

LIONSGATE ACADEMY  
 District #4183  
**BOARD MEETING MINUTES**  
*December 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023 @ 6:30 PM*  
*North St. Paul Campus, 2342 Helen Street North, North St. Paul, MN 55109*  
*and Virtual Meeting Option*

**TO:** Pauline Bangma, Kim Busse, ~~Stephanie Claybrook~~, Janet Ha, Jeff Nickolas, Rachel Osband, Julie Tarshish, 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 (virtual) Assessment

**FROM:** Ann Wiesner

**Call to order:** Ann Wiesner @ 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 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> Wolfe	
<b>Discussion:</b> None.			
<b>Vote:</b>	<b>Yea:</b> 5	<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> Bangma		<b>Seconded by:</b> Nickolas	
<b>Discussion:</b> None.			
<b>Vote:</b>	<b>Yea:</b> 5	<b>Nay:</b> 0	<b>Abstain:</b> 0

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

- a. Bjorkman and Rehnstrand visited the Osseo Transition Program
  - i. Plan to visit some other transition programs
- b. Lynx – asynchronous learning last Friday 12/15/23 due to illnesses
- c. ESY Planning starts in January
- d. Shared Adult Support
- e. English Learner District Teacher/Lead – due to increasing number of ELL students, looking into full-time ELL teacher that will cover the whole district for next year
- f. Mid-year update on student goal achievement

3. **Business**

- a. Director’s Report – Dr. Asamarai
  - i. 2022-23 Annual Report/WBWF – revisions recommended by NEO

<b>Motion:</b> Move to approve the revisions to the 2022-23 Annual Report/WBWF			
<b>Made by:</b> Wolfe		<b>Seconded by:</b> Ha	
<b>Discussion:</b> None.			
<b>Vote:</b>	<b>Yea:</b> 5	<b>Nay:</b> 0	<b>Abstain:</b> 0

- ii. 2023-24 Safe Return to In-person Learning Plan – last time required by MDE to update the SRTIPLP

<b>Motion:</b> Move to approve the 2023-24 Safe Return to In-person Learning Plan			
<b>Made by:</b> Bangma		<b>Seconded by:</b> Busse	
<b>Discussion:</b> None.			
<b>Vote:</b>	<b>Yea:</b> 5	<b>Nay:</b> 0	<b>Abstain:</b> 0

- iii. 2024-25 Academic Calendar

<b>Motion:</b> Move to approve the 2024-25 Academic Calendar			
<b>Made by:</b> Osband		<b>Seconded by:</b> Nickolas	
<b>Discussion:</b> None.			
<b>Vote:</b>	<b>Yea:</b> 5	<b>Nay:</b> 0	<b>Abstain:</b> 0

- iv. Principal/Site Director Update – Dr. Jessica Bjorkman, AIM Site Director
  1. Enrollment 44 students - adding 1 student after break
  2. CBI Day – starting in January Aim will have one community based instruction day per quarter
  3. Transition Theme – new to AIM and will begin in quarter 2
    - a. Quarter 2 - housing, Quarter 3 - transportation?
- v. Student Achievement – Meta Thomas, District Assessment Coordinator
  1. 2023 MCA/MTAS science results

- a. Students test once in 8<sup>th</sup> grade and once in high school (year they take Biology)
- 2. Next year will be the first year of MCA-IV and Alternate MCA (previously MTAS)
  - a. Assessing 2019 science standards, which are in full implementation next year
  - b. Will not be able to compare test results on the MCA-IV to the MCA-III or MTAS to the Alternate MCA
- vi. Strategic Planning Update
- vii. Personnel – Julie Moeckly
  - 1. Earned Sick and Safe Time –new MN law effective January 1, 2024 that requires employers to offer sick and safe time, a form of paid leave
    - a. Information distributed to staff and put on Info Central for easy access
- b. Foundation Update – Director Tarshish
  - i. Foundation board met and approved some project funding including some funding for staff to provide safety and support for students on the Japan trip in the spring
- c. Committee Reports
  - i. Governance – Director Tarshish and Osband
    - 1. Continuing to review policies and creating a Lionsgate District DEIB (Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging) Statement/Mission
  - ii. Finance – Aaron Leisen
    - 1. Committee Update
    - 2. Financials (October and November 2023)
      - a. ADM (as of November 30, 2023)
        - i. Actual: 395.65; ADM from budget: 408.0
      - b. Revenue (as of November 30, 2023)
        - i. Total Revenues: \$11,055,165; budgeted: \$11,150,049
        - ii. Total unfavorable variance of \$(94,884)
      - c. Expenses (as of November 30, 2023)
        - i. Total Expenses: \$9,019,415; budgeted: \$9,679,477
        - ii. Total favorable variance of \$660,062
    - 3. Review of Lease Aid Application
    - 4. FY24 Revised Budget
    - 5. Audit Update – audit is due Dec 30 (Jan 2) and the auditor does not expect the audit to be complete by the deadline - Lionsgate will lose some points on the performance framework

