

LIONSGATE ACADEMY
 District #4183
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
 July 16th, 2013 6:00pm
 Lionsgate Academy 3420 Nevada Avenue N. Crystal, MN 55427

TO: Nicole Cleland, Ryan Weber, Meg Fuller, Gyade Badio, Sarah Prill, Ali Thorstad, and Kurt Nisi.
 Others: Diane Halpin, Director; Emily Kafle, Special Education Coordinator; Chris Wood, Dean of Students and Business Manager; Wendi Swanson-Choi, Novations; John Barker, Board Candidate; Paul Donovan and Jaclyn May of Cushman/Wakefield; Drake Willis, Operations Manager of LGA; Ron Berger, SBS; Joan Steinmann, Parent; Therese O’Meara, LGA staff; Oscar Prill, Technology Coordinator; Lynn Olson, Parent; John Villerius, Building Committee; Susan Khatri, Parent; Jeff Rapp, Parent and Building Committee; Jeffery Mason, Foundation Chair

FROM: Ryan Weber, Board Chair

Call to order: 6:03PM Ryan Weber by 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: Meg, 2nd Ryan

Approval of June 18 Meeting Minutes: Ryan, 2nd Nicole

Approval of June 25, 5:30PM Closed Meeting Minutes: Ryan, 2nd Meg

Approval of June 25, 7:00PM Closed Meeting Minutes: Meg, 2nd Ryan

Approval of June 30, Special Meeting Minutes: Ryan, 2nd Meg

Model:

1. Seating of the new Board Members

Motion: Move to seat the new board members; Sarah Prill, Ali Thorstad, and Kurt Nisi.			
Made by: Ryan		Seconded by: Nicole	
Discussion: None.			
Vote:	Yea: 6	Nay: 0	Abstain:
Decision: Unanimously Approved			

a. Appointment of Board Officers

i. Secretary

Motion: Move to appoint Meg Fuller to Board Secretary Position.			
Made by: Nicole		Seconded by: Gyade	
Discussion: None.			
Vote:	Yea: 6	Nay: 0	Abstain:
Decision: Unanimously Approved			

i. Board Chair

Motion: Move to appoint Ali Thorstad to Board Chair Position.			
Made by: Meg		Seconded by: Nicole	
Discussion: Nicole.			
Vote:	Yea: 6	Nay: 0	Abstain:
Decision: Unanimously Approved			

b. Assignment to Committee

- i. Governance- Sarah, Ali, Meg
 - 1. Director Evaluation Committee- Meg, Nicole, Gyade
- ii. Finance- Ryan, Gyade, Kurt

c. Open Community Member Seats

- i. John Barker- Attorney of HB Fuller since 2004. Handles employment issues. Worked with Joan Steinmann since 2007.
 - 1. Joan feels that John always follows through and does research when needed.
- ii. Christine Peper- Lecturer at UMN, a nationally known expert in transitions and special education.

2. Master Instructional Schedule Presentation- Brandy Dougherty

- a. Individualized schedules that are done by hand.
- b. LGA offers a great range of elective courses that is almost unheard of for such a small school.
- c. This year there are a few rooms open during the school day because we acquired more space from the church. This has never happened before.
- d. Most staff do not have a space to work on their prep.

3. Board Education/Community Connections

- a. Presentation from Adele Ciracy, from MDE, and Emily on the Foundation of Special Education.
 - i. See PowerPoint hand out entitled Students, Special Education and the Law.
 - ii. See handout with graphic summary of presentation
- b. Presentation by Paul Donovan and Jaclyn May of Cushman/Wakefield on progress of building committee.
 - i. Diane- Summarized the building committee’s progress to this point: The building committee is looking at Cornerstone Church. The Church has completed their appraisal and Jaclyn has completed hers as well. Both came out very similar.
 - ii. John Villerius is speaking on behalf of Greg Hein to share information from the building committee. The building committee would like to form an ABC (Affiliated Building Corporation) to go forth with purchasing a school building for LGA. Lease Aid is currently \$300,000. General Education appeal is how charter schools typically increase their Lease Aid. Lionsgate Academy would need \$70,000 in lease aid to support the purchase of a building. Lionsgate uses 300square feet per student, which is about double the normal square footage. Tax exempt bond financing looks like the best form of financing currently.
 - iii. Cushman/Wakefield introduce themselves as Lionsgate’s advocates for the facility project. They would like to make sure that all stakeholders are informed.
 - iv. See handouts titled Lionsgate Estimated Project Expenses-monthly accrual method and Lionsgate Academy Facility Project Timeline
 - v. This presentation is intended to inform the School Board and community. Prior to the August board meeting, the building committee will meet and discuss questions and comments from the School Board and community. At the August board meeting the Board will potentially approve the formation of the ABC.

Lionsgate Academy’s Authorizer is:

- vi. Wendi Swanson-Choi stressed the importance of having a fund balance to lower rates and help the funding go back to the school.
- vii. The Expenses listed on the document is an estimation of costs, this document will likely change throughout the process.
- viii. Drake pointed out that the Church has not agreed to sell us the building. Right now we are looking at long term solutions for properties, one of them being the Cornerstone Church building.
- ix. Kurt Nisi will join the building committee.

4. Strategic Planning- no update

5. Monthly Topic

- a. PBIS Update- no update

6. Business

1. Director's Report-Diane

- i. State of the Gate letter went out to parents last week.

1. Draft of the paid before and after school care & School day change

- a. Lynn Olson, Parent- concern with the change in school day. She spoke about the difficulties families will face if having to pick up students earlier in the day. She also spoke about the financial implications of the before and after school care.
- b. Parents were concerned with how the topic communicated. They felt parents we not consulted with this decision that has such an impact on their life. Lynn felt the the process of how the decision came about would have been helpful to shared with parents. Joan felt the parents should have been invited to join a committee.
- c. Sarah suggested to add another club day.
- d. Curt suggested adding free after school care from 2:50-3:20 each day, the paid programming would start at 3:20pm.

Motion: Move to approve the new school day schedule (7:30-4:00 staff schedule) with a no cost care for students until 3:15pm each day.

Made by: Ryan	Seconded by: Meg
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Discussion: None.

Vote:	Yea: 6	Nay: 0	Abstain:
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Decision: Unanimously Approved

2. Foundation Update-Nicole

- i. Aspire Camp July 29th-August 2nd. 13 Campers will be participating.

3. Committee Reports

i. Governance

- 1. Attendance Policy- no update

ii. Finance- Ron

- 1. MDE update- 1st IDEAS payment on Monday.
- 2. June Financial Report/SBS

Lionsgate Academy's Authorizer is:

Motion: Move to approve June Financials.			
Made by: Ryan		Seconded by: Nicole	
Discussion: See financial dash board and handout.			
Vote:	Yea: 6	Nay: 0	Abstain:
Decision: Unanimously Approved			

7. Review: August Board Meeting agenda

Comments from Community Members

1. Emily thanked the board for participating in MDE presentation

Motion to Adjourn: 10:00pm Ali, 2nd Ryan

Next Meeting: August 20th, 2013, 6:00 PM

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>