

LIONSGATE ACADEMY  
District #4183  
**BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

October 15, 2013 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, and Kurt Nisi.  
Others: Diane Halpin, Director; Rachel Boyack, Special Education Coordinator; Ron Berger, Financial Director; Amy Erikson, Novation Education Opportunities.

**FROM:** Ali Thorstad, Chair

**Call to order:** 6:00pm 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.*

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

**Model:**

**1. Consent Agenda**

- a. Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes
- b. Governance Committee Report
- c. September Financials
- d. Annual Report
- e. Approval of 703 Student Record Retention Policy
- f. Approval of 514 Prohibition of Harassment and Violence Policy
- g. Approval of 918 Prohibition of Corporal Punishment Policy
- h. Approval of 511 Nepotism Policy
- i. Approval of 602 Complaint Process Policy
- j. Approval of updates to Staff Handbook

<b>Motion:</b> Move to approve consent agenda.			
<b>Made by:</b> Meg		<b>Seconded by:</b> Ryan	
<b>Discussion:</b> None.			
<b>Vote:</b>	<b>Yea:</b> 6	<b>Nay:</b> 0	<b>Abstain:</b>
<b>Decision:</b> Unanimously Approved			

**2. Special Education Update-** Rachel

- a. Training over conferences for MDE corrective action plan provided by ISSES.
- b. MDE Corrective action plan is ongoing.
- c. AIM did home visits this year for conferences, this went very well.
- d. Ongoing hiring of EA's.

**3. Strategic Planning-** Rachel

- a. See handout. Strategic plan areas highlighted that Rachel is focused on. Also, a project map with steps broken out and goal due dates.

- b. Christine is willing to partner with Rachel to provide support with transition related objectives.
  - c. Rachel's project is projected to span over a three year period.
- 4. Community Board Member-opens seat**
- a. Christine emailed several candidates with financial background.
  - b. Christine is currently corresponding with Darren Johnson, an assistant vice president at US Bank. He is very interested in the position. Christine has invited him to the Open House and the November Board Meeting.
- 5. Board Education/Community Connections**
- a. Finance Training after November Board meeting with Phil Hatlie for all Board Members.
  - b. Event Calendar
    - i. Board Members are asked to sign up for two events.
    - ii. Board Member are also asked to attend Graduation and the Open House.
  - c. Bio Updates- need to be sent to Meg by Friday.
  - d. Background Studies for new members – consent needed.
  - e. Related Party Questionnaire- all members from 2012-13.
- 6. Business**
- 1. Director's Report-Diane
    - i. Viewing of student news program.
    - ii. Ron Berger is now onboard and has hit the ground running.
    - iii. Still hiring educational assistants.
    - iv. Hired a new case manager to support 7<sup>th</sup> grade team. The case manager was hired on this year as an EA but has since finished her schooling to be a special education teacher.
    - v. Lionsgate has unenrolled a 7<sup>th</sup> grade student who was not appropriately served in this district. The transition meeting was very successful.
    - vi. Adding new students currently to keep up ADM.
    - vii. Last week Lionsgate hosted a meeting for interested families. Around 8 families attended. Lionsgate has learned they need to do a better job of communicating enrollment procedures because families seemed disappointed when learning that students who are not going into 7<sup>th</sup> grade would have a difficult time entering the school.
    - viii. The open house is November 7<sup>th</sup>, Diane asks that Board members participate in the event and invite other to attend. This is a great event for people to learn about Lionsgate.
    - ix. The school dance is November 1<sup>st</sup>. This dance is considered the Homecoming dance where AIM students and alumni may attend.
    - x. Diane has been reappointed to the State ASD Advisory Committee. Today she did a presentation to the MN Women's Dentistry group on the intersection of Autism and Dentistry.
    - xi. Diane has been speaking with a UMN researcher, Suma Jacob. She asks the Board for permission to advertise Focus in NeuroDevelopment Registry (FIND) at the UMN. Diane also asks for the Board's permission to advertise a study that the UMN is completing on Intranasal Oxytocin and Autism.
      - 1. The Board cautions Diane to not promote the studies, but rather inform the community. The Board gives permission to Diane to inform the community of both FIND and the Intranasal Oxytocin and Autism Study.
      - 2. Governance needs to create a policy around Lionsgate's participation in research and studies.

**Lionsgate Academy's Authorizer is:**

<b>Motion:</b> Move to give permission to Diane to inform the community, with a disclaimer, of both FIND and the Intranasal Oxytocin and Autism Study.			
<b>Made by:</b> Kurt		<b>Seconded by:</b> Christine	
<b>Discussion:</b> None.			
<b>Vote:</b>	<b>Yea:</b> 6	<b>Nay:</b> 0	<b>Abstain:</b>
<b>Decision:</b> Unanimously Approved			

2. Foundation Update

- i. Made \$6,000 from Motorcycle Ride and Saints Baseball Game.
- ii. Still struggling with 501C3.
- iii. The foundation is considering delegating funds between LGA departments for department leads to manage when requests come in rather than having the foundation look at all requests.
- iv. Ali would like to talk with Foundation about fundraising options for the school.

3. Committee Reports

- i. Building Committee- did not meet this month.
- ii. Finance
  - 1. MDE update- First \$0 check of the year from MDE today. They have changed their payment schedule to 24 months rather than 19 months. Venture Bank came out for a visit and they are aware of the payment schedule and are willing to lend us more due to this change. Administration is continuing to build connections/relationships with MDE.
  - 2. Budget Approvals- Administration is in the process of creating a proposal for a revised budget. The finance committee will be meeting prior to the next Board meeting to review the budget.

**7. Review: November Board Meeting agenda**

**Comments from Community Members-** Amy Erikson from Novation Education Opportunities felt that our Board Meeting was very well attended and all the members were very positively involved.

**Motion to Adjourn:** 7:14PM, Christine, 2<sup>nd</sup> Tracy

**Next Meeting:** November 19th, 2013, 6:00 PM