yea	Nay	Abstain
	Aaron Price			x (absent)	Paige Roth	x		
	Wendy Terry	x			Elizabeth Brobeck	x		
	Dennis Dane	x			Heather Davis	x		
	Cameron Ward	x			Joe Sears			X (absent)
	Kris Gapinski	x						
Decision:	Passes							

5. Public Comment - none

6. Declaration of Conflict of Interest: *Board members read the agenda and disclose if they have any real or perceived conflict of interest with any agenda items.*

7. Approval of Consent Agenda:

Motion: To approve the consent agenda.									
Made by: * Kris Gapinski				Seconded by: *Elizabeth Brobeck					
Discussion:									
Vote:	Member	Yea	Nay	Abstain	Member	Yea	Nay	Abstain	
	Aaron Price			x (absent)	Paige Roth	x			
	Wendy Terry	x			Elizabeth Brobeck	x			
	Dennis Dane	x			Heather Davis	x			
	Cameron Ward	x			Joe Sears				x (absent)
	Kris Gapinski	x							
Decision: Passes									
A. Approval of Minutes: Regular Board Meeting – February 18, 2021 B. Policy, First Reading 1. 434 Grievance Process for Sexual Harassment Claims Under Title IX 2. 413 Harassment and Violence 3. 442 Employee Use of Social Media									

8. Board Reports

A. Finance Committee, Mike Pocrnich

1. Review/Approve February 2021 Financial Report

- We are 67% through the fiscal year
- Cash is \$2.3 million. Our financials look healthy right now with the addition of the PPP funds.
- State receivables are currently at \$566k and we anticipate receiving about \$2 million by the end of the year.
- We have a surplus of \$732,660
- Days Cash on Hand is 109 days (60) with just cash
- Debt service coverage ratio is 1.55.

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Motion:	To approve the finance report as presented:								
Made by:	*Dennis Dane				Seconded by:	*Cameron Ward			
Discussion:									
Vote:	Member	Yea	Nay	Abstain	Member	Yea	Nay	Abstain	
	Aaron Price			x (absent)	Paige Roth	x			
	Wendy Terry	x			Elizabeth Brobeck	x			
	Dennis Dane	x			Heather Davis	x			
	Cameron Ward	x			Joe Sears			x (absent)	
	Kris Gapinski	x							
Decision:	Passes								

2. Finance Training – Bonds & Investors

- In 2016, the Friends of Beacon sold \$16 million in debt to investors as bonds.
- Friends of Beacon is an affiliated billing company which owns the facility which can be leased to Beacon Academy. Ann Marie Roder is the chair of this board.
- Various investment firms purchased the bonds. These investors monitor both our academics and financials.
- This money allowed for the purchase and renovation of the Crystal building.
- The funds from the bonds sale are kept in an escrow account managed by a trustee.
- Debt payments are made in December and June.
- To maintain our bond covenant, we must provide ongoing reporting of days cash on hand, title program applications, and lease aid approval.
- There is also an annual investor call to review the school’s status.

B. Executive Director Report, Sean Koster

1. Enrollment Report

- We currently have 557 students enrolled at Beacon.
- Finance committee has been looking closely at projected enrollment and are hoping to increase enrollment to 615 students next year.
- Sean Koster was looking at marketing and attended a Crystal Business meeting. Crystal Frolics is being planned for this summer and Beacon is planning on having a booth. There will also be a possibility of having a table at the Crystal Farmers Market.
- The PPP loan provided us a surplus for this year but if we continue to have low enrollment, we are projecting a deficit for the next two years. Long term enrollment is vital to a healthy budget.

2. Student Support Services

- Myla Johnson updated us on student support services.
- ADSIS – Alternative Delivery of Specialized Instructional Services. This provides instruction to students who need additional academic or behavioral support to succeed in general education. This reduces the number of inappropriate referrals to special education. This is a state funded program.
- Title 1 – provides extra instructional support for students performing below grade level in reading and/or math. This program is federally funded.
- EL services – English language learners. This is the fastest-growing populations in our schools. This is funded by both the state and federal.

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-Beacon is seeing the need for services rise. Possible reasons for this might be the change in school location, increased numbers in EL population, and students new to Beacon are coming in below grade level.

-We are anticipating a need to add student support personnel to meet the rising needs of our student population. This expansion in staffing has been delayed due to budget cuts.

3. Middle School Decision

- The COVID Leadership Team voted not to bring middle school back this year.

- We were unable to hire the additional staff needed to open middle school.

-Based on the family survey, 185 students are in middle school. 78 students said they would return. 24 students were unsure if they would return. This means about 80-100 would remain in distance learning.

-Opening would be a hybrid model. This would mean 2 days in building and 3 days would be asynchronous. All distance learners would be completely asynchronous.

-50 Students would have needed bussing. Transportation could not have currently supported that.

