

LIONSGATE ACADEMY
District #4183
BOARD MEETING MINUTES

August 21, 2012 6:00pm
Lionsgate Academy 3420 Nevada Avenue N. Crystal, MN 55427

TO: Nicole Cleland, Meta Pautsch, ~~Bob Radspinner~~, Ryan Weber, ~~Twila Jensen~~, Joan Steinmann, Meg Fuller, Anne Sarles.
Others: Diane Halpin, Director, Stan Hacker, Contracted Employee, Rachel Boyack, Special Education Coordinator, Ron Berger, School Business Solutions

FROM: Joan Steinmann, Acting Chair

Call to order: 6:04 by Joan Steinmann, Acting Chair

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.

Approval of the agenda: Ryan, 2nd Meta
Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes: Meta, 2nd Nicole
Model:

1. Governance- Joan

1. Update on Board Membership & Chair- Joan
 - i. Two issues at this time: Open community member position and open Board Chair position in view of resignation of Chair in July 2012.
 1. Based on efforts to identify a new Chair as well as a new community member after the July meeting, Joan recommended the Board take no immediate action to appoint a new community Board member and that the Board take action to fill the slot when an appropriate and qualified candidate became available.
 2. To fill the Chair position, Joan Steinmann volunteered to step into to Chair position subject to election by the Board until another Board member becomes available for the role and is elected by the Board. She recommended that the Board re-examine the community member opening and Chair role at its December meeting, which actions if taken to be effective in January, 2012. Question was brought up about whether or not we could have officer elections more frequently than annually. Joan mentioned that if this did prove to be an issue she would step down from the Chair position effective in January 2013. Her suggestion was to hold a re-election for Board Officers in December assuming a new community member or other Board member is available to serve as expected.

2. Elect Officers

Motion: Move to vote Board members into officer positions; Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer.			
Made by: Meta		Seconded by: Ryan	
Discussion: None			
Vote:	Yea: 5	Nay: 0	Abstain:
Decision: Unanimously Approved			

Lionsgate Academy's Authorizer is:

Motion: Move to vote for Meg Fuller as Board Secretary of Lionsgate Academy School Board.			
Made by: Meta		Seconded by: Ryan	
Discussion: None			
Vote:	Yea: 5	Nay: 0	Abstain:
Decision: Unanimously Approved			

Motion: Move to vote for Twila Jensen as Treasure of Lionsgate Academy School Board.			
Made by: Joan		Seconded by: Anne	
Discussion: None			
Vote:	Yea: 5	Nay: 0	Abstain:
Decision: Unanimously Approved			

Motion: Move to vote for Ryan Weber as Vice Chair of Lionsgate Academy School Board.			
Made by: Joan		Seconded by: Meta	
Discussion: None			
Vote:	Yea: 5	Nay: 0	Abstain:
Decision: Unanimously Approved			

Motion: Move to vote for Joan Steinmann as Chair of Lionsgate Academy School Board.			
Made by: Ryan		Seconded by: Nicole	
Discussion: None			
Vote:	Yea: 5	Nay: 0	Abstain:
Decision: Unanimously Approved			

3. Proposed Calendar- Governance committee used the discussion from strategic planning to create monthly topics on the 2012-2013 School Board Calendar. Board reviewed calendar for approval. It was decided that the Governance committee would update the calendar based upon suggestions.

Motion: Move to accept 2012-2013 Board Calendar once amended as suggested.			
Made by: Anne		Seconded by: Ryan	
Discussion: November, December, January and February changes/updates based on strategic planning topics.			
Vote:	Yea: 5	Nay: 0	Abstain:
Decision: Unanimously Approved			

4. Approval of Staff Handbook updates- Diane
 - i. Diane explained changes that were made to the staff absence policy and explained the addition of a social media policy.
 - ii. Directors will look at the social media policy before the next meeting. A vote will take place at the next board meeting. At this time no changes were approved by the Board.

2. Board Education/Training

Lionsgate Academy's Authorizer is:

Novation Education Opportunities, 500 Washington Avenue South, Suite 1020, Minneapolis, MN 55415
 Phone 763-588-4453 Fax 612-870-1200 email neo2010@me.com <http://www.novationeducationopportunities.org>

1. New board member training- Diane
 - i. Two upcoming trainings: Oct. 6th and Dec. 8th through Saint Thomas.
 - ii. Nonprofit Assistance Fund is willing to provide a financial training at LGA prior to a board meeting, possibly in December. Diane will look further into scheduling this training for December.

