

LIONSGATE ACADEMY
District #4183
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
January 20, 2015 6:00 p.m.

Lionsgate Academy 3420 Nevada Avenue N. Crystal, MN 55427

TO: Ryan Weber, Sara Bydzovsky, Malory Kosher, Christine Peper, John Barker, Ali Thorstad, Darren Johnson, Chris Kenealy, and Kurt Nisi.
Others: Diane Halpin, Executive Director; Emily Kafle, Special Education Supervisor; Ron Berger, Director of Finance
FROM: Ali Thorstad, Chair

Call to order: 6:03 p.m. Ali Thorstad, Chair

School Mission Statement:

The mission of Lionsgate Academy is to provide a transition-focused, personalized learning program focused for students with autism spectrum disorders 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.

Conflict of Interest Declaration

- Ali Thorstad announced conflict of interest regarding policy 618 Animals in Schools
 - Ryan Weber will lead discussion over that policy when discussed

- 1. Approval of the agenda:
 - Approval of Agenda, including the consent agenda.
 - o Consent Agenda Items:
 - 618 Animals in Schools
 - 210 Conflict of Interest of Board Member
 - 703 Visitor Policy
 - 204 Dissolution of Corporation
 - Ali Thorstad asked to pull 618 Animal in School for clarification

Approval of 2014-2015 School Year Calendar Revised to Include Snow Day

Approval of Agenda

Motion: To approve consent agenda not including 618 Animals in Schools. 618 to be discussed during Governance Committee Report.	
Made by: Ryan Weber	Seconded by: Darren Johnson
Discussion: Ali Thorstad asked to pull 618 Animals in Schools. 618 was moved to the Governance Committee Report.	

Lionsgate Academy's Authorizer is:

Novation Education Opportunities, 3432 Denmark Avenue Suite 103, Eagan, Minnesota 55123
Phone 612-889-2103 Fax 612-870-1200 email executive.director.neo@gmail.com http://www.neoauthorizer.org

Vote:	Yea: 8	Nay: 0	Abstain:
Decision: Unanimously Approved			

Approval 2014-2015 School Year Calendar Revised to Include Snow Day

Motion: To approve 2014-2015 School Year Calendar Revised to Include Snow Day.			
Made by: Kurt Nisi		Seconded by: Christine Peper	
Discussion: None.			
Vote:	Yea: 8	Nay: 0	Abstain:
Decision: Unanimously Approved			

2. Special Education Update- Emily Kafle
 - Frequently asked questions (FAQ) was developed for The Lynx program (Setting IV program at North St. Paul location) to inform LGA community of what the program’s all about.
 - This past October, parents met w/ administration to help create this document and reviewed it further in December.
 - Preliminary planning is under way for the North. St. Paul Site in preparation for the new Lynx Program and student population increase at the AIM program.

3. Strategic Planning Update
 - The building committee identified expansion space needed at the North St. Paul site. The committee is using school-linked mental health services model to help determine use of space.
 - Lionsgate Main Site (Crystal) continues the process of exploring suitable options
 - Discussed increases in student enrollment for AIM and Lynx program- (Setting IV program) which could lead to more staff needing to be hired.
 - The PAES lab is going well and classroom spaces will be expanded before next school year.

4. Business
 - A. Director’s Report-Diane
 - Student Achievement: 7th-12th grade Reading Assessment scores from 2010-14 outscored the state and district for special education students.
 - Novation Education Opportunities (NEO) authorizer update: NSP site will be observed on Jan. 21st and Crystal’s site will be observed Feb. 4th
 - PCA & Student/Family handbook: Next Board meeting will review in further detail the necessary revisions to policy regarding staff working as a PCA for students outside of the school day. This policy will clarify guidelines in upholding a professional and academic relationship between staff and students. Lionsgate’s transparency with this policy hopes to eliminate any conflicts of interest that could arise. Policy would not go in effect until next school year.
 - Open house update: 74 people have RSVP’d so far. The open house will be held on Jan. 22nd at Crysta
 - Lottery drawing for new students will be held Feb. 1st.

 - B. Foundation update- New potential member. There are 8-10 members on the foundation board currently.

C. Committee Reports

i. Governance

- 618 policy: Governance committee will review most recent revisions to this policy at the next Governance meeting

ii. Finance

- Committee Update: Met and discussed w/ building committee.
- Financials:
 - Lionsgate sees a difference of payment due back from the state. Need to ensure expenses are charged accurately for payback purposes. Cashflow budget says LGA should be getting more back than receiving. However, cash flow is better than it was before. If LGA uses expenses by June 30th, school will get paid back sooner.
 - Need to make sure accuracy with projecting expenses needs for the school year. Still working on making budgeting model more accurate but much better than in the past.

Motion: To accept financials ending 12/31/14			
Made by: Christine Peper		Seconded by: Chris Kenealy	
Discussion: None.			
Vote:	Yea: 8	Nay: 0	Abstain:
Decision: Unanimously Approved			

iii. Executive Director Evaluation

- Committee believes they have all the areas of competency covered in ED Evaluation Rubric.
- Next meeting, committee will develop objective and measurable data showing evidence of holding accountability.

5. Review: February Board Meeting agenda

Motion: To accept February Board meeting agenda and policies as well as revisit PCA policy in Student Handbook.			
Made by: Ryan Weber		Seconded by: Darren Johnson	
Discussion: None.			
Vote:	Yea: 8	Nay: 0	Abstain:
Decision: Unanimously Approved			

Lionsgate Academy's Authorizer is:

Motion to Adjourn: 8:10 pm

Motion: To adjourn January Board Meeting			
Made by: Chris Kenealy		Seconded by: Sara Bydzovsky	
Discussion: None.			
Vote:	Yea: 8	Nay: 0	Abstain:
Decision: Unanimously Approved			

Next Meeting: February 17th, 2015 6:00 pm

Lionsgate Academy's Authorizer is:

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