

LIONSGATE ACADEMY
District #4183
BOARD MEETING MINUTES

*October 17th, 2023 @ 6:30 PM
Minnetonka Campus, 5605 Green Circle Drive, Minnetonka, MN 55343
and Virtual Meeting Option*

TO: Pauline Bangma, Kim Busse, Stephanie Claybrook, Janet Ha, Jeff Nickolas, Julie Tarshish, Rachel Osband, and ~~Eve Wolfe~~
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 @ 6:33pm

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 add discussion regarding the concerns shared at the September board meeting			
Made by: Osband		Seconded by: Busse	
Discussion: None.			
Vote:	Yea: 5	Nay: 0	Abstain: 0

Motion: Move to approve agenda with the addition of discussion and next steps regarding the concerns shared at the September board meeting	
Made by: Bangma	Seconded by: Osband

Discussion: None.			
Vote:	Yea: 5	Nay: 0	Abstain: 0

Motion: Move to establish an ad-hoc sub-committee for visual representation of Lionsgate Academy			
Made by: Osband		Seconded by: Claybrook	
Discussion: Proposal to add a board sub-committee with a purpose of determining broader context and visual representation around DEIB (Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging) and how to offer support to staff and students – members to include parents, staff, board members and the new DEIB/RP Coordinator.			
Vote:	Yea: 5	Nay: 0	Abstain: 0

Model:

1. Consent Agenda

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

Motion: Move to approve consent agenda			
Made by: Ha		Seconded by: Nickolas	
Discussion: None.			
Vote:	Yea: 5	Nay: 0	Abstain: 0

2. Special Education Update – Ryan Rehnstrand

- a. Working to change the educational assistant model

3. Business

- a. Director’s Report – Dr. Asamarai
 - i. Principal/Site Director Update – Rachel Boyack, Minnetonka Principal
 - 1. Minnetonka focusing on Tier 1 strategies – MTSS (Multi-tiered System of Supports)
 - 2. October 9th Prospective Family Info session had over 45 families join. Next one is December 7th (Boyack and Schwab lead)
 - ii. Student Achievement – Meta Thomas, District Assessment Coordinator
 - 1. 2023 Fall MAP results summary
 - iii. Strategic Planning Update
 - 1. Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging/Restorative Practices (DEIB/RP) Coordinator position has been filled!
 - iv. Other Business
 - 1. U of M Proposal to conduct research using theater to improve social skills – participants would be students enrolled in theater class at the Lionsgate Minnetonka campus
 - a. Dr. Jennifer McComas, U of M, presented the proposal
 - b. Title of research – “Effects of improv intervention on social interactions of students receiving special education services”

Motion: Move to approve the U of M, led by Dr. Jennifer McComas, to conduct research of students enrolled in theater class at the Lionsgate Minnetonka campus			
Made by: Ha		Seconded by: Busse	

Discussion: Several board members asked questions regarding the study and data collection. It was also noted that participating students would be videotaped. The media releases will be checked and any students that do not have consent will not be filmed. The theater teacher will distribute information to parents and those who give consent will get a meeting to go through the study and ask questions.

Vote:	Yea: 5	Nay: 0	Abstain: 0
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2. Assurance of Compliance and Mandated Reporting
 - a. Due to MDE on November 15th – need board approval

Motion: Move to approve the Assurance of Compliance and Mandated Reporting

Made by: Bangma	Seconded by: Osband
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Discussion: None.

Vote:	Yea: 5	Nay: 0	Abstain: 0
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- v. Personnel – Julie Moeckly, Director of Human Resources
 1. DEIB/RP Coordinator has been filled
 2. Payroll specialist has been filled
 3. Vaccination clinic for flu and COVID 10/25 and 10/30
 4. Open enrollment 11/6 – 11/15 with on-site meetings being held 11/7 – 11/9
 5. Finalizing changes to employee handbooks regarding earned sick and safe time legislation – changes effective 1/1/24
 6. Effective 1/1/24 s in Minnesota can no longer ask applicants for wage history
- b. Foundation Update – Director Julie Tarshish
 - i. Foundation board is working on policies and procedure
 - ii. Documentation has submitted to get tax exempt status to make purchases
 - iii. Looking for alumni to join Foundation board
- c. Committee Reports
 - i. Governance – Director Claybrook
 1. Governance committee met on Oct 3rd. Next meeting will be Oct 30th
 2. Bylaws revision

Motion: Move to approve the bylaw revisions as presented to comply with MN Statute 124E.07 and chapter 317A
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Made by: Osband	Seconded by: Bangma
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Discussion: None.

Vote:	Yea: 5	Nay: 0	Abstain: 0
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3. Board Meeting Calendar – revised meeting dates

Motion: Move to approve

Made by: Ha	Seconded by: Osband
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Discussion: Add a Jan 16 th board meeting in Shoreview. Consolidate the Feb 20 th monthly board meeting and the Feb 3 rd Annual Strategic Planning session into one meeting held in Minnetonka on Feb 3 rd . The board will have an additional discussion at the November meeting about changing the December board meeting to one week earlier.

Vote:	Yea: 5	Nay: 0	Abstain: 0
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- ii. Finance – Aaron Leisen
 - 1. Committee Update – met today to discuss September financials
 - 2. Financials – as of September 30, 2023
 - a. ADM – actual current ADM: 399.0; ADM from budget: 408.0
 - b. Revenues - Total Revenues were \$6,605,956 compared to a year-to-date cash-basis budget of \$6,671,271 for a total unfavorable variance of (\$65,314).
 - c. Expenses - Total Expenditures were \$3,689,273 compared to a year-to-date cash-basis budget of \$4,686,825 for a total favorable variance of \$997,552.
 - 3. Audit field work done in September

Motion: Move to approve the September 2023 financials			
Made by: Bangma		Seconded by: Nickolas	
Discussion: None.			
Vote:	Yea: 5	Nay: 0	Abstain: 0

- iii. Executive Director Evaluation Committee Update – no meeting, no report
- iv. Authorizer Report - None

- 4. **Review: Next Month’s Board Meeting Agenda**
 - a. Add discussion about the December meeting date
 - b. Add new ad-hoc committee update

Motion to Adjourn:

Motion: Move to adjourn @ 8:04pm			
Made by: Ha		Seconded by: Osband	
Discussion: None.			
Vote:	Yea: 5	Nay: 0	Abstain: 0

Next Meeting: *November 14th, 2023 @ 6:30PM at the Shoreview Campus: 599 Cardigan Road, Shoreview, MN 55126 and Virtual Meeting Option*