

LIONSGATE ACADEMY  
District #4183  
**BOARD MEETING MINUTES**  
*August 19, 2014, 6:00p.m.*

Lionsgate Academy 3420 Nevada Avenue N. Crystal, MN 55427

**TO:** Ryan Weber, Sara Bydzovsky, Tracy Klug, Christine Peper, John Barker, Ali Thorstad, Darren Johnson, Chris Kenealy, and ~~Kurt Nisi~~.  
Others: Diane Halpin, Executive Director; ~~Rachel Boyack, Special Education Coordinator~~; Ron Berger, Director of Finance  
Don Jentt, Representative from NEO, Emily Kafle, Special Education Supervisor, Brandy Dougherty, Assistant Director

**FROM:** Ali Thorstad, Chair

**Call to order:** Ali Thorstad, Chair; 6:03 pm

**School Mission Statement:**

*The mission of Lionsgate Academy is to provide a transition-oriented and personalized learning program focused on secondary high-functioning students on the autism spectrum that supports their full potential, participation, and self-determination within their school, family, and community.*

*To this end, Lionsgate Academy will create an educational environment that will model best instructional practice and research-based techniques so that the graduates will--to the fullest extent possible--live independently, be involved in further education or gainful employment and develop meaningful relationships with others.*

**Comments from Community Members:** Public Comment is an open forum portion of the meeting and is an opportunity to present an issue, concern, or other statement to the Board of Directors. Individuals wishing to address the Board must sign up prior to the Call to Order and will be allotted three (3) minutes. Total public comment will be limited to twenty one (21) minutes.

**Approval of the agenda:**

**Model:**

- 1. Consent Agenda**
  - a. Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes
  - b. Approval of Policies

<b>Motion:</b> Move to approve consent agenda.			
<b>Made by:</b> Ryan		<b>Seconded by:</b> Sara B	
<b>Discussion:</b> None.			
<b>Vote:</b>	<b>Yea:</b>	<b>Nay:0</b>	<b>Abstain:</b>
<b>Decision:</b> Unanimously Approved			

- 2. Motion to approve agenda**
  - a. Under business under governance to add committee assignments
    - i. Ryan, 2<sup>nd</sup> by John Barker
- 3. Welcome Malory Kosher as appointee to the board as a staff member**
  - a. Secretary will update all board documents

**4. Special Education Update**

- a. Change to mission statement
  - i. Went out twice to the community through the newsletter and had zero responses
  - ii. Will be put on September agenda to finalize the mission statement.
- b. Staff returned Monday August 11 and EA’s came back yesterday –Monday August 18
- c. Staff feedback is great and feel even more prepared than last year
- d. SPED Due Process Manual created for staff as a reference guide

**5. Strategic Planning Update**

- a. Discussed the outcome of the revision of the strategic plan completed on Saturday July 19, 2014
- b. Explained the color coded initiatives that show what has been completed, what is going to be worked on throughout the year and areas of high importance.
  - **ORANGE: Complete first phase, continuing to monitor and adjust**
  - **GREEN: Has been started but is not complete yet.**
  - **RED: Big initiatives for school year 2014-15**
- c. Reviewed the initiatives and summarized status and outcomes
- d. Positive feedback on the format and facilitator, Mark Wolak

**6. Business**

- 1. Director’s Report-Diane
  - i. Grant was awarded to AUSM. Jonah Weinberg, Shawn Bortel, Emily Kafle and Director of Autism Works met to discuss the grant. Five students will be selected to go through the Discovery process and receive 3 hours of instruction by an Autism Works Discovery trained coach for 30 weeks during the school year. The goal of the grant collaboration is to increase student readiness for employment and post-secondary education. There is a criteria for the student selection process.
  - ii. Student & Staff Handbook Revisions
    - 1. Discussed and explained the changes in each handbook
      - a. Staff Handbook: Do PTO days get paid out? Will clarify language around to say that it does not get paid out, so that it matches the language around sick time.
      - b. Student Handbook: Signature page for parents and students

<b>Motion:</b> Move to approve Staff and Student Handbook			
<b>Made by:</b> Ryan		<b>Made by:</b> Darren	
<b>Discussion:</b>			
<b>Vote:</b>	<b>Yea: 7</b>	<b>Nay:0</b>	<b>Abstain:</b>
<b>Decision:</b> Unanimously Approved			

- iii. Presented Succession Plan that was reviewed by Governance Committee
- iv. Student Achievement - MAP Scores
  - 1. Diane and Brandy presented the Spring 2013-Fall 2014 scores and Spring 2013-Spring 2014 scores, the testing conditions during these time frames and the plan to move forward by taking data and assessing the data to make any necessary changes.

2. Foundation Update
  - i. Wendy Fields resigned
3. Committee Reports
  - i. Governance
    1. Discussion of membership of committees
      - a. Finance: Darren, Ryan, Kurt
      - b. Exec. Dir.: Christine, Sara B., Kris –change meeting time at 5pm same night as school board meeting
      - c. Governance: Malory, John B., Ali
      - d. Discussion around the creation of Building/Space Committee and will be looking at recruiting members of the community. Will discuss further at September board meeting –Ali, Ron, Diane, Kurt
  - ii. Finance
    1. Committee Update
      - a. See Financial Committee agenda
      - b. Insurance renewals:
    2. Financials
      - a. No outstanding lines of credit

<b>Motion:</b> Move to approve July Financials with Additional Cash flow projections			
<b>Made by:</b> Christine		<b>Made by:</b> Ryan	
<b>Discussion:</b> See Financial Packet & Payment Register.			
<b>Vote:</b>	<b>Yea: 7</b>	<b>Nay:</b>	<b>Abstain:</b>
<b>Decision:</b> Unanimously Approved			

- iii. Executive Director Evaluation
  1. Tabled to September board meeting

**7. Review: September Board Meeting agenda**

- a. Discussed board training
    - i. MACS training
    - ii. Online training
  - b. The board needs to fill the position of secretary
- 8.** Christine has been appointed by the governor to the Special Education Advisory Panel and her bio will mention her affiliation with Lionsgate.

**Motion to Adjourn:**

<b>Motion:</b> Move to adjourn at 8:34pm			
<b>Made by:</b> John		<b>Made by:</b> Sara B	
<b>Discussion:</b>			
<b>Vote:</b>	<b>Yea: 7</b>	<b>Nay: 0</b>	<b>Abstain:</b>
<b>Decision:</b> Unanimously Approved			

**Next Meeting:** September 23, 2014, 6:00 MPR