

LIONSGATE ACADEMY
District #4183

BOARD MEETING MINUTES
October 21, 2014 6:00pm

Lionsgate Academy 3420 Nevada Avenue N. Crystal, MN 55427

TO: Ryan Weber, Sara Bydzovsky, Christine Peper, Darren Johnson, Malory Kosher, Chris Kenealy, and Kurt Nisi

Others: Diane Halpin, Executive Director; Ron Berger, Director of Finance; Shawn Bortel, AIM Administrator

FROM: Ali Thorstad, Chair

Call to order: Ryan Weber, 6:03 PM

School Mission Statement:

The mission of Lionsgate Academy is to provide a transition-oriented and personalized learning program focused on 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.

1) Approval of the agenda:

2) Consent Agenda

- a) Animals in School (618) and Transportation Policy (923) were pulled from the consent agenda for discussion.
- b) Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes
- c) Approval of Policies: Student Teachers and Clinical Internships (517), Search of Student Lockers (914)

Motion: Move to approve consent agenda.			
Made by: Chris Kenealy		Seconded by: Darren Johnson	
Discussion: None.			
Vote:	Yea: 7	Nay: 0	Abstain:
Decision: Unanimously Approved			

- 3) Special Education Update
 - a) Shawn Bortel presented an update about the AIM program. He noted the following-
 - i) Things are going well (AIM)
 - ii) Logistically space serves student needs. (AIM)
 - iii) Nov. 6 Open House(AIM)
 - iv) Congresswoman McCollum and St. Paul mayor visited (AIM)
 - v) Opening Setting iv next fall at the North St. Paul Location
- 4) Strategic Planning Update
 - a) Establishment of setting iv and creating mental health services is the main focus.
- 5) Building Committee Update
 - a) Building Committee Members: Kurt, Ali, John V., Michelle M, Ron B, Diane, Rachel B, Drake W
 - b) Looking at the possibility of multiple campuses as we grow
 - c) Approximately 138 students at Crystal and growing to 5-10 more, 29 students in AIM and growing to approximately 44
 - d) Noble Academy still a possibility
 - e) Looking at all other sites located within 8 miles of Crystal (6 sites)
 - f) With regard to the Main Campus: Examine options for future location and space for the school
 - i) Determine necessary internal and external stakeholders and experts that need to be consulted to make fully informed decisions
 - ii) Establish timeline
 - g) With regard to the North St. Paul Campus
 - i) Provide for the increased number of AIM students expected in FYE 2016
 - ii) Provide for the new Federal Setting IV program
 - iii) Establish a timeline

Motion: Move to approve Building Committee			
Made by: Darren Johnson		Seconded by: Christine Peper	
Discussion: None.			
Vote:	Yea: 7	Nay: 0	Abstain:
Decision: Unanimously Approved			

6) Business

- a) Director's Report-Diane
- b) Two staff are resigning for personal reasons (Farrar & Lauderbaugh)
- c) Parent conferences are scheduled for Nov. 5 & 6
- d) Lionsgate hosted two Russian Special Ed teachers and representatives from the University of MN
- e) Students
 - i) One student has withdrawn
 - ii) Possible senior enrolling
- f) Student Achievement

- i) Reading & Math scores- MCA's - Lionsgate exceeds the state average for special education in reading; and closed the gap for math
- 7) Foundation Updates
 - a) 2 prospective additions-Kirsti Pearson & Amy Baker; Meta Thomas is stepping down, but will continue with Pickin' for Autism
- 8) Committee Reports
 - a) Governance
 - i) Discussion of Policy 618 – Christine suggested that we add language requiring vaccination
 - ii) Board members-possibility of signing confidentiality agreement(will revisit next meeting)

Motion: Move to approve 618 Animals in School adding additional language that show families of animals show proof of vaccination			
Made by: Christine Peper		Seconded by: Sarah B.	
Discussion: None.			
Vote:	Yea: 7	Nay: 0	Abstain:
Decision: Unanimously Approved			

- b) Finance Committee Update
 - i) Income statement – Donations came in earlier this year, supplies running ahead of budget; on budget for maintenance. Finance Committee reviewed payment registry in detail.

Motion: Move to approve financial statements			
Made by: Darren Johnson		Seconded by: Chris Kenealy	
Discussion: None.			
Vote:	Yea: 7	Nay: 0	Abstain:
Decision: Unanimously Approved			

- c) Executive Director Evaluation
 - i) Committee is reviewing the evaluation and ensuring that goals are measurable/understandable)
- 9) November agenda- Added: Board Members Confidentially Agreement, update on Finance Training at LGA for Board members (December 16th), & Building Committee Update
- 10) Motion to Adjourn:

Motion: Move to adjourn	
Made by: Sara Bydzovsky	Seconded by: Malory Kosher
Discussion: None.	

Vote:	Yea: 7	Nay: 0	Abstain:
Decision: Unanimously Approved			

Next Meeting: November 18, 2014, 6:00 PM

Final