

Beacon Academy Charter District 4124
 Regular Board Meeting Minutes, February 17, 2022, 6:30 p.m.
 3415 Louisiana Ave N, Crystal, MN 55427
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 6:35 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	✓	
Matheu Weidenbach	✓	
Joanna Pederson	✓	
Elizabeth Warpinski	✓	
Mary Peters	✓	
Sean Koster(ex-officio)	✓	
Mike Reeder (ex-officio)	✓	
Mike Pocrnich (ex-officio)		✓

MISC. ATTEENDEES: MARIE GEISLINGER, BRIDGETTE PETERSON

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:	• Matt Weidnbach			
Discussion:								
Vote:	Member	Yea	Nay	Abstain	Member	Yea	Nay	Abstain
	Aaron Price			x-absent	Paige Roth	x		
	Wendy Terry	x			Elizabeth Brobeck	x		
	Matheu Weidenbach	x			Elizabeth Warpinski	x		
	Joanna Pederson	x			Mary Peters	x		
	Kris Gapinski	x						
Decision:	Passes							

5. Public Comment

The board will recognize anyone from the public who wants to speak at this time. The board reserves the right to limit the time of the public comment. The public will not have the opportunity to speak or comment on any agenda item after the public comment has passed.

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 the Consent Agenda:

Motion: To approve the consent agenda:								
Made by: * Lizzie Warpinski			Seconded by: *Joanna Pederson					
Discussion:								
Vote:	Member	Yea	Nay	Abstain	Member	Yea	Nay	Abstain
	Aaron Price			x-absent	Paige Roth	x		
	Wendy Terry	x			Elizabeth Brobeck	x		
	Matheu Weidenbach	x			Elizabeth Warpinski	x		
	Joanna Pederson	x			Mary Peters	X		
	Kris Gapinski	x						
Decision: Passes								
A. Approval of Minutes: Regular Board Meeting – January 20, 2022 Board Retreat – February 3, 2022 B. Policy – First Reading 1. 534 Enrollment								

8. Board Reports

A. Finance Committee, Bridgette Peterson

1. Review/Approve January 2022 Financial Report

- Bridgette is here for Mike Pocrnich.
- We are 58% through the school year.
- Cash went down \$200k. State receivable is up due to state not sending us our special ed monies. We are sitting at a couple months of cash flow, so we are not concerned about that.
- revenue is running 50% of our budget, which is a little under, but we will be getting what we are expecting soon. Expenses are running at 58% of our budget.

- We are projecting at the end of June receivable will be less as we will have our receivables from the state.
- ADM is running about 500 students. No changes are recommended. We are close to what we projected for enrollment.

Motion:	To approve the finance report								
Made by:	*Matthew Weidenbach				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			
	Matheu Weidenbach	x			Elizabeth Warpinski	x			
	Joanna Pederson	x			Mary Peters	X			
	Kris Gapinski	x							
Decision:	Passes								

2. Finance Training – Special Ed/ADSIS Finance and State Payments
Special Ed Finance

-We operate a large and robust special education department. The monies are allocated to pay salaries for staff, contracted services and special ed transportation. Over the last 5 years the expenditures have gone up with the exception of 2021 because of the pandemic. Expenses are refunded at approximately 95% of actual spend. Reimbursement for special ed can lag up to 18 months for the state to pay the school. Beacon receives an annual Federal Special Education allocation to cover the Special Ed Director fees and contracted services. Beacon’s FY22 Federal SPED allocation is \$96,168. Unused funds can be carried over to the next fiscal year. Schools have to maintain effort, meaning schools must spend the same amount or greater from the last fiscal year. We have to justify why we didn’t meet it.

State Payments

-All schools are paid on the 15th and 30th of the month except for the month of June. In June, schools are paid on the 20th and 30th. They meter payments to this cycle over the 24 payments as equally as possible. At the end of the year the school should receive close to 90% of their total state entitlement. 10% is held back for payment in August, October, and November.

