

LIONSGATE ACADEMY
 District #4183
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
 September 22, 2015, 6:00 p.m.

Lionsgate Academy 3420 Nevada Avenue N. Crystal, MN 55427

TO: Jim Harms, Sara Bydzovsky, Malory Kosher, Christine Peper, Emy Bachman, Ali Thorstad, Darren Johnson, 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, 6:02 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.

- **Ted Schalow:** Lionsgate is a wonderful school to work/attend. Recognizes current facility at Cornerstone is not necessarily working for staff and students, but has concerns with moving to Green Circle Drive property regarding lack of green space outside and physical space in the building.

Conflict of Interest Declaration-None

Approval of the Agenda

Motion: Move to approve consent agenda.			
Made by: Nisi		Seconded by: Johnson	
Discussion: None.			
Vote:	Yea: 8	Nay: 0	Abstain:

Model:

1. Consent Agenda

Motion: Move to approve consent agenda.			
Made by: Kenealy		Seconded by: Dr. Peper	
Discussion: None.			
Vote:	Yea: 8	Nay: 0	Abstain:

- a. Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes
 - i. Lionsgate Board Minutes 8-18-2015
- b. Governance Committee Report 9-15-2015
- c. Approval of Policies
 - i. 621 Request to Conduct Research
 - ii. 925 Use of Reasonable Force

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

- iii. 407 Fundraising and Grants
- iv. 701 Protection and Privacy of Pupil Records
- v. 101 Grading System and Reporting Student Achievement

2. Special Education Update

- a. AIM/LYNX Special Education Coordinator Shawn Bortel resigned
 - i. Kafle taking over duties at North St Paul sites until a replacement is hired
- b. LYNX Program
 - i. Six students currently enrolled
 - ii. Given space-no more than 12 students in program
 - iii. New staff hires and staff in new positions having been working out well
 - iv. Kafle, Halpin and Falkner’s district mental health plan proposal was accepted to be presented at the Oct 21st MASE conference

3. Strategic Planning Update

- a. Annual Report is due to MDE on November 1st
 - i. There has been progress on plan
 - ii. Licensed staff who have extra prep time this year due to low enrollment are given special projects to help out

4. Business

- 1. Director’s Report-Diane
 - i. Student Achievement
 - 1. 2014-15 MCA scores
 - a. Scores dropped off a couple of points in math & reading
 - b. Scores increased in science
 - c. Important to look at and compare individual classes and follow their progress from year to year, instead of comparing grade levels year-to-year
 - ii. Identified Official with Authority (MDE)
 - 1. One person at every school needs to be authorized, typically it is the principal or another school administrator
 - a. Diane Halpin asked the board to approve her to be the Identified Official with Authority with MDE for Lionsgate

Motion: Move to identify Diane as Official with Authority with MDE.			
Made by: Nisi		Seconded by: Peper	
Discussion: None.			
Vote:	Yea: 8	Nay: 0	Abstain:

- iii. New MDE Autism Specialist Maci Spica came to visit
 - 1. Spent time with Eric Ringgenberg to learn about Lionsgate’s PBIS program
 - 2. Planning on visiting North St Paul site
- iv. AuSM holding skillshops at Lionsgate this year again
- 2. Foundation Update
 - i. Tom Freeman is new Chairman
- 3. Committee Reports

i. Governance

1. Board Member Bios

- a. Email from parent in the autism community looking for guidance brought attention that Board Member bios were outdated
 - i. New Board members write bio for website
 - ii. Returning Board members to read current bio on website and update by next meeting
 - iii. Send bios to Amber Edwards

2. Board Survey

- a. Difficulties with online survey that was sent out over summer
 - i. Only 3 responses saved
 - ii. Hard copies passed for board members to complete by end of meeting
- b. Moving forward governance will move survey to mid-year (January) instead of end of school year

3. Discussed By-Laws

- 4. Wendy Swanson-Choi will provide training for Board based on strategic planning objectives possibly in December

ii. Finance

1. Committee Update

- a. Short meeting held not a lot of new news to discuss
- b. Overpaid (no interest on that)
- c. Received money from 2013 (still owe for '15)

2. Financials

- a. Won't get to budget because of space constraints
- b. Looking at possibilities to increase enrollment in North St. Paul
- c. Over budget on expense total/except salary
- d. MDE still owes money
- e. Cash flow projection is correct

Motion: Move to approve financials			
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Made by: Kenealy		Seconded by: Peper	
Discussion: None.			
Vote:	Yea: 8	Nay: 0	Abstain:

iii. Building

- 1. Staff were invited last week to provide suggestions for Green Circle space
 - a. Admin reviewed staff suggestions
- 2. Results of Parent/Staff survey were reviewed about Green Circle space
 - a. 36 families responded
 - b. 96 staff responded
- 3. Other building options
 - a. No go on the ideas submitted since September (either not big enough, not enough parking or not allowed to be zoned for a school)
- 4. Letter of Intent to Wellington

Lionsgate Academy's Authorizer is:

- a. The letter would show valid interest w/ Wellington
- b. Discussion around Green Circle Drive property
 - i. Space: Cornerstone is 51, 000 square ft, 42, 000 of this is useable, Green Circle is around 58,000 square ft, 50,000 useable square feet
 - ii. Classroom size: Right now we have 750-900 square ft classrooms, looking at 600 square ft for Green Circle Drive
 - iii. Can we increase enrollment? Potentially 40 more students could be serviced but this is not a guarantee based on student need
 - iv. Hardships for staff involve more than just commute (other jobs, families, unknowns about space and classrooms)
- 5. Discussion Whether or Not to Sign Letter of Intent Tonight
 - a. Intent letter was not on Board Agenda: Some board members not comfortable signing it because of that
 - b. If letter not signed tonight, Board will have to meet later in week or early next

Motion: Move to Sign Intent Letter			
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Made by: Nisi		Seconded by: Johnson	
Discussion: None.			
Vote:	Yea: 4 (Ali Thorstad used her vote to break the tie between Yea and Abstain.)	Nay: 2	Abstain: 3

- 6. Board wants to know “milestones”/timelines so they are more prepared for meetings
 - a. Letter of Intent
 - b. Lease Agreement
 - c. Advised to get an appraiser, to get an attorney to move forward w/ bldg.
- 7. Board suggestion to put one more survey out to staff about Green Circle Drive

~~iv. Executive Director Evaluation~~

5. Review: October Board Meeting agenda

Motion to Adjourn: 8:11 pm

Motion: Move to adjourn meeting.			
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Made by: Harms		Seconded by: Kenealy	
Discussion: None.			
Vote:	Yea: 8	Nay: 0	Abstain:

Next Meeting: October 20, 2015, 6 p.m.