

LIONSGATE ACADEMY  
 District #4183  
**BOARD MEETING MINUTES**  
*March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022 @ 6:30 p.m.*

*North St. Paul Campus: 2342 Helen Street North, North St. Paul, MN 55109 and Virtual Meeting Option*

**TO:** Pauline Bangma (virtual), Ben Barnes, Amiri Brotherson, Molly Figenskau (virtual), Lori Fligge, Janet Ha, Christine Peper, Jason Pusey (virtual), and Ann Wiesner  
 Others: Dr. Diane Restorff, Executive Director; Ryan Rehnstrand, Director of Student Services; Aaron Leisen (virtual), Director of Finance and Operations; Gael Braddock (virtual), Director of HR

**FROM:** Christine Peper, Chair

**Call to order:** Christine Peper, Chair @ 6:32pm

**School Mission Statement:**

*The Mission of Lionsgate Academy is to foster self-determination by providing a transition-focused, personalized education for all, specializing in educating learners on the autism spectrum.*

**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**

<b>Motion:</b> Move to approve agenda			
<b>Made by:</b> Wiesner		<b>Seconded by:</b> Barnes	
<b>Discussion:</b> None.			
<b>Vote:</b>	<b>Yea:</b> 6	<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

<b>Motion:</b> Move to approve consent agenda			
<b>Made by:</b> Barnes		<b>Seconded by:</b> Bangma	
<b>Discussion:</b> None.			
<b>Vote:</b>	<b>Yea:</b> 6	<b>Nay:</b> 0	<b>Abstain:</b> 0

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

- a. MDE Audit
  - i. MDE Survey – 29 families chosen – due March 24
  - ii. MDE Indicators – 2 students – due April 15
  - iii. MDE Fiscal Monitoring – Time and Effort procedure created – visual visit
- b. English Learning Arts Update

**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>

- i. Goals
- ii. Curriculum (Read 180 and System 44)
- iii. Maintaining standards and teacher choice
- iv. Focusing on the basics (beginning reading and writing)
- v. Possible schedule changes
- vi. Reducing Due Process time and creating curriculum
- vii. Focusing on Foundation and Success classes

**3. Business**

a. Director’s Report – Dr. Restorff

- i. Principal/Site Director Update – Dr. Jessica Bjorkman, AIM Site Director
  - 1. AIM enrollment projected around mid-50s (currently around 40) – enrollment cut-off April 1<sup>st</sup> to allow planning time for next year staffing
  - 2. 3 Tiers of programming
    - a. Tier 1 – Traditional - spend a lot of time in the community
    - b. Tier 2 – those who need more campus structure
    - c. Tier 3 – those who need more campus structure – center-based
  - 3. AIM Greenhouse – plants will go in the greenhouse (at Shoreview) in early April – starting with cold weather vegetables - peppers, kale, broccoli
- ii. Request for Research – Molly Lorton, Chicago School of Psychology

<b>Motion:</b> Move to approve Molly Lorton’s research project			
<b>Made by:</b> Pusey		<b>Seconded by:</b> Barnes	
<b>Discussion:</b> None.			
<b>Vote:</b>	<b>Yea:</b> 6	<b>Nay:</b> 0	<b>Abstain:</b> 0

iii. 2021-22 Academic Calendar Update

<b>Motion:</b> Move to approve the updated 2021-22 Academic Calendar to reflect the snow day on 2/22/22			
<b>Made by:</b> Ha		<b>Seconded by:</b> Fligge	
<b>Discussion:</b> None.			
<b>Vote:</b>	<b>Yea:</b> 6	<b>Nay:</b> 0	<b>Abstain:</b> 0

iv. News

- 1. Shoreview school play “The Secret Life of Toads” was last weekend
- 2. St. Thomas Teacher Residency Program
- 3. NEO site visit – March 17<sup>th</sup>
- 4. Snow ball dances this Friday at Shoreview and Minnetonka
- 5. Shoreview Open House – Thursday, March 24<sup>th</sup>
- v. School Resource Officer introduced – Silvia Villalba – started January 24<sup>th</sup> at Lynx
- vi. Student Achievement

- 1. MAP Results – Math
- 2. NEO Performance Framework – Math
  - a. On/Above Grade Level Meeting Growth Goals
  - b. Below Grade Level Meeting Growth Goals
  - c. 3 more years of data to gather before contract renewal

vii. Strategic Planning Update

- 1. Equity Audit – Gender identity and sexual orientation analysis
  - a. Shoreview program – GSA meets weekly 5 - 10 students attend
  - b. Minnetonka program – True Colors meets weekly – approximately 10 participants
- 2. Initiatives for 22-23 (with Lead)