<b>Motion:</b> Move to approve the October 2023 financials			
<b>Made by:</b> Ha		<b>Seconded by:</b> Busse	
<b>Discussion:</b> None.			
<b>Vote:</b>	<b>Yea:</b> 5	<b>Nay:</b> 0	<b>Abstain:</b> 0

<b>Motion:</b> Move to approve the November 2023 financials			
<b>Made by:</b> Busse		<b>Seconded by:</b> Bangma	
<b>Discussion:</b> None.			
<b>Vote:</b>	<b>Yea:</b> 5	<b>Nay:</b> 0	<b>Abstain:</b> 0

<b>Motion:</b> Move to approve the submittal of the Lease Aid Application to MDE			
<b>Made by:</b> Nickolas		<b>Seconded by:</b> Bangma	
<b>Discussion:</b> None.			
<b>Vote:</b>	<b>Yea:</b> 5	<b>Nay:</b> 0	<b>Abstain:</b> 0

<b>Motion:</b> Move to approve the FY24 Revised Budget			
<b>Made by:</b> Osband		<b>Seconded by:</b> Ha	
<b>Discussion:</b> None.			
<b>Vote:</b>	<b>Yea:</b> 5	<b>Nay:</b> 0	<b>Abstain:</b> 0

- iii. Ad Hoc Subcommittee on Visual Displays and DEIB – Director Osband
  - 1. Committee has reps from all campuses – met twice and have goals and jobs for each person – researching and looking for student feedback
  - 2. Meeting in January for updates and moving forward
- iv. Authorizer Report – Ted from NEO attended the meeting
- v. Executive Director Evaluation Committee Update (*moved to after the review of next month's board meeting agenda*)
  - 1. A survey was sent to all board members, staff and Dr. Asamarai's direct reports to get feedback on Dr. Asamarai's first 120-days as Executive Director
  - 2. Close the board meeting to discuss the results of the survey regarding Dr. Asamarai's 120-day review

**4. Review: Next Month's Board Meeting Agenda**

<b>Motion:</b> Move to close the board meeting to discuss the results of the survey regarding Dr. Asamarai's 120-day review @ 7:37pm			
<b>Made by:</b> Bangma		<b>Seconded by:</b> Osband	
<b>Discussion:</b> None.			
<b>Vote:</b>	<b>Yea:</b> 5	<b>Nay:</b> 0	<b>Abstain:</b> 0

<b>Motion:</b> Move to re-open the board meeting @ 8:55pm			
<b>Made by:</b> Osband		<b>Seconded by:</b> Busse	
<b>Discussion:</b> None.			
<b>Vote:</b>	<b>Yea:</b> 5	<b>Nay:</b> 0	<b>Abstain:</b> 0

**Motion to Adjourn:**

<b>Motion:</b> Move to adjourn @ 8:56pm			
<b>Made by:</b> Bangma		<b>Seconded by:</b> Nickolas	
<b>Discussion:</b> None.			
<b>Vote:</b>	<b>Yea:</b> 5	<b>Nay:</b> 0	<b>Abstain:</b> 0

**Next Meeting:** *January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024 @ 6:30PM at the Shoreview Campus: 599 Cardigan Road, Shoreview, MN 55126 and Virtual Meeting Option*

VED

**Lionsgate Academy's Authorizer is:**

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