

LIONSGATE ACADEMY
 District #4183
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
 August 18, 2015 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, Darren Johnson, Chris Kenealy, and Kurt Nisi.
 Others: Diane Halpin, Executive Director; Ron Berger, Director of Finance, Emily Kafle, Special Education Director
FROM: Ali Thorstad, Chair

Call to order: Ali Thorstad, Chair, 6:03 pm

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. **(None)**

Conflict of Interest Declaration (None)

Approval of the Agenda

Following Additions Made:

- **Add in Building Committee Report**
- **Pull Policy 406 to be discussed under Governance**

Motion: Move to accept agenda			
Made by: Johnson		Seconded by: Kenealy	
Discussion: None.			
Vote:	Yea: 8	Nay: 0	Abstain:
Decision: Unanimously Approved			

Model:

1. Consent Agenda

Motion: Move to approve consent agenda			
Made by: Johnson		Seconded by: Kosher	
Discussion: None.			
Vote:	Yea: 8	Nay: 0	Abstain:
Decision: Unanimously Approved			

- a. Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes: Lionsgate Board Minutes 7-24-2015 and Strategic Planning Minutes
 - b. Governance Committee Report
 - i. Policy 406 to be discussed
 - c. Approval of Policies
 - i. 406 Travel Expenses and Reimbursement-Proposed Revision
 - ii. 502 Chemical and Drug Use and Abuse
 - iii. 924 Use of Social Media In School
 - iv. 504 Code of Conduct
- 2. Special Education Update (Kafle)**
- a. Staff Back to School
 - i. 8/10 was 1st day for LYNX staff
 - ii. 8/17 first day for all other LGA staff (Crystal and AIM)
 - b. Board Members asked to attend the LYNX (Aug 27, 6:00 PM) & AIM (Tues 25) Open Houses
 - c. 5 students in LYNX program
 - d. New instructional philosophies/tools being implemented and explored
 - i. Nurtured Heart, Lifespace Crisis intervention and (Check and Connect U of M)
- 3. Strategic Planning Update**
- a. Finalize Priorities for Balanced Scorecard Objectives from July Strategic Planning Meeting
 - i. Proposed Mission statements :
 - 1. **Choice 1:** The mission of Lionsgate Academy is to foster self-determination by providing a transition-focused, personalized learning program for all students specializing in educating students with autism spectrum disorders
 - 2. **Choice 2:** The mission of Lionsgate Academy is to provide a transition-focused, personalized learning program for all students specializing in educating students with autism spectrum fostering self-determination in their school, family, and community.

Motion: Move to approve Choice 1.			
Made by: Johnson		Seconded by: Harms	
Discussion: None.			
Vote:	Yea: 8	Nay: 0	Abstain:
Decision: Unanimously Approved			

- ii. Proposed Initiatives to Prioritize:
 - 1. Mental Health
 - 2. World's Best Workforce still going, to streamline Crystal and AIM with CMs
 - 3. Building space
 - 4. Succession plan/risk assessment (With LGA East in mind)
 - 5. Finding connections/services/sources in the community
 - 6. Identify solutions for supply/demand
- iii. Nisi asked to add additional curriculum/programming as an initiative- sex education, music, etc.
 - 1. Kafle addressed that some of these items are already being considered, especially sexual education. Sex education is needed more than human/growth and development taught in health class. It needs to be personalized and looked at possibly junior high students.

4. Business

- 1. Director's Report
 - i. Handbook Approvals

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>

Motion: Move to approve student and staff handbook			
Made by: Nisi		Seconded by: Johnson	
Discussion: None.			
Vote:	Yea: 8	Nay: 0	Abstain:
Decision: Unanimously Approved			

ii. Venture Academy (VA) Partnership Request

1. VA’s mission is to “ignite the passion of young students to become entrepreneurs (trailblazers, not students).”
2. Opportunity has been presented to collaborate w/ them around special ed programming and the PLP model, with LGA
 - a. Lending eval tools
 - b. Providing support w/ evals and IEP of ASD students
 - c. Providing support w/ behavior interventionist
3. If partnership moves forward, LGA would consider sharing the waiting list with VA
 - a. Nothing is happening this year, just exploring options for the future with our waiting list
 - b. Request from VA that LGA send an email out to parents on current waiting list, that they are another charter school in the area. Proposed email as follows: *We are reaching out to families on our waiting list to inform you that Venture Academy, a charter school in Minneapolis, has openings for 7th grade this fall. Their program emphasizes hands on project based learning. Only you can make the best decision for where your child should go to school. This does not represent endorsement. If you would like to be contacted by a representative from Venture Academy, please email Sarah Mundy-Evans.*