B. PTO Update, Marie Geislinger

1. Review/Approve Fundraiser

- Beacon will resume the Wolf Ridge field trip starting the 2022-2023 school year. We will request the spring flower fundraiser to assist the students with funding the trip. Estimated sales for this year is \$5,000 - \$10,000. The tentative date is March 8-18 or March 15-29.
- Wolf Ridge costs \$156 per person. Approx. \$10,000. The ask for each student is \$200 to cover the cost of the bus, etc.
- School policy states that any fundraiser that expects to raise \$5,000 or more must be approved by the school board.

Beacon Academy Charter District 4124
 Regular Board Meeting Minutes, February 17, 2022, 6:30 p.m.
 3415 Louisiana Ave N, Crystal, MN 55427
Beacon Academy is authorized by Innovative Quality Schools
P.O Box 580, Hutchinson, MN 55350

Motion:	To approve the flower fundraiser for the Wolf Ridge trip:							
Made by:	*Kris Gapinski				Seconded by:	• Joanna Pederson		
Discussion:								
Vote:	Member	Yea	Nay	Abstain	Member	Yea	Nay	Abstain
	Aaron Price			x-absent	Paige Roth	x		
	Wendy Terry	x			Elizabeth Brobeck	x		
	Matheu Weidenbach	x			Elizabeth Warpinski	x		
	Joanna Pederson	x			Mary Peters	X		
	Kris Gapinski	x						
Decision:	Passes							

2. **PTO Update** – Marie gave a report of all the events from the start of school to today.

C. Executive Director – Sean Koster

1. Enrollment Report

-Enrollment is at 507. We have a low kindergarten number. We are keeping an eye on sections. We will see how COVID trends lower and choices families are making in school choice. Budget wise we are projecting a deficit for this and next year.

2. Review/Approve School Hours Adjustment

-Sean is recommending that we add 4 grading days to the school calendar and end the day 15 minutes later. We would start at the same time. The bus company stated that ending the day 15 minutes later would be preferred. We would still have 3 snow days.

Motion:	To approve adding 15 minutes to the school day, 9:00 a.m. – 3:45 p.m. for the 2022-2023 school year:							
Made by:	*Paige Roth				Seconded by:	• Lizzie Warpinski		
Discussion:								
Vote:	Member	Yea	Nay	Abstain	Member	Yea	Nay	Abstain
	Aaron Price			x-absent	Paige Roth	x		
	Wendy Terry	x			Elizabeth Brobeck	x		
	Matheu Weidenbach	x			Elizabeth Warpinski	x		
	Joanna Pederson	x			Mary Peters	X		
	Kris Gapinski	x						
Decision:	Passes							

Review/Approve School Calendar for 2022-2023

-The school calendar for 166 student contact days is the calendar that Sean is asking for approval for. The working agreement days have not changed.

-The ACCESS testing dates need to be corrected on the calendar we are approving.

-There was mention that the spring MCA testing happens over Ramadan. There was some discussion about possibly moving the testing dates to accommodate for those students who observe. Or, we can tell families that they can opt into a testing day after fasting ends.

-Sean also mentioned that we typically don't schedule around holidays even though Christmas always falls within winter break.

Beacon Academy Charter District 4124
 Regular Board Meeting Minutes, February 17, 2022, 6:30 p.m.
 3415 Louisiana Ave N, Crystal, MN 55427
Beacon Academy is authorized by Innovative Quality Schools
P.O Box 580, Hutchinson, MN 55350

- Sean mentioned that he would not want to make decisions without of district testing coordinator, Myla Johnson.
- Wendy mentioned that the calendar can be approved at this time without the testing dates.
- Sean also mentioned that all the additional testing would be affected by this decision.
- Kris mentioned that our winter break does not mirror Robbinsdale, and we typically do.

