

Beacon Academy Charter District 4124
 Board Meeting Minutes, May 22, 2025, 4:30PM.
 3415 Louisiana Ave N, Crystal, MN 55427
Beacon Academy is authorized by Innovative Quality Schools
 P.O Box 580, Hutchinson, MN 55350

I. Call to Order: Matheu Weidenbach called the meeting to order to at 4:33 p.m.

Roll Call: present at time of meeting unless otherwise noted

Name	Role	Present	Absent
Matheu Weidenbach	Board Member - President	x	
Melanie Spall	Board Member – Vice President	x	
Elizabeth Brobeck	Board Member- Secretary	x	
Norah Antil	Board Member	x	
Patty Blake	Board Member	x	
Matthew Goodman	Board Member	x	
Rasheda Jenkins	Board Member	x	
Stacey Ray	Board Member	x	
Mike Reeder	Ex-Officio	x	
Bridget Peterson	Ex-Officio	x	
Kris Gapinski	Board Recorder		x- absent
Miscellaneous Attendees: Bob Forman			

II. Pledge of Allegiance

III. Choral Reading of Beacon Academy Vision Statement

IV. Approval of Agenda

Motion: To approve the agenda								
Made by: Norah Antil			Seconded by: Rasheda Jenkins					
Discussion: N/A								
Vote:	Member	Yea	Nay	Abstain	Member	Yea	Nay	abstain
	Rasheda Jenkins	X			Matthew Goodman	x		
	Patty Blake	x			Melanie Spall	x		
	Elizabeth Brobeck	x			Norah Antil	x		
	Stacey Ray	x						
	Matheu Weidenbach	X						
Decision: Motion passed								
Notes:								
• None								

V. Public Comment: *In order to allow the Board to conduct the business of the school, members of the public are recognized only during this portion of the meeting. Anyone indicating a desire to speak during Public Comment will be acknowledged by the Board Chair. When called upon to speak, please state your name, connection to the school, and the topic you wish to address. All remarks should be addressed to the Board as a whole, not to any specific member(s) or to any person who is not a member of the Board. The Board Chair reserves the right to limit the time of Public Comment.*

Notes:
• None

VI. Declaration of Conflict of Interest: *Board members read the agenda and disclose if they have any real or perceived conflict of interest with any agenda items.*

Notes:
• None

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VII. Approval of Consent Agenda: *Consent Agenda items are considered to be routine in nature and will be enacted by one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a board member or meeting attendee so requests, in which event the item will be removed as a Consent Agenda item and addressed.*

- a. Approval of Minutes
 - i. Regular Board Meeting- 2025.4.17
- b. Policies
 - i. 404 Criminal Background Checks
 - ii. 405 Veteran's Preference
 - iii. 406 Public and Private Personnel Data
- c. Sentient Healthcare, Inc- Contract for Audiology Services
- d. Accent Communication- Contract for Phone Services
- e. Navigate Care Consulting- Contract for School Nurse Consultation
- f. IvyCamp- Contract for Before and After School Care
- g. Done Right Foods- Contract for Food Vendor Services
- h. Futura Language Professionals- Contract for Elementary Spanish Teacher
- i. Personnel Consent Agenda

Motion: To approve the consent agenda with the removal of the personnel consent item								
Made by: Elizabeth Brobeck				Seconded by: Melanie Spall				
Discussion: N/A								
Vote:	Member	Yea	Nay	Abstain	Member	Yea	Nay	abstain
	Rasheda Jenkins	X			Matthew Goodman	x		
	Patty Blake	x			Melanie Spall	x		
	Elizabeth Brobeck	x			Norah Antil	x		
	Stacey Ray	x						
	Matheu Weidenbach	X						
Decision: Motion passed								
Notes:								
• None								

Motion: To add the personnel consent item as a separate agenda item								
Made by: Matthew Goodman				Seconded by: Stacey Ray				
Discussion: N/A								
Vote:	Member	Yea	Nay	Abstain	Member	Yea	Nay	abstain
	Rasheda Jenkins	X			Matthew Goodman	x		
	Patty Blake	x			Melanie Spall	x		
	Elizabeth Brobeck	x			Norah Antil	x		
	Stacey Ray	x						
	Matheu Weidenbach	X						
Decision: Motion passed								
Notes:								
• None								

Motion: To approve the personnel consent item with the addition of Jonida Lund's working agreement under classified personnel employments								
Made by: Melanie Spall				Seconded by: Patty Blake				
Discussion: N/A								
Vote:	Member	Yea	Nay	Abstain	Member	Yea	Nay	abstain

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	Rasheda Jenkins	X			Matthew Goodman	x		
	Patty Blake	x			Melanie Spall	x		
	Elizabeth Brobeck	x			Norah Antil	X		
	Stacey Ray	x						
	Matheu Weidenbach	X						

Decision: Motion passed

Notes:

- None

VIII. Board Reports

a. Finance Committee

i. Enrollment report (informational)

Notes:

