

LIONSGATE ACADEMY  
 District #4183  
**BOARD MEETING MINUTES**  
*August 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023 @ 6:30 PM*

*Shoreview Campus: 599 Cardigan Road, Shoreview, MN 55126 and Virtual Meeting Option*

**TO:** ~~Pauline Bangma~~, Kim Busse, Stephanie Claybrook, Janet Ha, Jeff Nickolas, ~~Rachel Osband~~, and Julie Tarshish (online)  
 Others: Dr. Hala Asamarai, 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**

<b>Motion:</b> Move to approve agenda			
<b>Made by:</b> Ha		<b>Seconded by:</b> Nickolas	
<b>Discussion:</b> None.			
<b>Vote:</b>	<b>Yea:</b> 3	<b>Nay:</b> 0	<b>Abstain:</b> 0

**Model:**

**1. Consent Agenda**

- a. Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes
- b. Governance Committee Minutes
- c. Approval of Policies

**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>

<b>Motion:</b> Move to approve consent agenda			
<b>Made by:</b> Ha		<b>Seconded by:</b> Nickolas	
<b>Discussion:</b> None.			
<b>Vote:</b>	<b>Yea:</b> 3	<b>Nay:</b> 0	<b>Abstain:</b> 0

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

- a. Read 180 Update
  - i. Reading/Phonics Growth and Application Usage
    - 1. Foundations Language Arts, Success Language Arts, 11/12 Applied Language Arts – Shoreview and Minnetonka
    - 2. 7/8<sup>th</sup> Inclusion, 7/10 Inclusion – Shoreview only
  - ii. What we have learned
    - 1. Consistency with teachers
    - 2. Classroom management
    - 3. Follow the program
  - iii. Changes for this year – work on goal writing

**3. Business**

- a. Director’s Report – Dr. Asamarai
  - i. Principal/Site Director Update – Brandy Schwab, Shoreview Principal
    - 1. Back to School nights – August 30<sup>th</sup>, Lynx different schedule and families have received that information
      - a. New families first
      - b. Staggered throughout the night with returning families
    - 2. Enrollment – starting the year with 187 students
      - a. 2 Lynx students transitioning to SHV after quarter 1
    - 3. Around 150 staff
    - 4. New water fountains with bottle fillers, cafeteria tables, new vending machines
    - 5. Waiting on Foundation approval on sounds panels for the lunchroom
    - 6. Most positions are filled – still some open positions to fill
    - 7. Added some new classes this year and another resource room
  - ii. Student Achievement – Meta Thomas
    - 1. 2023-24 Testing Calendar
  - iii. Strategic Planning Update
    - 1. DEIB & RP Position
      - a. Salary expectations
      - b. Reposted in Indeed (sponsored), MASA, MACS, EdPost, etc
  - iv. Other Business
    - 1. 2023-24 AIM Student/Family Handbook

<b>Motion:</b> Move to approve the 23-24 AIM Handbook			
<b>Made by:</b> Ha		<b>Seconded by:</b> Claybrook	
<b>Discussion:</b> None.			
<b>Vote:</b>	<b>Yea:</b> 3	<b>Nay:</b> 0	<b>Abstain:</b> 0

- v. Personnel – Julie Moeckly
  - 1. Recruitment continues at all sites. We update our job boards frequently and share candidates between locations if appropriate
  - 2. Lionsgate is attracting more experienced EA candidates with our higher starting wage
  - 3. We are being told by resigning staff that larger districts are recruiting people with special education experience for high dollars
  - 4. New staff complete paperwork and begin training on Monday, August 21<sup>st</sup>
  - 5. Final PTO updates taking place this week
  - 6. Staff training for new PTO accruals will be rolled out at our Welcome Back meeting on August 28th
- b. Foundation Update
  - i. Looking for treasurer
  - ii. Post Mortem for the Breakfast Fundraiser
    - 1. Increase effectiveness of communications
  - iii. First meeting for '24 Breakfast Fundraiser
    - 1. Created the Breakfast theme: “Creating Community Connections”
  - iv. Foundation Board Meeting on last Wednesday
- c. Committee Reports
  - i. Governance – Director Claybrook
    - 1. Next meeting at Sept 7<sup>th</sup> at 4:15pm
    - 2. Several policies will be reviewed at the next meeting
  - ii. Finance – Aaron Leisen
    - 1. Committee Update
      - a. Met to review July finances
      - b. Orientation of new director to the finance committee
    - 2. Financials – as of July 31, 2023
      - a. ADM - Actual Current ADM: TBD; ADM from Budget: 408.0
      - b. Revenues
        - i. Total Revenues were \$2,165,583 compared to a year-to-date cash-basis budget of \$2,239,389
        - ii. Total unfavorable variance of \$(73,806).
      - c. Expenses
        - i. Total Expenditures were \$774,965 compared to a year-to-date cash-basis budget of \$1,119,067
        - ii. Total favorable variance of \$344,102.
    - 3. Updates to authorized signers on the Lionsgate Academy bank account with Choice Bank

<b>Motion:</b> Move to approve the July 2023 financials			
<b>Made by:</b> Nickolas		<b>Seconded by:</b> Busse	
<b>Discussion:</b> None.			
<b>Vote:</b>	<b>Yea:</b> 3	<b>Nay:</b> 0	<b>Abstain:</b> 0

<b>Motion:</b> Move to approve the following changes to the authorized Lionsgate Academy signers at Choice Bank:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Retain Aaron Leisen, Director of Finance and Operations;</li> <li>• Add Dr. Hala Asamarai, Executive Director;</li> <li>• Add Ann Wiesner, Board Chair;</li> <li>• Remove Diane Restorff, past Executive Director;</li> <li>• Remove Alicen Thorstad, past Board Chair</li> </ul>			
<b>Made by:</b> Ha		<b>Seconded by:</b> Claybrook	
<b>Discussion:</b> None.			
<b>Vote:</b>	<b>Yea:</b> 3	<b>Nay:</b> 0	<b>Abstain:</b> 0

- iii. Executive Director Evaluation Committee Update - None
- iv. Authorizer Report
  - 1. Look at bylaws as they are related to board appointments and board membership

#### 4. Review: Next Month’s Board Meeting Agenda

##### Motion to Adjourn:

<b>Motion:</b> Move to adjourn @ 7:24pm			
<b>Made by:</b> Claybrook		<b>Seconded by:</b> Nickolas	
<b>Discussion:</b> None.			
<b>Vote:</b>	<b>Yea:</b> 3	<b>Nay:</b> 0	<b>Abstain:</b> 0

**Next Meeting:** *September 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023 @ 6:30 PM at the North St. Paul (AIM) Campus: 2342 Helen Street North, North St. Paul, MN 55109 and Virtual Meeting Option*