**Lionsgate Academy’s Authorizer is:**

- a. Ensure an equitable, inclusive, and diverse school culture – Braddock
  - b. Manage transition to new executive director – Board/Restorff
  - c. Health and Safety (COVID Management/Mental Health Plan) – Leisen/Eiselt
  - d. Broaden Literacy Goals/Skills - Rehnstrand
- viii. Personnel Update – Gael Braddock, Director of Human Resources
- 1. Open Positions
    - a. Minnetonka – Special Education Assistants
    - b. Shoreview – Educational Assistants, Special Education Assistant, ASL (1 FTE), English Language Learner Support (1 part-time)
    - c. AIM – Job Coaches (3 FTE), Social Worker (1 temp)
    - d. Lynx – MHBA (1 FTE)
- b. Foundation Update
- i. April 15<sup>th</sup> Breakfast
  - ii. Speakers are recruited – videos are nearly complete
  - iii. Seating for about 200
  - iv. Will be live streaming as well
- c. Committee Reports
- i. Governance – Director Fligge
    - 1. Next meeting April 5<sup>th</sup> at 4:45pm
    - 2. Looking at other school district policies to see if LGA should consider additional policies
    - 3. School board election in May – BOD nomination form is now live – BOD application will follow
  - ii. Finance – Aaron Leisen
    - 1. Committee Update – Met to review February 2022 Finances
    - 2. Staff retention stipend - \$1000 to all staff to be paid throughout the remainder of the FY

<b>Motion:</b> Move to include Dr Restorff, Executive Director in getting the \$1000 retention stipend			
<b>Made by:</b> Brotherson		<b>Seconded by:</b> Wiesner	
<b>Discussion:</b> None.			
<b>Vote:</b>	<b>Yea:</b> 6	<b>Nay:</b> 0	<b>Abstain:</b> 0

- 3. Financials
  - a. ADM – Actual: 369.23; Budgeted: 381.0
  - b. Total Revenues –
    - i. Actual \$14,608,255; Budgeted \$14,330,551
    - ii. Favorable variance of \$277,704
    - iii. MDE has updated the current year entitlements based off the FY22 Original Budget.
  - c. Total Expenditures –
    - i. Actual \$12,960; Budgeted \$13,447,099
    - ii. Favorable variance of \$486,219
    - iii. This is mostly due to timing issues with purchased services.

<b>Motion:</b> Move to approve February 2022 financials			
<b>Made by:</b> Brotherson		<b>Seconded by:</b> Barnes	
<b>Discussion:</b> None.			
<b>Vote:</b>	<b>Yea:</b> 6	<b>Nay:</b> 0	<b>Abstain:</b> 0

- iii. Executive Director Evaluation Committee Update
  - 1. Survey Participation – Staff, Family, BOD, and ED direct reports - will end Friday (family survey will be extended for another week)

- iv. Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee Update
  - 1. Chair Peper and Gael Braddock met with Richard Webb to align Board and Admin DEI work
  - 2. March 23 – Admin Team to meet to review 2021-22 performance measures and plan for implementation of 22-23 initiatives
- v. Ad Hoc Board Diversity Communication Committee Update – no report
- vi. Ad Hoc Executive Director Search Committee Update – Treasurer Brotherson
  - 1. New Committee had first meeting. Members include:
    - a. Treasurer Brotherson (Chair); Director Figenskau; Director Pusey; Gael Braddock, HR; Diane Restorff, Executive Director; Heather Adams, Executive Admin Assist
  - 2. Will report monthly to the board on the search timeline
- vii. Authorizer Report

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

- a. WBWF meeting immediately following the April board meeting

**Motion to Adjourn:**

<b>Motion:</b> Move to adjourn @ 8:17pm			
<b>Made by:</b> Wiesner		<b>Seconded by:</b> Brotherson	
<b>Discussion:</b> None.			
<b>Vote:</b>	<b>Yea:</b> 6	<b>Nay:</b> 0	<b>Abstain:</b> 0

**Next Meeting:** *April 19th, 2022 @ 6:30 p.m. at the Minnetonka Campus: 5605 Green Circle Drive Minnetonka 55343 and Virtual Meeting Option*

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