

LIONSGATE ACADEMY  
 District #4183  
**BOARD MEETING AGENDA**  
 May 20th, 2014 6:00pm  
 Lionsgate Academy 3420 Nevada Avenue N. Crystal, MN 55427

**TO:** Nicole Cleland, Ryan Weber, Meg Fuller, Tracy Klug, Christine Peper, John Barker, Ali Thorstad, ~~Darren Johnson~~, and Kurt Nisi.  
 Others: Diane Halpin, Executive Director; Ron Berger, Director of Finance; Damon Fraser, NEO  
**FROM:** Ali Thorstad, Chair

**Call to order: 6:05** Ali Thorstad, 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.*

**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.

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

**Model:**

**1. Consent Agenda**

- a. Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes
- b. Governance Committee Report
- c. Approval of Policies
  - i. 801 Section 504 Accommodation
  - ii. 912 Education of Homeless Students
  - iii. 705 Immunization Requirements
  - iv. 911 Homebound Instruction

<b>Motion:</b> Move to approve consent agenda.			
<b>Made by:</b> Ryan		<b>Seconded by:</b> Nicole	
<b>Discussion:</b> None.			
<b>Vote:</b>	<b>Yea:</b> 7	<b>Nay:</b> 0	<b>Abstain:</b>
<b>Decision:</b> Unanimously Approved			

**2. Ron asks the board to approve Recycling Contract associated with Hennepin County Grant**

<b>Motion:</b> Move to approve Recycling Contract associated with Hennepin County Grant	
<b>Made by:</b> Christine	<b>Made by:</b> Nicole
<b>Discussion:</b> None	

<b>Vote:</b>	<b>Yea: 7</b>	<b>Nay:</b>	<b>Abstain:</b>
<b>Decision:</b> Unanimously Approved			

**3. Ratifying Addendum of Lease**

- a. Will have full time use of room 25 and part time use of 26 and 27.
- b. Adding “Escape Clause”
- c. Rent amount: \$411,600.00
- d. See handout, “Addendum II, Leased Premises and Spaces Subject to Joint Use”

<b>Motion:</b> Move to approve Addendum II regarding Leased Premises and Spaces Subject to Joint Use			
<b>Made by:</b> Kurt		<b>Made by:</b> Christine	
<b>Discussion:</b> None			
<b>Vote:</b>	<b>Yea: 7</b>	<b>Nay:</b>	<b>Abstain:</b>
<b>Decision:</b> Unanimously Approved			

**4. Strategic Planning Update- Diane**

- a. Move date of Graduation to May 28<sup>th</sup> for 2015. Seniors last day will be May 28<sup>th</sup>, and have option to attend rest of school year.
  - i. See handout, “Academic Grading/Graduation Elective Requirement”

<b>Motion:</b> Move to Approve Change of 2015 Graduation Date to May 28.			
<b>Made by:</b> Nicole		<b>Made by:</b> Meg	
<b>Discussion:</b> None			
<b>Vote:</b>	<b>Yea: 7</b>	<b>Nay:</b>	<b>Abstain:</b>
<b>Decision:</b> Unanimously Approved			

- b. Grading Proposal
  - i. Change “I” Incomplete to “F”
  - ii. See handout, “Academic Grading/Graduation Elective Requirement”
  - iii. Revisit next month
- c. Graduation Requirement Proposal
  - i. See handout, “Academic Grading/Graduation Elective Requirement”
  - ii. Will be put into graduation policy
  - iii. Board was provided a packet of elective course offerings.

**5. Special Education Update- Diane**

- a. See below

**6. Business**

- 1. Director’s Report-Diane
  - i. Space and Planning Update
    - 1. Need for an additional resource room based on needs of current and incoming students.
    - 2. Lionsgate is approved to operate at two sites. Could co-locate our 18-21 program with a setting 4 program.

