

LIONSGATE ACADEMY
District #4183
BOARD MEETING MINUTES

March 20, 2012 6:00pm
Lionsgate Academy 3420 Nevada Avenue N. Crystal, MN 55427

ATTENDEES: Ron Berger, Brandy Dougherty, Meta Pautsch, Bob Radspinner, Jonathan Scharlau, Joan Steinmann, Meg Fuller. Others: Stan Hacker, Director, Bryan Rossi, Novations

ABSENT: None

Call to order: 6:04pm, by Ron Berger, 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: Bob, 2nd by Meg

Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes: Brandy, 2nd by Meta

1. Closed meeting-Personnel Issue

2. Model:

a. Student Individual Learning Plans

i. Stakeholder Satisfaction Surveys

1. Oscar will be working on using the same question set last year to help see patterns and same set of stakeholders, staff, students, parents.
2. The questions will be sent electronically to board members
3. Suggested to add to parent survey on how parents can be more involved.
4. Has communication improved from the feedback from last year's survey?

3. Business

a. Director's Report-Stan

- i. Parent-teacher conferences were last week and overall went very smoothly and was well received. Parents feedback was very positive**
- ii. Community Meeting update**
 1. Well attended, good questions and responses
 2. Parent liaison/grant writing position was discussed
- iii. Pride trips out in the community where morning is service/volunteer work and the afternoon is student choice.**

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- b. Approve updated 2012 School Calendar –with snow days and senior days

Motion: Move to approve 2011-2012 School Calendar with snow day and senior days			
Made by: Brandy		Seconded by: Meta	
Discussion:			
Vote:	Yea: 6	Nay:	Abstain:
Decision: Unanimously Approved			

- c. Budget planning

- i. Executive Director request to approve last year’s budget with a 5% increase in order to begin offering contracts to staff.

Motion: Move to approve a preliminary budget for school year 2012-2013 at last year’s budget rate plus 5%.			
Made by: Jonathan		Seconded by: Bob	
Discussion: Good practical move to make in order to shape the final budget. Discussion on staff raises and how this fits into the budget and experiences with health plan.			
Vote:	Yea: 6	Nay: 0	Abstain:
Decision: Unanimously Approved			

- d. Strategic Planning

- i. Tabled until April board meeting

- e. Foundation Update-Jonathan

- i. Fundraising Breakfast and hosting tables

1. Friday, May 4th at Golden Valley Country Club
2. Request for all board members to host a table-7 guests
3. Student/teacher/parents speakers
4. Foundation will also be speaking –funds and parent help

- ii. Discussion about the possibility of hiring someone part-time to help with grant writing, parents do want to be involved, but need direction. This person would have accountability to do the grant writing and potentially be the school liaison between partnership/strategic relationships, community, and connections with parents.

- iii. In process of transitioning of transferring funds from Wells Fargo to Private Bank.

- f. Committee Reports

- i. Executive Director Search Committee

1. Exec. Director Search training March 6, 2012 5:30-6:30
 - a. Behavioral based interview training, very successful
 - b. Make sure all directors have the training-Alyssa will be connecting with those who were not able to attend
 - c. Narrowed down candidates
 - d. Interview process is open meeting
 - i. Discussion and ranking of candidates is closed, considered personnel matters

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- e. Goal is to have 2-3 finalists brought before the board
 - f. Committee will be conducting semi-finalist interviews on March 31st.
- ii. Growth of School Committee
- 1. Discussed AIM would see growth and how as a school, LGA will deal with that:
 - a. Senator Bonoff has been contacted to increase the legislation to 200
 - b. Parent members concerned with the situation where AIM program may have to be limited
 - 2. Apartments cannot be used for AIM next year
 - a. Offsite location is no longer an option and concern about if it did go off campus if it would ever come back, but Stan is in contact with the church for more space where AIM will have their own space moving forward
 - 3. Purchasing the building
 - a. Due diligence:
 - i. Cannot look at purchasing until we have been in operation for 5 years
 - ii. A full analysis/assessment will need to be done
 - iii. Look at other locations that may be more suitable
 - iv. 4 years left on lease with Cornerstone Church

Motion: Move to formally ask the Foundation to begin the due diligence process for the potential purchasing of the current school building and other school buildings.			
Made by: Jonathan		Seconded by: Meta	
Discussion: None			
Vote:	Yea: 6	Nay: 0	Abstain:
Decision: Unanimously Approved			

iii. Governance-Joan

- 1. Nomination Committee update-Meg
 - a. Announcement and documents have been communicated via the school website, newsletter, Twitter, FaceBook, etc., case managers emailed home, on Start Page
 - b. Deadline for nominations April 5th
 - c. Slate for approval for April board meeting
 - d. Meet and greet with the candidates – 6:30-8:30pm on May 8th
 - e. Election –Monday & Tuesday April 14th/15th
 - f. June 19th new board members would be seated at end of meeting
- 2. Policies to Approve
 - a. Nomination and Election Policy

Motion: Move to approve and adopt Nomination and Election Policy with the changes below.			
Made by: Joan		Seconded by: Brandy	
Discussion: One additional change related to voting procedure to allow electronic voting. Change under II) Voting; g)... to assure secure voting consistent with state law.			
Vote:	Yea: 6	Nay: 0	Abstain:
Decision: Unanimously Approved			

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iv. Finance-Jonathan

1. MDE update

- a. Met last month with MDE and received most of the money, but it appears that we are still not receiving all of the money owed to us
- b. May need to look at using our credit line
- c. Chris Wood will be taking over Business Manager in collaboration with Robert from SBS
- d. Moving out of TIES back to School Business Solutions
- e. Payroll is moving back to Paychecks
- f. Lease Aid is due April 15th

Motion: Move to approve Lease Aid for 2012-2013.			
Made by: Jonathan		Seconded by: Brandy	
Discussion:			
Vote:	Yea: 6	Nay: 0	Abstain:
Decision: Unanimously Approved			

2. January/February Financial Report

- a. On budget, if not under budget-looks very solid
- b. MDE may owe us around 700,000-900,000 taking the holdback into consideration
- c. Robert will be meeting with his supervisor and will get back to us for further action.

Motion: Move to approve January/February Financials 2012			
Made by: Jonathan		Seconded by: Brandy	
Discussion: See financial dashboard handout.			
Vote:	Yea: 6	Nay: 0	Abstain:
Decision: Unanimously Approved			

g. Review: April board meeting agenda

Comments from Community Members

Motion to Adjourn: Bob, 2nd Meta at 7:46pm

Next Meeting: April 17, 2012, 6:00 PM

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