

LIONSGATE ACADEMY
District #4183
BOARD MEETING MINUTES

February 26th, 2013 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, ~~Stan Haeker~~.
Others: Diane Halpin, Director, Rachel Boyack, Special Education Coordinator, Sandy Strand, Special Education Director, Wanda Ethan, Parent, Stephanie Janes, Parent, Wendy Swanson-Joy, Novations, Chris Wood, Business Director, Ron Berger, SBS

FROM: Joan Steinmann, Chair

Call to order: 6:04 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, 2nd Bob

Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes: Bob, 2nd Nicole

Model:

1. Board Education/Community Connections

- a. 2 College Visits for AIM students and Transitions students. DCTC is a very accommodating college with an Autism Specialist.
- b. Meta is looking for Table Hosts for May 3rd Breakfast.

2. Special Education Update-Emily/Rachel

- a. Enrollment meeting process has begun. Prospective students will be shadowing half days.
- b. Parent-teachers conferences are coming up in March.
- c. Survey was sent out to AIM parents, students, teachers, and administration. See survey results packet.
- d. Staff have developed a scaffold plan to have 12th grade students visit AIM who are undecided or have determined they are attending AIM.
- e. MDE Site Review Update- Staff were interviewed and the monitor took a tour of the school. Results will be shared in a report by June 30th, 2013. Sandy will create corrective action plan for any findings after the report comes out.
- f. Continuum of Care group is meeting in March.

3. AIM/Access to General Education Curriculum

- a. Joan explained that there is no general education in AIM, except on a individual basis.
- b. Sandy-Any program you have access to grade level curriculum, but since AIM is a separate program they are very closely related to individual goals.
- c. Sandy-Transitions programs traditionally don't offer credit. The issue that was found in the Robinsdale School District was that the school stated that they don't offer academic programming.
- d. Sandy-If a child continues to show a need in an academic area the team will decide how to address those needs. The AIM Program is trying to iron out details.
- e. Joan- Do we think that the AIM program, based on what we know about the students in the program(high functioning ASD), should consider offering academics in the programming?
- f. Sandy-Every transition program is very different. AIM currently offers a little bit of everything.
- g. Joan- How can we communicate to parents that the AIM program is individualized, even academic if the student has those needs.

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 <http://www.novationeducationopportunities.org>

h. Sandy and Diane- We should communicate about AIM programming in literature.

4. Monthly Topic

- a. Planning Staff Survey- will be emailed to Board Members. There was a mid-year survey that already went out to staff, but it will be different from the end of the year survey.
- b. Parent Survey- See mark-up handouts of last year’s parent survey with Diane’s comments and corrections. Board members should look at the questions and give feedback at the next meeting.

5. Business

1. Director’s Report-Diane

- i. In the process of applying for Authorizing from NEO.
- ii. Hired a new office staff to support Diane.
- iii. ADM is 149.52. Three new students started mid-year. 1 AIM student leaving prior to the end of the school year.
- iv. Diane did 2 half hour trainings with the Crystal Police on ASD. Marc Berris(parent) has a hour long training that he does with law enforcement.
- v. Summer planning for the greater community will be going on during the same time as ESY, all proceeds will go to the Foundation.
- vi. Met with Church yesterday, Jeff Miller, Chairmen of the Church Board, to talk about the next step with purchasing of the building. Building committee has 2 subcommittees; financial committee and due diligence committee. Due diligence committee needs more members.
- vii. Steps of Hope March, at the Ridgdale Mall this Sunday needs a board level representative.
- viii. LGA’s Polar Plunge team came in first place for money raised for Special Olympics.
- ix. LGA has been accepted into a cohort for Positive Behavior Interventions Supports.
- x. Ron, Chris, and Diane-The board needs to authorize the schools participation of up to \$20,000 to fund the due diligence process on potential school properties.

Motion: Move to authorize the schools participation of up to \$20,000 to fund the due diligence process for school future properties.			
Made by: Bob		Seconded by: Twila	
Discussion: None.			
Vote:	Yea: 7	Nay: 0	Abstain:
Decision: Unanimously Approved			

Motion: Move to authorize the schools participation up to \$20,000 to fund the due diligence process on potential school properties and to be spent with the discretion of the executive director.			
Made by: Bob		Seconded by: Twila	
Discussion: None.			
Vote:	Yea: 7	Nay: 0	Abstain:
Decision: Unanimously Approved			

2. Foundation Update-Nicole

- i. Last meeting the committee reviewed bylaws. Bylaws have been approved.

3. Committee Reports

- i. Building Committee- covered in directors report.
- ii. Governance-Joan
 - 1. School Board Nominations Committee & Election Process – Stan is chairing this committee. He will report on this at the next meeting.

2. Recruitment of Board Members- Parent Board members had a meeting before the Board meeting to recruit future parent Board members. 2 parents attended.
3. Board Portal – Oscar has been leading the way with getting this running. They are working on looking through policies to determine which policies are current.
4. SEAC – There has been difficulty getting parents to meet. Joan’s idea is for parents who were interested in SEAC will be invited to the governance meetings. Joan would like the two groups to merge. Diane’s concern is that SEAC has just found a good time for all members to meet, Thursdays during clubs. Anne and Diane felt parents in SEAC would like to review special education policies during their meeting time. Diane will talk to the group that has formed for SEAC to decide what level of involvement they would like to have with governance. Joan would like Rachel or Emily to also be involved.
5. Revised Nut Policy- See Allergy Policy provided by the Executive Director

Motion: Motion to approve the Allergy Policy, revised from the previous Nut Policy.			
Made by: Ryan		Seconded by: Bob	
Discussion: None.			
Vote:	Yea: 7	Nay: 0	Abstain:
Decision: Unanimously Approved			

6. Attendance Procedure- Administration put together a procedure that complies with state requires. Staff is looking for more guidance so Administration put together a structure to follow. No formal attendance policy has been put in place at LGA. Will be emailed to board members. Diane asks that the governance policy begin working on a formal and clear Attendance Policy. Sandy recommends that the governance committee follows a NASO template that she will forward to the governance committee.

iii. Finance-Chris

1. MDE update
2. January Financial Report/SBS
 - a. Chris- 2.4 million dollars from MDE in the last month. 1.8 million in our bank account right now. SBS has done a terrific job getting our funding together.
 - b. We are above budget and need to start thoughtfully spending our money so that we are not discredited for our budget next year.

Motion: Move to approve January Financials.			
Made by: Meg		Seconded by: Meta	
Discussion: See financial dash board and handout.			
Vote:	Yea: 7	Nay: 0	Abstain:
Decision: Unanimously Approved			

6. **Review: March Board Meeting agenda**
7. **Comments from Community Members- no comments from community members.**
8. **Closed Session – Confidential Employment Matter 7:50-8:40**

1. In the closed session the board discussed preliminary allegations against an employee. The results of a preliminary investigation as well as an issue relating to his background and work history. As a result of the discussion the board supported the directors determination to place the employee on paid administrative leave pending the investigation.

Motion to Adjourn: 9:00pm Meta, 2nd Anne

Next Meeting: March 19, 2013, 6:00 PM

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