

LIONSGATE ACADEMY
District #4183
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
May 16th, 2023 @ 6:30 PM
Shoreview Campus, 599 Cardigan Road, Shoreview, MN 55126
and Virtual Meeting Option

TO: Pauline Bangma, Andrew Birnstengel, Amiri Brotherson, Molly Figenskau, Janet Ha, Jeff Nickolas, Jason Pusey, and Rachel Osband
Others: Dr. Diane Restorff, Outgoing Executive Director; Dr. Hala Asamarai, Incoming Executive Director; Ryan Rehnstrand, Director of Student Services; Aaron Leisen, Director of Finance and Operations, Julie Moeckly, Director of Human Resources

FROM: Ann Wiesner

Call to order: Ann Wiesner @ 6:35pm

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 autistic learners.

Lionsgate Academy Board Land Use Acknowledgement Statement:

The School Board of Lionsgate Academy strives to foster a school community of diversity, equity, and inclusion. We acknowledge that our schools and community rests on stolen land of the tribes of the Dakota and Ojibwe in Minnesota. The School Board works to support the Lionsgate Academy community that addresses the needs of underserved students diagnosed on the Autism Spectrum. We work to support students of all backgrounds who wish to attend Lionsgate Academy. As the School Board, we commit to advancing equity and incorporating diversity and inclusion into every undertaking.

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

Motion: Move to approve agenda			
Made by: Fig		Seconded by: Brotherson	
Discussion: None.			
Vote:	Yea: 6	Nay: 0	Abstain: 0

Model:

1. Consent Agenda

- a. Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes
- b. Governance Committee Report

- c. Approval of Policies
 - i. 205 Open and Closed Meetings
 - ii. 203 Board Member Training
 - iii. 402 Fund Balance
 - iv. 408 Budget Policy
 - v. 901 Enrollment

Motion: Move to approve consent agenda			
Made by: Figenskau		Seconded by: Nickolas	
Discussion: None.			
Vote:	Yea: 6	Nay: 0	Abstain: 0

2. Special Education Update – Ryan Rehnstrand

- a. Key Special Education Postings
 - i. School Psychology Shoreview 1.5 - Posted
 - ii. School Social Worker Shoreview - Posted
 - iii. Lynx Site Administrator – Posted
- b. Best Practices Conference (5 from LGA went)
- c. ESY fully staffed
- d. MDE Survey – list of 30 LGA alumni that will get a survey (need 80% return)
- e. Rehnstrand will be covering Lynx for the last 3 weeks of school
- f. Lynx enrollment –
 - i. Program is currently at full capacity
 - ii. Requesting to close enrollment for the Lynx program until further notice - Rehnstrand will update on the Lynx enrollment status at the October board meeting

Motion: Move to approve the closure to enrollment to the Lynx program until further notice			
Made by: Ha		Seconded by: Nickolas	
Discussion: None.			
Vote:	Yea: 6	Nay: 0	Abstain: 0

3. Business

- a. Director’s Report – Dr. Restorff
 - i. Principal/Site Director Update – Brandy Schwab, Shoreview Principal
 - 1. Reviving the greenhouse
 - 2. Student mural on 2nd floor by student entrance
 - 3. Enrollment for next year is at 190
 - a. 2, possibly 3 students transitioning back to Shoreview from Lynx
 - 4. Looking at shifting lunches to 3rd block - may shift to an hour later
 - 5. ESY is set and ready to go
 - 6. Adding a resource room for next year (for 6 total)
 - 7. Adding an inclusion teacher and another case manager for next year
 - 8. Adding computer media arts class for next year
 - ii. Student Achievement – Meta Thomas
 - 1. ACT spring testing summary and LGA comparisons to the state of MN and the United States
 - iii. Strategic Planning Update

1. Onboarding
 - a. Dr. Asamarai started in April and has been spending a week at each location observing and learning
 - b. June 1 – Dr. Asamarai takes the lead
2. Board Election
 - a. Nominations close May 18th
 - b. Election will run May 22nd – May 31st
 - i. 3 teachers have accepted nominations
 - ii. Waiting on confirmations from 2 parent nominees
 - iii. Waiting on confirmation from 1 community member nominee
3. Spring Events
 - a. Art Showcase: Minnetonka – May 18th; Shoreview – May 22nd
 - b. Drama Showcase: Shoreview – May 24th
 - c. AIM Send-off – May 30th
 - d. Graduation: Minnetonka – May 31st; Shoreview – June 2nd
- iv. Personnel – Julie Moeckly
 1. Position Openings
 - a. Trying to fill as many as possible before summer break
 2. New Wage Plan Rollout
 - a. Looked at salary compression
 - b. Training presented to licensed staff and hourly staff
 - c. Wage letters to staff
 - d. Working with site directors/principals, administration and HR to create placement guidelines for new hires

Motion: Move to approve Dr. Hala Asamarai as the IOwA (Identified Official with Authority)			
Made by: Brotherson		Seconded by: Figenskau	
Discussion: None.			
Vote:	Yea: 6	Nay: 0	Abstain: 0

- b. Foundation Update
 - i. Lionsgate Foundation Breakfast
 1. Total \$56,133 before expenses
 2. Attendance was light, need to assess and figure out how to grow donors
 - ii. Pickin’ for Autism
 1. Just under \$15,000 after expenses
 - iii. Foundation Board needs a treasurer
- c. Committee Reports
 - i. Governance – Director Ha
 1. Will meet June 6th @ 4:15pm
 2. Several policies under discussion for the next meeting
 - ii. Finance – Aaron Leisen
 1. Committee Update – Met to review April 2023 financials
 2. Financials – for period ending April 30, 2023
 - a. ADM – Actual Current ADM: 388.99; ADM from Budget: 400.0
 - b. Revenue
 - i. Total Revenues were \$20,643,843 compared to a year-to-date cash-basis budget of \$20,927,616

- ii. Total unfavorable variance of \$(283,773)
- c. Expenses
 - i. Total Expenditures were \$18,844,247 compared to a year-to-date cash-basis budget of \$20,383,700
 - ii. Total favorable variance of \$1,539,273

Motion: Move to approve April 2023 financials			
Made by: Bangma		Seconded by: Nickolas	
Discussion: None.			
Vote:	Yea: 6	Nay: 0	Abstain: 0

- iii. Executive Director Evaluation Committee Update
 - 1. Planning for transitioning between directors
 - 2. Comparing survey results from last year to this year – will be ready to present at the June meeting
 - 3. June meeting to set goals for Dr. Hala Asamarai
- iv. Authorizer Report
 - 1. Eric, NEO advisor, attended the board meeting as a routine check in for NEO

4. Review: Next Month’s Board Meeting Agenda

Motion to Adjourn:

Motion: Move to adjourn @ 7:35pm			
Made by: Ha		Seconded by: Figenskau	
Discussion: None.			
Vote:	Yea: 6	Nay: 0	Abstain: 0

Next Meeting: *June 20th, 2023 @ 6:30PM at the North St. Paul Campus: 2342 Helen St. N, North St. Paul, MN 55109 and Virtual Meeting Option*