

AFTLIONSGATE ACADEMY  
District #4183  
**BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

November 27, 2012 6:00pm  
Lionsgate Academy 3420 Nevada Avenue N. Crystal, MN 55427

**TO:** Nicole Cleland, Meta Pautsch, ~~Bob Radspinner~~, Ryan Weber, Twila Jensen, Joan Steinmann, Meg Fuller, Anne Sarles.  
**FROM:** Others: Diane Halpin, Director, ~~Emily Kafle, Special Education Coordinator~~, Joe Falkner, Consultant  
Joan Steinmann, Chair

**Call to order: 6:09** by Joan Steinmann, Chair

**School Mission Statement:**

*The mission of Lionsgate Academy is to provide a transition-oriented and personalized learning program focused on secondary high-functioning students on the autism spectrum that supports their full potential, participation, and self-determination within their school, family, and community.*

*To this end, Lionsgate Academy will create an educational environment that will model best instructional practice and research-based techniques so that the graduates will--to the fullest extent possible--live independently, be involved in further education or gainful employment and develop meaningful relationships with others.*

**Approval of the agenda: Ryan, 2<sup>nd</sup> Anne**

**Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes: Meta, 2<sup>nd</sup> Nicole**

**Model:**

**1. Board Education/Community Connections**

**2. Special Education Update-Emily/Rachel**

- a. See notes provided by Emily regarding special education update

**3. Business**

a. Director's Report-Diane

- i. Open house was a wonderful success. Staff was pleased with overall outcome. Staff appreciated student involvement.
- ii. Visit to MDE which will be discussed when we get to financials. Ron added that we need to keep Terri Bonoff included in our discussions as she will make a good partner moving forward.
- iii. Scholastic Bookfair was very successful. Barnes and Nobel was also very successful as a fundraiser.
- iv. Student council raised 500
- v. Parent Advisory Committee/ Special Education Advisory Committee will start meeting again this Thursday during club time as an attempt to have more parents attend.

b. Foundation Update-Nicole

- i. Still trying to decide on a new name for the foundation and also is looking at the structure, definition, and purpose of the committee.
- ii. Foundations does not have a 501C3. Will need to file that soon and have begun next steps in completing it.
- iii. Will be sending parent letters home for donations in Mid-December. Discussion around the different ways to communicate about donating before the letter is sent home. Decided on an email.

c. Committee Reports

**Lionsgate Academy's Authorizer is:**

Novation Education Opportunities, 500 Washington Avenue South, Suite 1020, Minneapolis, MN 55415  
Phone 763-588-4453 Fax 612-870-1200 email [neo2010@me.com](mailto:neo2010@me.com) <http://www.novationeducationopportunities.org>

i. Vision and Building Committee

1. Examine options for the future location of and space for the school, including but not limited to potential purchase of the Cornerstone Church property.
2. Determine necessary internal and external stakeholders and experts that need to be consulted to make fully informed decisions about the future location of and space for the school based on the mission of the school, fiscal and legal considerations, student and family needs, staff and administrative requirements, levels of possible and/or desirable future growth, and other relevant considerations.
3. Develop a timeline and flowchart for the steps that must be taken to secure appropriate input and review (internally and externally), make decisions, secure funding and negotiate and document necessary transactions for review at the LGA Board’s December meeting; keep Board informed and seek timely approvals and decisions thereafter.
4. Form subcommittees as necessary and appropriate to carry out the Committee’s charge.
5. Committee members: Novations, Jonathan Scharlau, John Vallerius, Diane Halpin, Nicole Cleland, Twila Jensen, Joan Steinmann, Stan Hacker, Ron Berger (ex officio), Chris Wood, Drake Willis, Oscar Prill, Jaclyn May (Cushman Wakefield), Craig Keppler (Linguist & Vennum).

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| <b>Motion:</b> Move to approve the formation of an ad-hoc joint committee with the foundation committee named the Vision and Building Committee to move forward on the above charge (c.i.1-c.i.4). |               |                          |                 |
| <b>Made by:</b> Twila  |               | <b>Seconded by:</b> Anne |                 |
| <b>Discussion:</b> none  |               |                          |                 |
| <b>Vote:</b>   | <b>Yea:</b> 6 | <b>Nay:</b> 0            | <b>Abstain:</b> |
| <b>Decision:</b> Unanimously Approved  |               |                          |                 |

ii. Extracurricular Involvement for AIM Students Committee- Report

1. First meeting discussed view points.
2. Next meeting will be on December 12<sup>th</sup>. Anne and Diane want to open the meeting up to more parents by sending a message with a clear description of the issue. Will come back to next board meeting with recommendations.
3. Curtis Wenzel- The meeting didn’t arrive at any compromise but we can now more fully understand the different points of view. He thinks it will be important to come up with a recommendation at the end of the next meeting. He feels there was fairly significant pointed input from a staff member who did not attend the meeting. He also added that to reach a compromise this will need to be a dialogue.

