

LIONSGATE ACADEMY  
District #4183  
**BOARD MEETING MINUTES**  
*April 21, 2020 @ 6:30 p.m.*

*Shoreview Campus: 599 Cardigan Road, Shoreview, MN 55126*

**PRESENT:** Emy Bachman, Ben Barnes, Rachel Bell, Lori Fligge, Bradford Gran, Sal Lopiano, ~~Christine Peper~~, Heather Reynolds, and Steve Sawyer  
Others: Dr. Diane Restorff, Executive Director; Ryan Rehnstrand, Director of Student Services; Aaron Leisen, Director of Finance and Operations; Amy Christensen-Bruce, Director of Human Resources

**Call to order:** Emy Bachman, Chair @ 6:34pm

**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 on the autism spectrum.*

**Comments from Community Members:** None.

**Conflict of Interest Declaration:** None declared.

**Approval of the Agenda**

<b>Motion:</b> Move to approve agenda.			
<b>Made by:</b> Bell		<b>Seconded by:</b> Fligge	
<b>Discussion:</b> None			
<b>Vote:</b>	<b>Yea:</b> 7	<b>Nay:</b> 0	<b>Abstain:</b> 0

**Model:**

**1. Consent Agenda**

- a. Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes
- b. Governance Committee Report
- c. Approval of Policies
  - i. Policy 205 Open and Closed Board Meeting
  - ii. Policy 611 School Weapons Policy

<b>Motion:</b> Move to approve consent agenda.			
<b>Made by:</b> Bell		<b>Seconded by:</b> Barnes	
<b>Discussion:</b> None			
<b>Vote:</b>	<b>Yea:</b> 7	<b>Nay:</b> 0	<b>Abstain:</b> 0

**2. Special Education Update - Ryan Rehnstrand**

- a. Application for CEIS will be completed this month
- b. ESY update – ESY as planned on campus in Shoreview. A backup plan is being discussed if on campus is not possible
- c. Distance Learning update for Special Education – Going well and LGA is providing services as needed and following IEPs while distance learning.
  - i. Discussion of distant learning feedback – there is a link on the website where parents can leave feedback.
  - ii. Adjustments can be made to IEP if distance learning is not working for families

**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](mailto:executive.director.neo@gmail.com) <http://www.neoauthorizer.org>

- d. Networking – Rehnstrand is collaborating with other Special Education Directors

**3. Business**

- a. Director’s Report – Dr. Restorff
  - i. Distance Learning Update –
    - 1. Pros and Cons -
      - a. Pros
        - i. Mostly successful
        - ii. Students learning to navigate online learning
        - iii. All families have or were provided internet access
        - iv. Teachers learning new technology
        - v. Lots of free samples of online programs
      - b. Cons
        - i. Some students cannot be independent with distance learning
        - ii. Students not on campus
    - 2. Twice weekly calls with MDE with superintendents and charter leaders (was daily)
    - 3. Able to utilize EAs in many ways – promoting student learning, providing childcare, and working on the building
    - 4. Distance Learning week #1 parent feedback was shown
      - a. Attendance – overall attendance has been good and case manager have been doing check ins with students that have had some absences
  - ii. Principal/Site Director Update - deferred
  - iii. Student Achievement
    - 1. 2019-2020 Student MAP data – by Meta Thomas
      - a. Fall and Winter testing this year (2019-2020)
      - b. Teachers were able to work with the data/results of the winter testing
        - i. Winter test results were available for spring parent teacher conferences
      - c. Limitations – effect TBD on MCA/MTAS scores
      - d. Proposing winter to winter testing – cutting out the fall testing
      - e. Exploring aggregate growth goals for NEO
      - f. New NWEA norms in July 2020 – includes norms for 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grades in math and reading
  - iv. Strategic Planning Update
    - 1. Approval of Strategic Plan

<b>Motion:</b> Move to accept the updated 2020-2021 Strategic Plan.			
<b>Made by:</b> Bell		<b>Seconded by:</b> Reynolds	
<b>Discussion:</b> None			
<b>Vote:</b>	<b>Yea:</b> 7	<b>Nay:</b> 0	<b>Abstain:</b> 0