Motion:	To approve the school calendar for the 2022-2023 school year without the testing dates and to make winter break December 26-January 6:								
Made by:	*Kris Gapinski				Seconded by:	• Joanna Pederson			
Discussion:									
Vote:	Member	Yea	Nay	Abstain	Member	Yea	Nay	Abstain	
	Aaron Price			x-absent	Paige Roth	x			
	Wendy Terry	x			Elizabeth Brobeck	x			
	Matheu Weidenbach	x			Elizabeth Warpinski	x			
	Joanna Pederson	x			Mary Peters	X			
	Kris Gapinski	x							
Decision:	Passes								

3. Wolf Ridge

-It has been on the COVID Leadership agenda to parking lot this until we see where the pandemic lands. The team voted for this to be the only field trip of the year, June 1st – June 3rd.

4. Possible Areas to Cut for Next Year

- Sean is evaluating everything right now and determining what can be cut as we look at a deficit for another fiscal year. These conversations will happen next month, and these are not easy conversations.
- We have lost kids evenly across the board in all grades.
- Sean will also bring an update of the ESSER funds.

5. COVID Update

-We had dates on the calendar that we would make decisions. We looked at our building positivity rate as below 1% for the last 3 weeks. We also need county rates below 20%. When we talk about enrollment, we have to look at how many families we lost since we instituted a mask mandate. Many school districts around us are ending their mask mandates. We also gained families when we didn't go to distance learning this year. The COVID leadership team will be making a decision next Thursday about our masking a requirement. When other districts around us are loosening restrictions, we have to do look at this for enrollment's sake.

The board recessed at 8:31 p.m.
The board reconvened at 8:40 p.m.

D. Board Training

1. School Board Election Procedures

-There is a state statute, but Schools outline their procedures in their by-laws. The State statute covers the timing of the election, composition of board and eligible voters. The By-laws cover nomination process and election itself.

-Terms and Seats: Teachers 5 seats 3-year terms, Parents 3 seats 3 year terms, Community member 1 seat 2 year terms.

E Curriculum Committee

- no report

F. Fund Development Task Force

- There are two grants being worked on that may be coming next month. Wendy found another charter school leader that went through the endowment process. We also have an email address for the committee, grants@beaconacademy.com.

G. Governance Committee

1. First Reading – 533 Wellness Policy

-The policy was sent back to Governance last month with suggested changes from the board. Governance made the changes/clarifications and would like the policy to be approved now.

Motion:	To approve the first reading of the Wellness Policy:							
Made by:	*Lizzie Warpinski			Seconded by:			• Paige Roth	
Discussion:								
Vote:	Member	Yea	Nay	Abstain	Member	Yea	Nay	Abstain
	Aaron Price			x-absent	Paige Roth	x		
	Wendy Terry	x			Elizabeth Brobeck	x		
	Matheu Weidenbach	x			Elizabeth Warpinski	x		
	Joanna Pederson	x			Mary Peters	X		
	Kris Gapinski	x						
Decision:	Passes							

2. Election Buddy

- The committee reviewed Election Buddy and would like to recommend to the board that we use this online tool to conduct our elections going forward.
- Election Buddy costs \$89 per election. It’s a secure site that manages the entire election including tabulation.
- It’s very user friendly and there is good online support for troubleshooting
- There would be paper election packets for anyone needing physical copies.

H. Employee Retention and Compensation Committee

1. Second Review – Licensed Staff Salary Schedule

- A survey went to staff and there are two possible options for this salary schedule.
- 1% COLA this year with little to no budget cuts
- 2% COLA this year with \$30k in budget cuts
- the first year would be the hardest on our budget.
- There are still a lot of unanswered questions about the budget for next year.
- Paige recommended taking 2% off the table. We still need to do something with years 1-6 because we were very low compared to other districts around us. We also must be equal with Sped in whatever we do.
- Sean suggested bringing it back next month.

I. Executive Committee

-there are no recommendations being worked on at this time.

Adjournment

Board Work Session – Thursday, March 31 at 6pm

NEXT MEETING IS Tuesday, March 15 at 6:30pm

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Motion to adjourn at 9:34pm forwarded by Matt Weidenbach seconded by Joanna Pederson. Approved unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 9:34 pm.

Approved on _____

Paige Roth, Secretary
Beacon Academy School Board