iii. Governance-Joan

1. Report
  - a. Oscar has been working on a “Board Portal” to replace a binder of information. All documents will be kept here electronically.
2. Policy Matrix
  - a. PSEO policy will begin being investigating.
  - b. Staff Handbook clarification. Changing language for staff Time-Off.

iv. Finance

1. MDE update- Chris & Ron
  - a. Very good meeting. Felt that MDE was wanting to collaborate with us.

**Lionsgate Academy’s Authorizer is:**

- b. Disconnect as far as coding- specifically for 1:1 paraprofessionals. \$303,000 will come from this clarification, but they didn't specify where.
  - c. Transportation- Will be providing us with 95% of our in-district transportation cost.
  - d. Spent the majority of the meeting discussing FY11.
  - e. MDE said that we had money coming but couldn't say when.
  - f. Ron is suggesting we have a meeting with Senator Bonoff in the next few weeks to bring her up to speed and talk to her about when we would need her to attend MDE meetings.
2. October Financial Report/SBS- Chris & Ron
- a. Average ADM 148.5. Half an ADM below from budget which does impact our budget.
  - b. Purchased services are payments to other school districts or outside services.
  - c. Projecting payments in mid-February, but it is not projected this will cover our line of credit.
  - d. Collateral component- FDIC limit requires collateral on non-interest bearing accounts. Beginning December 31<sup>st</sup>, this will apply to us. Can disburse our funds in amounts of under \$250,000 into other banks to stay under limit. At the December Board meeting Ron will bring forward a Collateralization Plan for Board to approve and sign.
  - e. Robert from SBS will no longer be working with LGA. Ron will now be LGA's SBS representative. Ron will be attending Board Meetings from here on out.
  - f. The Board thanks Robert for his services.

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| <b>Motion:</b> Move to approve October Financials.       |               |                           |                 |
| <b>Made by:</b> Meg                                      |               | <b>Seconded by:</b> Twila |                 |
| <b>Discussion:</b> See financial dash board and handout. |               |                           |                 |
| <b>Vote:</b>   | <b>Yea:</b> 6 | <b>Nay:</b> 0             | <b>Abstain:</b> |
| <b>Decision:</b> Unanimously Approved                    |               |                           |                 |

#### 4. Monthly Topic

- a. Comment/Discuss the continuum of care draft and progression to independence.
  - i. See packet for Consultant's Report to School Board
  - ii. Diane and Joe shared that the next step may be seeking funding to move this project into the next phase.
  - iii. Joan shared that the board needs to look at what the outcome should be so we can begin to develop a project plan to use in the seeking of funding.
  - iv. The board will ask that Emily bring forth a charge or formulated recommendation to the next board meeting. The recommendation should be to develop a near term plan for initial roll-out of pilot and develop a long term plan for a peruse of partner for funding.
  - v. Diane would like to bring this idea to the Educational Psychology department at the UMN to have them develop a grant.

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| <p><b>Motion:</b> Move to give a new charge to the Continuum of Care committee to develop a near term plan for initial roll-out of pilot including examining ways to include family stakeholders in initial use of tool and develop a long term plan for a peruse of partner for funding and validation studies with appropriate third parties.</p> |
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| <b>Made by:</b> Ryan  |               | <b>Seconded by:</b> Nicole |                 |
| <b>Discussion:</b> See Consultant's Report to School Board handout. |               |                            |                 |
| <b>Vote:</b>  | <b>Yea:</b> 6 | <b>Nay:</b> 0              | <b>Abstain:</b> |
| <b>Decision:</b> Unanimously Approved                               |               |                            |                 |

- b. AYP- Diane
    - i. See Lionsgate Academy AYP Update 2011-2012 PowerPoint Handout
    - ii. Results on slides are comparing special education students for average state scores
  - c. Enrollment Dates / Policy
    - i. Moving up lottery a month this year to make time for 3-step enrollment process. Draw is scheduled for February 5<sup>th</sup>.
    - ii. Policy of capping resource room to 24 out of 150 students. Students are accepted but being held until there is space.
5. **Review: December Board Meeting agenda**
6. **Acknowledgement of Robert**

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| Motion: Move to acknowledge Robert Procaccini to helping assure financial security for LGA. |               |                            |                 |
| <b>Made by:</b> Twila   |               | <b>Seconded by:</b> Nicole |                 |
| <b>Discussion:</b> No discussion  |               |                            |                 |
| <b>Vote:</b>  | <b>Yea:</b> 6 | <b>Nay:</b> 0              | <b>Abstain:</b> |
| <b>Decision:</b> Unanimously Approved   |               |                            |                 |

**Comments from Community Members:** See item 3.c. ii.3

**Motion to Adjourn:** Twila, 2<sup>nd</sup> Meg

**Next Meeting:** December 18th, 2012, 6:00 PM