3. Monthly Topic

1. Strategic Connections – Joan asked that each Board Member select at least one contact outside of LGA to bring for discussion at the next meeting.
2. Open House in November – Diane would like for the open house to bring in potential partners to see LGA. Ideas for guests; Autism Society, MDE, Colleges and Universities, Governors’ office, community members, Crystal Board members, local NEWS, School Administrators from elementary Charter Schools. It was discussed that Open House guests might be good candidates to invite to future LGA fundraisers. Diane asked the Foundation Committee to become involved in setting up the event and sending paper and electronic invitations.
3. Event Calendar Sign-up- clarification was needed about what events Board Members needed to attend. Meg will make this clarification for the next meeting.
4. Bio- Final Draft- Draft Board Biography was passed around for final edits before posting to website.
5. Compliance Sheets- Circulated to returning board members, collected at end of meeting.

4. Business

1. Director’s Report-Diane
 - i. Church requested an update on bonding issue. Diane needs to look at whether this school is a viable option for purchase. Meta has reported that foundations committee has money to support this. Discussion was also had about the start of a committee to partner with foundations committee in looking into the due-diligence of the bonding issue.
 - ii. Three events since last meeting: Parent Pride Day- 20 parents came into clean the school. Saint Paul Saints game went very well; LGA raised more money than both events last year. Motorcycle ride also went very well; Alex Nord gave a wonderful top-10 speech at the ride.
 - iii. Staffing changes: Spanish teacher and an EA resigned yesterday, positions have been posted.
 - iv. Authorizer Update: Bryan Rossi resigned from Novations. A question was proposed; if we need a new authorizer or if Novations would still be able to authorize us? Diane and Stan are trying to talk with Novations and MDE to get the question answered. There will be an update next month.
 - v. Costs for after school clubs: Where should the funding come from? Foundation, donations, charging parents a blanket fee for all students in clubs or different cost for each club? Nicole thought that the foundation could help fund clubs.
2. Special Education Update- Rachel
 - i. AIM- House on corner that belongs to the program and is in the process of being cleaned and furnished. Partnerships with volunteer sites have continued to grow.
 - ii. Transitions/ Inclusion- These departments have been developing mentorships, encouraging co-teaching, and creating thematic transitions units in foundations classes.
 - iii. Case Managers- No new case managers this year. They have been spending time making connections with new families on their caseloads.
 - iv. Support services- trained staff today on Social Emotional Learning.
3. Foundation Update-Nicole
 - i. No changes since last meeting in finances.
 - ii. Still looking to identify a grant writer. Scheduled interview will be tomorrow.
4. Committee Reports
 - i. Governance –Joan, no updates

Lionsgate Academy’s Authorizer is:

ii. Finance-Chris

1. MDE update

- a. Not being paid the money we are owed.
- b. Appeals for General Education and lease aid have not begun to run yet. September 15th will be the start of the appeals coming into our budget.
- c. \$1.39 million discrepancy between what we are expecting and what they are showing they will pay us.

2. July Financial Report/SBS

- a. Paid back \$409,000 from Venture bank and \$200,000 from Nonprofits Assistance Fund.
- b. Bank balance \$56,000 currently. Lower than expected due to MDE not running appeals.
- c. Transportation report due August 15th, has not yet been submitted. Chris and Robert will be working on this tomorrow.

Motion: Move to approve July Financials.			
Made by: Meg		Seconded by: Nicole	
Discussion: See financial dash board and handout.			
Vote:	Yea: 5	Nay: 0	Abstain:
Decision: Unanimously Approved			

5. Review: September board meeting agenda.

6. Recognition of resigned Board Chair, Ron Berger- Presented with student art work.

7. Closed Meeting 7:53-8:00

- i. Discussed personnel/staffing issues.

Comments from Community Members

Stan- Lionsgate is at a great place with Diane, leadership, and staff.

Motion to Adjourn: 8:02 Joan, 2nd Ryan

Next Meeting: September 18, 2012, 6:00 PM

Lionsgate Academy's Authorizer is: