

LIONSGATE ACADEMY
District #4183
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
January 16th, 2024 @ 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 (online), Rachel Osband (online), Julie Tarshish (online), and Eve Wolfe
Others: Dr. Hala Asamarai, Executive Director; Ryan Rehnstrand, Director of Student Services (online); Aaron Leisen, Director of Finance and Operations, Julie Moeckly, Director of Human Resources

FROM: Ann Wiesner

Call to order: Ann Wiesner @ 6:30pm

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.

Ted Anderson from NEO spoke.

Conflict of Interest Declaration

None.

Approval of the Agenda

Motion: Move to approve agenda			
Made by: Busse		Seconded by: Claybrook	
Discussion: None.			
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: Busse	
Discussion: None.			
Vote:	Yea: 5	Nay: 0	Abstain: 0

2. Special Education Update – Ryan Rehnstrand

- a. Posting for a full-time English Learner (EL) teacher
 - i. Currently there are 14 English Learners (EL) across the district
 - 1. 9 EL students in Shoreview - .3 EL Teacher
 - 2. 5 EL students in Minnetonka - .1 EL Teacher
- b. 2024-25 Shoreview Enrollment – Federal setting 3 center-base program
 - i. 4 classrooms
 - ii. 32 current students (8 students per CM)
 - iii. 5 students will not be returning next year
 - iv. Have pulled 14 from the lottery
 - v. Requesting school board for a motion to close the Shoreview center-base program enrollment for the 2024-25.

Motion: Move to approve closing the enrollment for the center-base program at Shoreview for 2024-25			
Made by: Claybrook		Seconded by: Ha	
Discussion: None.			
Vote:	Yea: 5	Nay: 0	Abstain: 0

3. Business

- a. Director’s Report – Dr. Asamarai
 - i. Principal/Site Director Update – Brandy Schwab, Shoreview Principal
 - 1. Current enrollment –
 - a. Dec 2023 - 2 additional students started
 - b. 3rd Q - 3 additional students will begin
 - 2. Pride-A-Palooza - prides are committed to their service projects and partnering prides are going well
 - 3. Staffing open positions - case manager, PE, OT
 - 4. Some upcoming CBIs (Community Based Instruction) - Aldi, Outdoor Adventures, airport, MN Zoo, etc.
 - a. Center-based students are going on CBIs a minimum of 2x/week
 - 5. Next year enrollment – 33 lottery students pulled – 3 students are setting 4 students
 - ii. Student Achievement – Meta Thomas, DAC/Instructional Coach/Curriculum Coordinator
 - 1. No update this month
 - 2. No update in February due to board retreat
 - 3. March topic will be winter MAP results
 - iii. Strategic Planning Update
 - 1. Non Exclusionary Discipline (NED) Grant Award
 - a. Exclusionary discipline disproportionately affects students of color and sped
 - b. Non Exclusionary Discipline through Restorative Practices
 - c. Awarded \$38,650

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 <http://www.neoauthorizer.org>

- d. Invited to re-apply for \$200,00, effective for 2 years (this year and next)
- iv. Business
 - 1. Updates to the 23-24 Academic Calendar to show Dec 15th as an e-learning day at Lynx only

Motion: Move to approve the updated 2023-24 Academic Calendar to show Dec 15 th as Lynx e-learning day			
Made by: Ha		Seconded by: Busse	
Discussion: None.			
Vote:	Yea: 5	Nay: 0	Abstain: 0

- v. Personnel – Julie Moeckly, Director of Human Resources
 - 1. Recruitment continues for a variety of positions, both permanent and temporary (to cover Leave of Absence)
 - 2. Finalizing compliance testing for the Affordable Care Act
 - 3. Training new payroll position on insurance billing reconciliation and enrollment
 - 4. Finalizing benefit enrollment corrections
 - 5. Auditing PTO usage and balances, communicating any issues to supervisors and managers
- b. Foundation Update – Julie Tarshish
 - i. Creating new website
 - ii. Updating meeting schedule
 - iii. Fundraisers – Pickin’ for Autism on April 19th and Breakfast on April 26th
- c. Committee Reports
 - i. Governance – Director Claybrook
 - 1. Governance has several policies ready for the admin team review and the final review of those policies will be done at the next governance meeting.
 - ii. Finance – Aaron Leisen, Director of Finance and Operations
 - 1. Committee Update – met today to discuss December 2023 financials
 - 2. Financials
 - a. Received final audit and submitted to MDE today, January 16th, 2024
 - i. No findings or legal issues – completely clean audit
 - b. ADM (as of Dec. 31, 2023)
 - i. Current ADM: 393.53; Budgeted ADM: 400.00
 - c. Expenses (as of Dec. 31, 2023)
 - i. Total Expenditures were \$10,383,542 compared to a year-to-date cash-basis budget of \$12,017,174
 - ii. Total favorable variance of \$1,633,632
 - d. Revenues (as of Dec. 31, 2023)
 - i. Total Revenues were \$13,235,002 compared to a year-to-date cash-basis budget of \$13,372,554
 - ii. Total unfavorable variance of (\$137,552)
 - e. Cash Flow
 - i. According to current cash flow the maximum usage of the Line of Credit is projected to be \$1,450,000.
 - ii. The School has a line of credit with Choice Bank for \$1,400,000.
 - iii. The Cash Flow Projection reflects the FY24 Revised Budget, adjusted to reflect timing of payments from MDE

Motion: Move to approve December 2023 financials			
Made by: Busse		Seconded by: Ha	
Discussion: None.			
Vote:	Yea: 5	Nay: 0	Abstain: 0

- iii. Executive Director Evaluation Committee Update – Chair Wiesner
 - 1. Working with Dr. Asamarai to set goals
 - 2. Goals will be finalized by Friday and presented to the board at the February board meeting
- iv. Ad Hoc Subcommittee on Visual Displays and DEIB – Director Osband
 - 1. Committee met last week
 - 2. The committee needs to re-visit the mission of the committee and would like board guidance to clarify the goals of the committee
 - a. Board discussion:
 - i. Creating more parameters on the goals of the committee
 - ii. If clean and clutter free workplace and visual displays and DEIB are to be considered as two separate items or as together as one
 - iii. The scope of the committee should be to create a policy regarding visual displays and DEIB in the classroom
 - iv. Dr. Asamarai will attend the next committee meeting
- v. Authorizer Report – Ted Anderson from NEO spoke during the public comment period

4. Review: Next Month’s Board Meeting Agenda

- a. The board retreat on Saturday, February 3rd will be at the Minnetonka campus and include annual training and strategic planning session.

Motion to Adjourn:

Motion: Move to adjourn @ 7:35			
Made by: Claybrook		Seconded by: Wolfe	
Discussion: None.			
Vote:	Yea: 5	Nay: 0	Abstain: 0

Next Meeting: *February 3rd, 2024 at the Minnetonka Campus: 5605 Green Circle Drive, Minnetonka, MN 55343. Board training begins at 9:00am and will be followed by the Strategic Planning session. Regular board meeting will begin at 2:00pm.*