**Lionsgate Academy’s Authorizer is:**

- a. Currently have some students that could benefit from this programming. Could create a transitional program for students with higher needs that begins earlier in high school.
    - 3. Need a year to plan and develop setting 4 program.
    - 4. Proposed new site is 23 miles from LGA in North St. Paul. Building is well maintained and modern, flexible, has multiple entrances, public transportation access, and a helpful and knowledgeable landlord.
      - a. Space could accommodate both AIM and setting 4 program.
      - b. Some parents have voiced concern about distance from LGA.
        - i. Some individuals choose school based on geography
        - ii. Difficult to travel from one location to another
      - c. Three parents have notified Diane that they are now reconsidering AIM based on the possible new location
      - d. Administration discussed that they have worked with a number of companies to find a site. Has been a long process.
      - e. Meg shared that AIM has moved every year and that staff and students would appreciate a permanent location.
    - 5. Board asks Administration to continue searching for facilities. Before parent meeting, Administration suggests noting advantages of North St. Paul location, looking into alternative sites, and laying out price, flexibility, access to public transportation.
      - a. Administration agrees to continue search for a facility closer to LGA.
    - 6. Board agrees to move parent meeting until the Board arrives at a conclusion.
    - 7. Board will reconvene June 3<sup>rd</sup> at 6:00 pm to discuss space and planning for AIM and a setting 4 program.
  - ii. Student Achievement
    - 1. Administration is asking case managers to compile data by reviewing student goals and goals that have been accomplished. NEO is asking for data to show student achievement at Lionsgate Academy.
  - iii. Unofficial MCA Results
    - 1. Don't have them yet.
  - iv. Culture Survey
    - 1. Results good. Next survey will be out Friday.
  - v. AuSM Conference Update
    - 1. The LGA flash mob at the AuSM Conference went very well. Video of the flash mob out on YouTube.
2. Foundation Update
  - i. Community in Reach Fundraiser Update
    - 1. Nicole shares that the fundraiser went very well – probably best we've had. \$25,000 was raised in total. There is interest in doing another breakfast next year.
  - ii. Aspire Camp will not happen this year due to lack of enrollment.
  - iii. Pick'in for Autism fundraising event on June 7<sup>th</sup> at Amsterdam Hall.

**Lionsgate Academy's Authorizer is:**

- iv. Suggestion from some Foundation members to sit in on Strategic Planning Committee to see how they can offer further support.
- 3. Committee Reports
  - i. Governance
    - 1. Election Committee Update
      - a. Kosher (staff)
      - b. Bydzovsky (staff)
      - c. Baumgard (staff)
      - d. Blaisdell (staff)
      - e. Peper (community)
      - f. Johnson (community)
    - 2. Voting closes tonight.
    - 3. A small number of staff voiced that they hadn't gotten an initial voting ballot.
    - 4. Parent seat and Secretary need
      - a. Board will decide who will fulfill the secretary role next meeting
      - b. Nicole Cleland will step down effective June 17th in order to allow her son to be eligible for a paid position at Lionsgate Academy.
      - c. Chris Kenealy, the runner up in the last election, has been asked by Administration to serve in the parent seat and has agreed.

<b>Motion:</b> Move to seat Chris Kenealy as Parent Member at the conclusion of the July Board Meeting.			
<b>Made by:</b> Ryan		<b>Made by:</b> Christine	
<b>Discussion:</b> None			
<b>Vote:</b>	<b>Yea: 7</b>	<b>Nay:</b>	<b>Abstain:</b>
<b>Decision:</b> Unanimously Approved			

- ii. Executive Director Evaluation
  - 1. Board, Staff and Parent survey will come out this Friday
  - 2. Will meet June 2<sup>nd</sup> as a committee to discuss results. Then Ali will meet with Diane, and then results will be shared with the Board at the June meeting.
  - 3. A portion of the June meeting will be closed to discuss results and recommendations. Committee will come with salary recommendation.
- iii. Finance
  - 1. Financials
    - a. Ron noted that MDE withheld special educations funding on May 15. Administration is working with MDE to correct issue.
    - b. Income statement – we're where we expected to be for payroll and benefits.
    - c. MDE has said that it will provide the money in the IDEAS Report. Ron will know more on Friday.
    - d. Ron will request an increase(s) in Lionsgate's line(s)-of-credit.
    - e. Cash-flow projections work well at about \$800,000.
    - f. MDE has held back about 17% of funding.
    - g. Finance committee has reviewed financials in depth.
    - h. Lionsgate has access to credit if we need it.

<b>Motion:</b> Move to authorize Ron to pursue an additional Line of Credit of up to 1.1 million.			
<b>Made by:</b> John		<b>Made by:</b> Kurt	
<b>Discussion:</b> None.			
<b>Vote:</b>	<b>Yea: 7</b>	<b>Nay:</b>	<b>Abstain:</b>
<b>Decision:</b> Unanimously Approved			

<b>Motion:</b> Move to approve April Financials with Additional Cash flow projections			
<b>Made by:</b> Meg		<b>Made by:</b> Christine	
<b>Discussion:</b> See Financial Packet & Payment Register.			
<b>Vote:</b>	<b>Yea: 7</b>	<b>Nay:</b>	<b>Abstain:</b>
<b>Decision:</b> Unanimously Approved			

7. Diane asks the board to close the 8<sup>th</sup> grade at current capacity.

<b>Motion:</b> Move to close 8 <sup>th</sup> grade at current capacity.			
<b>Made by:</b> Ryan		<b>Made by:</b> John	
<b>Discussion:</b> None			
<b>Vote:</b>	<b>Yea: 7</b>	<b>Nay:</b>	<b>Abstain:</b>
<b>Decision:</b> Unanimously Approved			

**8. Review: June Board Meeting agenda**

**Motion to Adjourn:** 8:55 Meg, 2<sup>nd</sup> Nicole

**Next Meeting:** June 3rd, 2014, 6:00 PM