

LIONSGATE ACADEMY
District #4183
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
August 20th, 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; John Barker, Board Candidate; Christine Peper, Board Candidate,
Meta Thomas, LGA Staff
FROM: Ali Thorstad, Chair

Call to order: 6:03 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: Ryan, 2nd Nicole

Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes: Ryan, 2nd Nicole

Model:

1. Appointment new Board Members to open seats

Motion: Move to seat the new board members; Christine Peper and John Barker.			
Made by: Ryan		Seconded by: Meg	
Discussion: None.			
Vote:	Yea: 5	Nay: 0	Abstain:
Decision: Unanimously Approved			

a. Assignment to Committee- committees were explained to the new board members.

2. Board Education/Community Connections- AIM has hired on a staff to help make community connections to extend paid and volunteer student positions. The Board will be updated on how this position develops throughout the year.

3. Special Education Update-Diane

- a. MDE Compliance Appeal- see "Appeal Letter" handout.
 - i. Diane and Gigi worked on the letter together.
 - ii. Diane drew the Boards attention to Issue 7 and Issue 9.

4. Strategic Planning

- a. Administration has divided responsibilities.
- b. The board determined that each month administration should prepare to update the board on a section of the strategic plan.

5. Monthly Topic

- a. PBIS Update
 - i. 4 mottos are : Be Safe, Be Respectful, Be Responsible, Be Flexible.
 - ii. Staff are being trained this week on how to implement in classrooms.
- b. Set Board Calendar & share Event Calendar

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 executive.director.neo@gmail.com <http://www.novationeducationopportunities.org>

- i. Board Meetings will be held on the third Tuesday of each month with the exception of February. The February meeting will be held on the 4th Tuesday.
- c. Consent Agenda
 - i. The board adopted the policy in March 2008. The board agrees to use the consent agenda.
- d. New state laws regarding conflict of interest
 - i. Update from the new Board State Laws suggest that a board member cannot be married to a staff member.
 - ii. The opinion of our lawyer supports that there is no exemption to the conflict of interest for staff board members married to staff members.
 - iii. Sarah Prill stepped down from the board effective immediately.
 - iv. The board will approach staff to be considered for the open staff seat on the school board to fill Sarah's three year seat. Staff will be asked to provide a bio and letter of interest. The information should be turned into Ali by Tuesday, September 3rd. Ali will then meet with the candidates prior to the September Board Meeting.

6. Business

- 1. Director's Report-Diane
 - i. Oak Grove Contract- The 1 year contract with Oak Grove Church has been signed. The building will house our 18-21 Program.
 - ii. SBS Consideration Amendment – Lionsgate has determined that they do need a full time Finance Director. Ron Berger has offered to fill this position. Lionsgate and Ron have signed Non-Compete agreements with SBS. SBS is offering to amend the SBS contract in order to reach compromise; LGA extends their contract with SBS and Ron begins employment with LGA in September 2013. Diane is recommending to the board to agree to the terms of the SBS Agreement to extend the SBS Contract through June 2016 and hiring on Ron effective September 2013.

Motion: Move to accept the SBS Consideration Agreement, amendment of SBS Contract, and hire on Ron Berger as Finance Director beginning September 2013.			
Made by: Kurt		Seconded by: Christine	
Discussion: None.			
Vote:	Yea: 6	Nay: 0	Abstain:
Decision: Unanimously Approved			

- 2. Foundation Update-Nicole
 - i. Still waiting on 501C3.
 - ii. Two fundraising events through Border Foods were well attended and profitable.
 - iii. New Board Chair- Jeff Mason.
- 3. Committee Reports
 - i. Building Committee
 - 1. Approve Facility Project Timeline and formation of Affiliated Building Corporation(ABC).
 - a. The Project Timeline was shared with Cornerstone Church.
 - b. The building committee has had a business discussion around meeting the needs of both Cornerstone Church and LGA.
 - c. Ron recommends that the school use the Foundation to fund the inspection of the building to prepare us to have a real conversation with the church as

landlords. ABC does not have to be completed for this due diligence to be completed.

- d. The Board asks the building committee to meet again with the church and a preliminary walk through should be completed by Jeff Rapp(parent on building committee) & Drake Willis(staff) .

ii. Governance

1. Enrollment Policy

- a. See “Lionsgate Academy Enrollment Policy” Handout.
- b. Updates: MN Residency and Location of Service.
- c. Policy has gone through MDE Lawyers and the schools Lawyer.
- d. Policy will be published on the website.

Motion: Move to approve Lionsgate Academy Enrollment Policy.			
Made by: Ryan		Seconded by: Nicole	
Discussion: None.			
Vote:	Yea: 6	Nay: 0	Abstain:
Decision: Unanimously Approved			

- 2. Attendance Policy – Board will review for approval at the next meeting. The policy was given in hard-copy for the Board to review and will be part of the agenda packet for the next months meeting.

3. Student-Family Handbook-

- a. Staff and administration worked hard to update the handbook.

Motion: Move to approve the amended Student-Family Handbook for the 2013-14 school year.			
Made by: Meg		Seconded by: Ryan	
Discussion: None.			
Vote:	Yea: 6	Nay: 0	Abstain:
Decision: Unanimously Approved			

- 4. Board will review Wellness Policy for approval at the next meeting. The governance committee will provide a policy to the board prior to the next board meeting.

iii. Finance-

1. MDE update

- a. Received a memo that the payments may change to 24 payments rather than 16, which would cause us to go into our line of credit sooner and stay in the line of credit longer.
- b. The dashboard is assuming 10% line of credit and metered payments over 24 periods.
- c. There has been no indication that the lines of credit will not be there if we need it.

2. Budget Approvals- no updates at this time.

3. July Financial Report/SBS

Lionsgate Academy’s Authorizer is:

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

7. Community Member Vacancy- Gyade is resigning from the board effective the end of this meeting. Gyade thanked the board for the experience. Gyade was thanked by the board for his service.
 - a. The board discussed filling this seat. Board members will seek a community member to fill his seat and bring candidates for discussion to the September Board Meeting.
8. John has volunteered to participate in the governance committee.
9. **Review: September Board Meeting agenda**

Comments from Community Members

Motion to Adjourn: 8:02, Ryan, 2nd Nicole

Next Meeting: September 16th, 2013, 6:00 PM

Lionsgate Academy's Authorizer is: