

LIONSGATE ACADEMY  
 District #4183  
**BOARD MEETING MINUTES**  
 January 19, 2016

Lionsgate Academy 3420 Nevada Avenue N. Crystal, MN 55427

**TO:** Jim Harms, Sara Bydzovsky, Malory Kosher, Christine Peper, Emy Bachman, Ali Thorstad, Darren Johnson (ab), Chris Kenealy, and Kurt Nisi.  
 Others: Diane Halpin, Executive Director; Emily Kafle, Special Education Director; Ron Berger, Director of Finance  
**FROM:** Ali Thorstad, Chair

**Call to order:** Ali Thorstad, Chair, 6:03 pm

**School Mission Statement:**

*The mission of Lionsgate Academy is to foster self-determination by providing a transitions-focused, personalized learning program for all students, specializing in educating students with autism spectrum disorders.*

**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.

**Conflict of Interest Declaration:** None

**Approval of the Agenda**

<b>Motion:</b> Move to approve agenda.			
<b>Made by:</b> Kenealy		<b>Seconded by:</b> Nisi	
<b>Discussion:</b> None.			
<b>Vote:</b>	<b>Yea:</b> 7	<b>Nay:</b> 0	<b>Abstain:</b>

**Model:**

**1. Consent Agenda**

- a. Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes
  - i. Lionsgate Board Training Minutes 12-15-2015
  - ii. Lionsgate Board Minutes 12-15-2015
  - iii. Lionsgate Special Board Minutes 12-15-2015
- b. Governance Committee Report 1-5-2016
- ~~e. Approval of Policies~~

<b>Motion:</b> Move to approve consent agenda.			
<b>Made by:</b> Harms		<b>Seconded by:</b> Kenealy	
<b>Discussion:</b> None.			
<b>Vote:</b>	<b>Yea:</b> 7	<b>Nay:</b> 0	<b>Abstain:</b>

**2. Special Education Update**

- a. MDE Special Education Compliance
  - i. Still in “self-review” cycle for MDE’s Special Education Compliance

**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

1. Due Process files for this year look amazing
- b. Two former LGA students are enrolling in AIM

### 3. Strategic Planning Update

- a. Gifted and Talented (GT) program development on the horizon
  - i. Malory Kosher, Brandy Dougherty and Aimee Herbes have attended trainings for GT programming through MDE
    1. Other GT programs in the state have been toured to gain ideas on how to create a successful program at LGA
    2. Looking to develop a GT program geared towards advocacy and leadership skills vs. math and language arts
      - a. Want to best support LGA student's needs
      - b. Additional staff are being recruited to continue further work on program
        - i. 3 additional staff and 1 parent have expressed interest

### 4. Business

1. Director's Report-Diane
  - i. Student Achievement
    1. Lionsgate Crystal Campus Open House Coming Up, January 21<sup>st</sup> from 6:00-8:30 pm
      - a. Student-Led Tours of Campus and Programming
    2. Jessica Bjorkman is the new SPED Coordinator at NSP site for Lynx and AIM
    3. LGA magazine in the works for current and prospective donors of the school to be kept current with all things Lionsgate
    4. Music Committee has been formed to further identify needs and interests for what a music program at Lionsgate could look like
    5. Continue investigation of transportation options for in-district students for Green Circle site
    6. Green Circle site will use flexible space plan for all staff
      - a. Staff will have different space options (focus quiet, collaborative, mobile) to choose from based on the work they need to complete vs having an assigned work space or desk
        - i. Personal storage towers will be provided to staff
  - ii. Approval of Revised Lynx Program 2015-16 Academic Calendar

<b>Motion:</b> Move to approve modified calendar for Lynx Program.			
<b>Made by:</b> Bydzovsky		<b>Seconded by:</b> Bachman	
<b>Discussion</b>			
<b>Vote:</b>	<b>Yea:</b> 7	<b>Nay:</b> 0	<b>Abstain:</b>

- iii. Approval of Proposed 2016-17 Academic Calendar

1. Discussion tabled until February Board Meeting
  - a. Research needs to be completed on 1/2/2017 being recognized as a government holiday

2. Foundation Update

- i. Goal of \$50,000 has been raised through Razoo Raise's the Roof Campaign

**Lionsgate Academy's Authorizer is:**

- ii. March 23<sup>rd</sup> 2016 benefit at Indeed Brewing Company
  - iii. Breakfast fundraiser will be held at The Metropolitan
  - iv. Foundation committee continuing to look for grant applications
  - v. Foundation committee member to attend future Board meetings (once every 2-3 months) to provide update
3. Committee Reports
- i. Governance
    - 1. Discussion on Opposition to MDE Proposed Integration and Achievement Rules
      - a. Fielded questions on draft proposal

<b>Motion:</b> Move to approve include LGA's name to memorandum on Opposition to MDE Proposed Integration and Achievement Rules.			
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<b>Made by:</b> Bachman		<b>Seconded by:</b> Kenealy	
<b>Discussion</b>			
<b>Vote:</b>	<b>Yea:</b> 7	<b>Nay:</b> 0	<b>Abstain:</b>

<b>Motion:</b> Move to approve paying \$500 to the attorney Cindy Lavorato for legal services upon billing.			
<b>Made by:</b> Bachman		<b>Seconded by:</b> Kenealy	
<b>Discussion</b>			
<b>Vote:</b>	<b>Yea:</b> 7	<b>Nay:</b> 0	<b>Abstain:</b>

- 2. Discussion on possibly changing the meeting night for 2016-17 meetings with Thursdays being an option
  - a. Board informally voted to keep 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday night as the monthly meeting night
- 3. Discussion on current by-laws
  - a. Proposal to amend by-laws which would allow the Board to get back on track with only one board opening in each category every year: parent, teacher and community member
    - i. This would allow some terms to be for one year to create a balance in the amount of change happening
      - 1. This year there are two parent seats up and next year there will be two community members opening
        - a. Concerns of having off-balance board and instability

**Motion:** To amend by-laws to allow for flexible terms of 1-3 years, instead of 3, depending on needs.

**Made by:** Nisi

**Seconded by:** Peper

**Discussion**

**Vote:**

**Yea:** 7

**Nay:** 0

**Abstain:**

ii. Finance

1. Committee Update

a. Discussed cash position and ongoing work with MDE

2. Financials

a. Discussed Financial Statement Package with Board

**Motion:** Move to approve financials.

**Made by:** Peper

**Seconded by:** Harms

**Discussion**

**Vote:**

**Yea:** 7

**Nay:** 0

**Abstain:**

b. Discussed reasons for need to increase fixed capitalization threshold

i. All reasons to substantial increase in the school since original threshold was established

**Motion:** Move to change fixed asset capitalization threshold from \$500-\$2000.

**Made by:** Kenealy

**Seconded by:** Peper

**Discussion**

**Vote:**

**Yea:** 7

**Nay:** 0

**Abstain:**

3. Approval of 3 Year Contract with Charter School Accounting LLC

a. Discussed CSA history and recommended approval of contract

**Motion:** Move to approve Diane Halpin to sign 3 year contract with Charter School Accounting LLC.

**Made by:** Kenealy

**Seconded by:** Peper

**Discussion**

**Vote:**

**Yea:** 7

**Nay:** 0

**Abstain:**

iii. Building

1. Staff will be allowed to tour building on upcoming staff workshop day, January 22<sup>nd</sup>

a. Allows staff to also start or end their day at the Minnetonka site so they can experience the commute

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**5. Review: February Board Meeting Agenda**

**Motion to Adjourn:** 8:00 p.m.

<b>Motion:</b> Move to adjourn.			
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<b>Made by:</b> Bydzovsky		<b>Seconded by:</b> Harms	
<b>Discussion</b>			
<b>Vote:</b>	<b>Yea:</b> 7	<b>Nay:</b> 0	<b>Abstain:</b>

**Next Meeting:** February 16, 2016, 6:00 pm