

CALL TO ORDER Wendy Terry called the meeting to order to at 6:32 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	✓	
Lizzie Warpinski	✓	
Joanna Pederson	✓	
Matheu Weidenbach	✓	
Mary Peters		✓
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:	*Aaron Price			Seconded by:	*Joanna Pederson			
Discussion:								
Vote:	Member	Yea	Nay	Abstain	Member	Yea	Nay	Abstain
	Wendy Terry	x			Joanna Pederson	x		
	Kris Gapinski	x			Aaron Price	x		
	Paige Roth	x			Matheu Weidebach	x		
	Lizzie Warpinski	x			Mary Peters			x-absent
	Elizabeth Brobeck	x						
Decision:	Passes							

Agenda:

A. Information Gathering/Check-ins

- Elizabeth Brobeck and Lizzie Warpinski were tasked with researching a year-round school calendar. There are 4 schools in Minnesota that have year-round schooling. 3 of the schools schedule a cycle of 6 weeks on, 2 weeks off. There are no schools in our direct area that use a year-round schedule. 2 of the schools researched are charter schools and 2 are traditional districts. There are still around 180 student contact days in a year-round calendar. Summer break lasts about 1 month. 4% of schools in the nation use a year-round calendar. There was no statistical significance in test scores to a year-round calendar.

- Pros: Decreases parent needs for long term child-care in summer months. Eliminates the "summer slide" effect on student learning. Some districts use short breaks for enrichment programs/camps. High parent satisfaction – parents indicate that students are learning, retaining and growing academically, socially and personally due to elimination of summer. Cheaper vacations for families, due to going at lower-popularity times during the calendar year. Some research shows that it reduces student and teacher burnout. Several federal programs, including the School Improvement Grant program and waivers from the requirements of the federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act, have offered financial incentives for expanded learning time.

- Cons: Repeated short breaks can lead to more difficulties for parents who require child-care. Students may be unable to participate in summer camps for sports, the arts, etc. due to school schedule. Costs may run higher do to air-conditioning needs for summer, transportation costs during summer months, and reduced availability for major repairs due to lack of time off. Schedules do not line up with traditional school vacations, this leads to problems for parents with students in multiple schools (i.e. elementary student at year-round and high school student at traditional). Teachers would have to rewrite curriculum or find alternative curriculum that spread over a 12-month span. Increased irritability among school staff due to consistency of stress from school/work. Some research suggests it deprives children of a needed respite from the classroom. Year-round schedules can enrich students' educational experiences by allowing for the addition of intersessions or creative courses

- A meta-study showed mixed results on if there was a significant difference in learning between traditional schedule and year-round schedule. No study showed a negative impact from year-round learning.

- There would be an increase in operating costs and a loss in summer facility rentals.

- Lizzie Warpinski is in favor of year-round schooling. Elizabeth Brobeck is indifferent.

- Mike Reeder worked at a school that was year-round, 6 weeks on and 2/3 weeks off. He saw fewer behavioral challenges with students. Being open in the summer allowed for more creativity in learning, with the availability of the outdoors. However, many students un-enrolled in the summers. The teachers at the school experienced more of the "burn out" factor. After 4 years, the school returned to traditional schooling.

- There is the consideration that this shift would have Beacon stand out more against other schools in our area.

- We would like to gather feedback from our community before making any further considerations.

-Matteau Weidenbach researched before and after school care. He spoke with childcare centers and the biggest issue he encountered was staffing. He could not find many charter schools that had a before and after school care program. One charter school had an

independent program located at the school. Beacon attempted to start a program at the Maple Grove location but did not generate enough interest.

- There was a question on if we could have a fee for childcare and use that revenue to pay staff to run the childcare rooms.
- We would also like to gather feedback from the community about the need for childcare and the availability of adults to staff.

B. Vision Writing in Small Groups

-We have spent most of our working sessions this year gathering and reviewing feedback from our families and staff.

-The board broke into small groups to review that feedback again and create vision statements.

-These would be one or two sentences to encapsulate what direction Beacon will be taking in the coming years.

-The groups were:

- Lizzie, Matt, Wendy- *Beacon Academy, fostering a community of learners to build for themselves a better future for all.*
- Kris, Sean, Aaron – *An inclusive community of families thriving together.*
- Elizabeth, Paige, Mike, Joanna – *Our vision is to cultivate a community of diverse learners who reach their full potential through character development, resilience, and academic excellence.*

C Review and Consolidate Vision Statements

-All three statements will be emailed out to board members. These will be reviewed by all members and reflect on finding a way to create a statement that encapsulates all three statements.

-Lizzie Warpinski will look at a way to synthesize the statements into one cohesive vision statement. Student Ambassadors will also review the statements.

-These synthesized statements will be sent to the board and to leadership committee to gather feedback.

- After the board meets on May 10th, we will send the statements out to the community for feedback.

Next Regular Meeting: Thursday, April 21 at 6:30 p.m.

Next Board Workshop: Tuesday, May 10 at 6:00 p.m

Motion:	Motion to adjourn at 8:33 p.m.							
Made by:	*Kris Gapinski				Seconded by:	*Joanna Pederson		
Discussion:								
Vote:	Member	Yea	Nay	Abstain	Member	Yea	Nay	Abstain
	Wendy Terry	x			Joanna Pederson	x		
	Kris Gapinski	x			Aaron Price	x		
	Paige Roth	x			Matheu Weidenbach	x		
	Lizzie Warpinski	x			Mary Peters			x-absent
	Elizabeth Brobeck	x						
Decision:	Passes							

Approved on _____

Paige Roth, Secretary
Beacon Academy School Board