Motion: Move to approve Executive sending an email out to 7th Grade Wait Listed Students			
Made by: Kenealy		Seconded by: Bydzovsky	
Discussion: None.			
Vote:	Yea: 8	Nay: 0	Abstain:
Decision: Unanimously Approved			

iii. Student Achievement

1. ACT Testing Update (Nancy C.)
 - a. Test offered to 11th graders with parents being able to opt out (16 students were offered the test, 5 had no accommodations, 1 opted out)
 - i. All accommodations requested were granted, but not consistent (could test over multiple days some of them)
 - ii. No students met Benchmarks in all 4 sections
 1. 13% met Reading
 2. 19% met English
 3. 6% met Math
 4. 13% met Science

Lionsgate Academy’s Authorizer is:

- iii. Difficulties
 - 1. Classes were still going on in the building (noise)
 - 2. Not used to new rules (no eating, had to start by 8:30, 4-4.5 hours of testing: first time for many taking a timed test, different from MCAs)
 - 3. College readiness is different than MCAs
- iv. 2015-16 ACT Testing (Following MDE's Request)
 - 1. Need to offer it to all 11th/12th graders
 - a. Student can only take it once at LGA expense
 - b. No foundation-level students
 - c. Pearson pays for all tests this year, maybe state will take partial cost following year (but school may have to budget for it-\$56.50 per test)
 - 2. Thorstad – ACT Prep Consideration
 - a. Should this be offered? During club? Or a Saturday?
 - b. It would have to be in the budget (it can be a lot of prep and money according to other schools at ACT conference staff attended)
- 2. Foundation Update
 - i. Breakfast Committee is going strong
 - ii. Need leadership on the Foundation
- 3. Committee Reports
 - i. Governance
 - 1. Discussion around policy 406

Motion: Move to accept 406			
Made by: Nisi		Seconded by: Bydzovsky	
Discussion: None.			
Vote:	Yea: 8	Nay: 0	Abstain:
Decision: Unanimously Approved			

- 2. Reminder: Board members need to do 1 training a year (with new board members completing the initial 3)
 - a. NEO is always an option for an all Board training
- ii. Building Committee
 - 1. Working with Wellington Management (Thriftway, Checkers-Old Print Shop, and new place in Minnetonka, Green Circle Drive)
 - a. Thriftway has been difficult
 - b. Checkers is in bankruptcy
 - c. Green Circle Drive property has been moving forward
 - i. Blueprints shown of space and where programs, offices and classrooms could be located (Brainstorm)

Lionsgate Academy's Authorizer is:

- ii. Need to analyze results from staff about relocation hardships
 - iii. Broker is coming on Back to School Night (8/24) to talk to staff (4:30) and will talk to families (5:30)
 - iv. Things to Consider :
 - 1. Is there anything walking distance? Not much
 - 2. No soccer/softball (running path)
 - 3. Same price as Thriftway, but has windows
 - 4. In-district students will be affected who don't have sped transportation
2. Diane suggested sending out letter to families discussing the need to move including space, the issue of renting/leasing, the various building across the metro area that were looked at, many cities are not zoned for charter schools
- a. Families will be given 5 weeks to offer different buildings options, but has to meet certain criteria like:
 - i. 55,000 sq foot
 - ii. Can't be in BC or in Robbinsdale bc of zoning

Motion: Move to approve Executive Director to send letter to families about communication			
Made by: Bydzovsky		Seconded by: Kenealy	
Discussion: None.			
Vote:	Yea: 8	Nay: 0	Abstain:
Decision: Unanimously Approved			

- 3. School Event Sign Up for Board Members
 - a. At least 2 Board Members @ each event
 - b. Graduation- all Board members expected to be there
 - c. Back to School Night is covered (at least 5 members already attending)

iii. Finance

- 1. Financial Planning and Reporting Calendar
 - a. 4 different times to come to Board with budget
 - i. Send MDE request in May
 - ii. Board approval in April/ updated in June
 - iii. Revision in Fall-October
 - iv. Law requires revised budget by Jan. 15 (get it to them by mid December)
 - v. Same goes for FY 17 Budget
- 2. Financial Statements
 - a. State gave more on budget
 - b. Month of July-higher bills because of buying school supplies
 - c. Work w/ MDE in September, most likely will need the money back
 - d. We have cash in the bank

Lionsgate Academy's Authorizer is:

- e. Income statements as expected
- f. Cash flow projection-looks reasonable, won't go into line of credit until June of next year

Motion: Move to approve finances			
Made by: Johnson		Seconded by: Peper	
Discussion: None.			
Vote:	Yea: 9	Nay: 0	Abstain:
Decision: Unanimously Approved			

- iv. Executive Director Update
 - 1. No meeting this month
- v. Personal Update
 - 1. Staff Resignations

5. Review: September Board Meeting agenda

Motion to Adjourn: 8:45pm

Motion: Move to adjourn			
Made by: Jim Harms		Seconded by: Dr. Peper	
Discussion: None.			
Vote:	Yea: 9	Nay: 0	Abstain:
Decision: Unanimously Approved			

Next Meeting: September 22, 2015, 6:00 pm