-The workload for middle school staff would have demanded that teachers teach both hybrid and distance learners.

-They were unsure if they could have maintained the MDH mitigation strategies.

-A family communication will go out Friday (March 19) morning.

4. MCA Testing

- The US Department of Education allowed the option to apply for a waiver. States were not allowed to cancel testing.

-MDE chose to expand the testing window.

-Beacon will apply for a waiver to not include the test scores from 2021. This means MDE will continue to look at our test scores from 2 years prior. We still have to administer the test in order to receive Title 1 funds.

-MCAs will occur for 3rd-5th graders who are on site.

-3rd – 8th grade students who are distance learning will have the option to come in to take the MCA tests. 8th grade students will be encouraged to take the MCAs in case their future high schools, PSEO programs, and colleges want to view the results.

-MCAs will not be required for any distance learners.

5. MACS Crisis Response Team

- This team was created who are available to assist a charter school when there is a crisis, such as school violence, death, natural disaster, or accidents.

- This team is composed of crisis-trained personnel. This team would go to the crisis site and provide support by helping maintain a perimeter, monitor students, communicate with special services, etc.

- If another school is facing a crisis, Sean would provide support for that school.

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C. Curriculum Committee

- Jake Abel presented the proposed music curriculum.
- For kindergarten-fifth grade, the curriculum presented was Game Plan. This is a 35-week curriculum. It is based in Orff-Schulwerk and Kodaly philosophies. This program aligns with national standards. There is a heavy emphasis on mallet instruments, percussion, movement, dance, and singing.
- The committee also reviewed the McGraw Hill Spotlight music program for k-8th grade. This is the program that is currently in place. The committee recommends updating to the newest version. It has a heavy focus on singing. This program is completely online and has eBooks, EL support, online assessment tools, and standards correlations.
- A final program reviewed was Quaver's Marvelous General Music Curriculum for kindergarten through eighth grade. This is based on national standards and has an accompanying website. It includes 30 music lessons. There are four units: music theory, instruments & ensembles, composers & music history, and music styles. This is an online program and is updated yearly with new curriculum. Each student would get their own login and can play virtual instruments.
- Quaver also has a ukulele unit and Mr. Abel suggests buying a set of 30 ukuleles.
- The curriculum committee recommends purchasing the Quaver music k-8 program and ukuleles for \$22,530
- This curriculum will continue to allow for the use of instruments already purchased at Beacon.

D. Fund Development Task Force

- They will be looking at adjustments to fundraising policy. This will be brought to the board next month. Current policy is that all fundraising must go through PTO.

E. Governance Committee

- All policies have been placed in a policy review cycle. This cycle will be posted on the Beacon website. There will probably be many policies reviewed over spring and summer.
- School board elections. There are 2 parent seats and 2 teacher seats open. Messages will be sent to the community soon.

F. Employee Retention & Compensation Committee

- They have wrapped up the review cycle for the year with salary schedules reviewed.

G. Executive Committee

1. Election Recommendation

- School board elections are coming up. There are 2 teacher and 2 parent/community member positions open. Wendy Terry will be hosting an information session on Thursday, March 26th at 6:30.
- Executive committee is hoping to add an online component to voting this year. Governance will need to review our policies to determine if we are able to have online elections this year. Bylaws allow for online voting.

2. MSBA Training Opportunity

- First year board members are required to attend 3 specific trainings by the end of the 3rd year. MSBA offers training on March 28th and April 6th. The fee for the training will be covered by the school. The registration deadline is Tuesday, March 22nd.

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3. Board Training – Board Roles and Responsibilities

- The primary function of the school board is to oversee policy, budget, pay scales, student behavior (expulsions), and employment standards.
- The responsibilities of the school board are to be prepared for the monthly meetings, attend and participate in monthly meetings, be on and participate in a board level committee, attend retreats, and go through MACs board training.
- There are 6 school board committee:
 - The primary roles of the executive committee is working with the executive director on goals, overseeing bylaws, and overseeing policy and bylaws are being followed.
 - The governance committee is responsible for reviewing current policies and recommending policy changes and/or new policies.
 - Finance committee reviews the financial state of the school and make monthly, yearly, and 5-year budget recommendations.
 - Curriculum reviews state standards and proposes program purchases. They also oversees support of departments as they implement curriculum.
 - ERCC reviews staff pay scales and recommends updates to pay scales.
 - Fund Development reviews alternate revenue streams to provide funding to the school.

9. Adjournment

Board Retreat- None

Old Business- None

Action Items- None

NEXT MEETING IS April 22, 2021

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Motion to adjourn at 8:23 pm forwarded by Kris Gapinski seconded by Dennis Dane. Approved unanimously.
Meeting adjourned at 8:23 pm.

Approved on _____

Paige Roth, Secretary
Beacon Academy School Board