

LIONSGATE ACADEMY  
 District #4183  
**BOARD MEETING MINUTES**  
 February 16, 2016, 6:00 pm  
 Lionsgate Academy 3420 Nevada Avenue N. Crystal, MN 55427

**TO:** Jim Harms, Sara Bydzovsky, Malory Kosher, Christine Peper, Emy Bachman, Ali Thorstad (ab.), Darren Johnson, Chris Kenealy, and Kurt Nisi.  
 Others: Diane Halpin, Executive Director; Emily Kafle, Special Education Director; Ron Berger, Director of Finance  
**FROM:** Ali Thorstad, Chair

**Call to order:** Malory Kosher, Vice Chair

**School Mission Statement:**

*The mission of Lionsgate Academy is to foster self-determination by providing a transitions-focused, personalized learning program for all students, specializing in educating students with autism spectrum disorders.*

**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.

**Conflict of Interest Declaration**

**Approval of the Agenda**

<b>Motion:</b> Move to approve agenda.			
<b>Made by:</b> Johnson		<b>Seconded by:</b> Nisi	
<b>Discussion:</b> None.			
<b>Vote:</b>	<b>Yea:</b> 8	<b>Nay:</b>	<b>Abstain:</b>

**Model:**

**1. Consent Agenda**

- a. Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes
  - i. Lionsgate Board Minutes 1-19-2016
- b. Governance Committee Report 2-11-2016
- c. Approval of Policies
  - i. 615 Wellness Policy

<b>Motion:</b> Move to approve consent agenda.			
<b>Made by:</b> Peper		<b>Seconded by:</b> Harms	
<b>Discussion:</b> None.			
<b>Vote:</b>	<b>Yea:</b> 8	<b>Nay:</b>	<b>Abstain:</b>

**2. Special Education Update**

- a. Enrollment
  - i. Ten enrollment meetings in the last month, all going very well
- b. MACMA presentation in April has been approved on ASD and comorbid mental health disorders
  - i. Emily Kafle, Joe Falkner and Ashley Witt will present

- c. Jessica Bjorkman has officially stepped into her full time role as Special Education Coordinator at the North St Paul campus for Lynx and AIM programs
  - i. Emily Kafle will provide support to Bjorkman twice a week, but will be back at the Crystal campus performing her usual work duties the other three days
- d. Police officers present to AIM
  - i. This month NSP police officers presented to AIM based on a pre-set agenda with the purpose of teaching police officers how to engage with our population and to teach students how to engage with police officials
- e. Hybrid programming on the horizon
  - i. A new agenda that looks at AIM students who could benefit from LYNX services, or LYNX students who could benefit from AIM programming is on the horizon. It is looking to be launched next year, possibly even during the 2016 ESY schedule

### 3. Strategic Planning Update

- a. English Language Arts (ELA) Standards at Lionsgate
  - i. School-wide literacy goals that are driven by MN standards
  - ii. One focus is a vocabulary initiative
    - a. Goal is to train staff which will lead to student success across all subjects
    - b. Staff will implement strategies for students to understand vocabulary e.g. context clues and evidence
  - iii. Structure will be set up to evaluate teacher success in teaching strategies
  - iv. Training will be provided to teacher's to better understand assessment data and test scores
  - v. Program is a three year process
    - a. Second year will consist of training teachers on data taking, analyzing that data, and monitoring and adjusting if need be

### 4. Business

- 1. Director's Report-Diane
  - i. Student Achievement
    - 1. MCAs
      - a. March we begin our second round of testing of the MCAs
      - b. Reading, science and math proficiency will be tested
  - ii. Approval of Proposed 2016-17 Academic Calendar
    - 1. Board discussed options for instructional days

<b>Motion:</b> Move to approve 169 instructional days for the 2016-17 Calendar, keeping Monday, January 2 <sup>nd</sup> as holiday.			
<b>Made by:</b> Peper		<b>Seconded by:</b> Harms	
<b>Discussion:</b> None.			
<b>Vote:</b>	<b>Yea:</b> 8	<b>Nay:</b>	<b>Abstain:</b>

#### 2. Foundation Update

- i. No meeting in February

#### 3. Committee Reports

- i. Governance

##### 1. 2016 Governance Proposal for Executive Committee

- a. Board discussed the pros and cons of having an Executive Committee

#### Lionsgate Academy's Authorizer is:

<b>Motion:</b> Move to table amending bylaws for Executive Committee.			
<b>Made by:</b> Harms		<b>Seconded by:</b> Kenealy	
<b>Discussion:</b> None.			
<b>Vote:</b>	<b>Yea:</b> 8	<b>Nay:</b>	<b>Abstain:</b>

2. Change in Meeting Night for 2016-17 Board Meetings
  - ii. Finance
    1. Committee Update
      - a. Discussed cash position and expected future cash flows from MDE
    2. Financials
      - a. Financial statements were presented by Berger

<b>Motion:</b> Move to approve financials.			
<b>Made by:</b> Johnson		<b>Seconded by:</b> Peper	
<b>Discussion:</b> None.			
<b>Vote:</b>	<b>Yea:</b> 8	<b>Nay:</b>	<b>Abstain:</b>

- iii. Building
  1. Construction starting soon
  2. Plans for the move being discussed
    - a. Staff being asked to start to take home personal items and only keep the items they use on a daily basis
- ~~iv. Executive Director Evaluation~~

## 5. Review: March's Board Meeting Agenda

**Motion to Adjourn:** 7:30 p.m.

<b>Motion:</b> Move to adjourn meeting.			
<b>Made by:</b> Bydzovsky		<b>Seconded by:</b> Peper	
<b>Discussion:</b> None.			
<b>Vote:</b>	<b>Yea:</b> 8	<b>Nay:</b>	<b>Abstain:</b>

**Next Meeting: March 15, 2016, 6:00pm**