- v. NEO Contract Update – We have been approved for a 5 year contract
  - 1. Substantive Changes to NEO contract:
    - a. We will compare to Minneapolis Public Schools since that is the resident district of the highest number of Lionsgate students
    - b. Students on or above grade level, it is proposed adding that they achieve their individualized growth target or they maintain on or above grade level status
    - c. Changed the percentage for performance ratings to more closely match other NEO schools
    - d. Remove credit accumulation goal
    - e. Add aggregate RIT goal
    - f. Restructured IEP goal attainment to just include math and reading goals
- vi. Discussion of Response to MDE Letter dated 4/14/2020

1. Email to NEO
2. Response from LGA
3. MDE letter of April 13
4. Proposed response to MDE
5. MDE Discussion points – revised 901 enrollment policy

<b>Motion:</b> Move to approve the amended 901 enrollment policy as part of the NEO contract renewal to take effect July 1, 2020.			
<b>Made by:</b> Bell		<b>Seconded by:</b> Fligge	
<b>Discussion:</b> None			
<b>Vote:</b>	<b>Yea:</b> 7	<b>Nay:</b> 0	<b>Abstain:</b> 0

- vii. Personnel – by Amy Christensen-Bruce
  1. Lots of recruiting happening now – mostly for Shoreview due to growth
  2. Job Fairs have been cancelled
  3. PayCom conversion
    - a. Applicant tracking just about ready to roll out
    - b. First payroll with PayCom 7/1/2020
  4. 2020-2021 offer letters/employee notices will be mailed this week
  5. Unemployment
    - a. LGA is a reimbursing employer
    - b. Claims have increased like every other employer
- b. Foundation Update
  - i. Sponsors have agreed to allow LGA to keep sponsorships
  - ii. Ballroom allows us a year to use the space or lose out deposit
  - iii. Plans for a virtual breakfast on May 29<sup>th</sup> – tech team will help
- c. Committee Reports
  - i. Governance – by Director Gran
    1. 2020-21 board meeting dates and locations
      - a. Board is all okay with current location rotation and dates and will continue that in 2020-2021
  - ii. Finance – by Aaron Leisen
    1. Committee Update
      - a. Review of 990
      - b. Review of financials
    2. Financials
      - a. Revenue - \$13,020,344 compared to a year-to-date cash-basis budget of \$13,015,533 for a total favorable variance of \$4,811
      - b. Expenditures - \$12,657,560 compared to a year-to-date cash-basis budget of \$12,571,379 for a total unfavorable variance of \$(86,181)
        - i. Benefits higher than expected due to high Worker's Compensation Insurance and higher than expected enrollment in health plan
      - c. Lionsgate Academy applied for and on Monday April 20th received loan funds of \$2,093,500 through the Paycheck Protection Program.

<b>Motion:</b> Move to accept loan application for funds of \$2,093,500. Move to accept the 990 for submission. Move to approve the March financials as submitted.			
<b>Made by:</b> Sawyer		<b>Seconded by:</b> Lopiano	
<b>Discussion:</b> None			
<b>Vote:</b>	<b>Yea:</b> 7	<b>Nay:</b> 0	<b>Abstain:</b> 0

- iii. Executive Director Evaluation – by Director Lopiano
  - 1. Modifying last year’s report
  - 2. Compiled all survey data
  - 3. Discussion of compensation started
  - 4. Offer will be ready next month

**4. Review: Next Month’s Board Meeting agenda**

**Motion to Adjourn:**

<b>Motion:</b> Move to adjourn @ 8:46pm			
<b>Made by:</b> Bell		<b>Seconded by:</b> Fligge	
<b>Discussion:</b> None			
<b>Vote:</b>	<b>Yea:</b> 7	<b>Nay:</b> 0	<b>Abstain:</b> 0

**Next Meeting:** *May 19, 2020 @ 6:30 p.m. Minnetonka Campus: 5605 Green Circle Drive, Minnetonka, MN 55343*