- Like past months, our enrollment is staying steady at 523
- We have had some applications and acceptations for the 25-26 school year this month, mainly in the upper (7-8) and lower (K-2) grades.
- Mr. Reeder's most recent check on the numbers compared to last year is that we currently have 40-50 more.
- Withdrawals are related to different SpEd programming needs and geographic concerns.
- Suggestion from Stacey Ray: A chart of trends for enrollment would be helpful for an annual ebb and flow of enrollment; Mr. Reeder believes this type of chart could be created in the summer by the office staff

ii. Review/Approve FY26 Budget

Motion: To approve FY 26 Budget

Made by: Melanie Spall

Seconded by: Stacey Ray

Discussion:

Vote:	Member	Yea	Nay	Abstain	Member	Yea	Nay	abstain
	Rasheda Jenkins	x			Matthew Goodman	x		
	Patty Blake	x			Melanie Spall	x		
	Elizabeth Brobeck	x			Norah Antil	X		
	Stacey Ray	x						
	Matheu Weidenbach	X						

Decision: Motion passed

Notes:

- Legislature has not yet passed an education bill – they are going to a special session. The budget presented does not have any cuts to Beacon as it relates to Governor's proposed cuts.
- The current FY 26 budget is conservative (estimation of 504 students) and has a 2.74 percent increase to the general education formula
- Bridget Peterson has heard that Title 1/SPED federal funding are currently safe; however, Title 2 funding may be on the chopping block.
- There is about 100k revenue increase from FY 25, while there are minimal/flat changes with food service funds.
- Expenses for FY 26 are straightforward, with a TRA percent increase (8.75 to 9.5) and MN Paid Family Leave increase (FY 26 is 16k for a half year)
- The expenses include the changes to Beacon's salary schedule. Sub costs have been shifted due to hiring of full-time employees. Additionally, transportation costs have dropped, as we are consolidating routes in FY 26.
- Curriculum typically gets \$50k, but there is an increase in textbooks and workbooks because technology costs will be less.
- The FY 26 Debt Service Coverage Ratio will be 1.31
- The budget has a 5-year forecast, as it is needed for our investor. Some assumptions needed to be made for future years, but the fund balance continues to grow, as does the Debt Service Coverage Ratio.

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iii. Review/Approve April Financial Report

Motion:	To approve the April Financial Report							
Made by:	Elizabeth Brobeck				Seconded by: Rasheda Jenkins			
Discussion:								
Vote:	Member	Yea	Nay	Abstain	Member	Yea	Nay	abstain
	Rasheda Jenkins	x			Matthew Goodman	x		
	Patty Blake	x			Melanie Spall	x		
	Elizabeth Brobeck	x			Norah Antil	X		
	Stacey Ray	x						
	Matheu Weidenbach	X						
Decision:	Motion passed							

- Notes:**
- Cash balance at the end of the month: \$1,813,600
 - \$202,744 additional to the fund balance – state receivable (10% holdback from the prior school year)
 - Budgeted ADM: 520/Actual ADM – 518 with 83% of the fiscal year completed
 - YTD revenue at 84%, while YTD expenses at 77%
 - Projected Ending Fund Balance – 21%
 - Cash Flow – estimated June 30th balance is \$2,009,999 and Days Cash on Hand – 87
 - Projected Debt Service Coverage Ratio – 1.19 (required is 1.10)
 - Projected Days Cash on Hand – 87 (required is 60)

iv. April 2025 Supplemental Report – Check Register (informational)

- Notes:**
- Legal Fees – for immigration/visa purposes
 - After School Activities reimbursement for Ice Fishing Club – Discussion on funding for school activities, fees for clubs, create policies and procedures

b. Board Chair, Matheu Weidenbach
 i. Mission statement

- Notes:**
- Goal is to refresh our mission statement – we have previously determined key words
 - Mission Statement: Defines what an organization does – answers questions like what we do, who we serve, and how we serve them
 - Three mission statement samples were created – the board considered editing: Providing a rigorous and equitable education, we install empathy, collaboration, and resilience, empowering our community to achieve excellence and embrace lifelong success.
 - A decision was needed to determine which statement to use – new or old
 - Ultimately, the board chose to merge multiple samples, old and new – building on the original using phrases from the new examples.
 - An aspect of the original mission that the board agreed was important included: “small learning community build around a culture of positive character development and committed parental involvement.”
 - Include “inclusive” in the wording
 - Consider changing “committed parental involvement” to “committed to family involvement.”
 - Final Draft: Beacon Academy fosters a results-driven small learning community supported by family involvement. Our school is rooted in a culture of positive character development that provides students with a proven, rigorous, and content-rich curriculum.

ii. Strategic Planning

- Notes:**
- The five categories for the strategic plan are Student Success, Fiscal Responsibility, People and Culture, Governance, and Operational Excellence
 - Top 1-2 Objectives:

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- Student Success: Increase student assessment scores, improving student behavior
- Fiscal Responsibility: Maintain a strong financial position and adherence to all bond covenants, build financial reserves to reinvest in the school
- People and Culture: Improve community engagement, staff onboarding and retention
- Governance: Improve governance structures and practices
- Operational Excellence: Optimizing organizational structure
- For the next meeting, the board is tasked with determining initiatives (1-5 year strategic plan)

Motion: To approve updating the agenda to approve the mission statement								
Made by: Matthew Goodman				Seconded by: Rasheda Jenkins				
Discussion:								
Vote:	Member	Yea	Nay	Abstain	Member	Yea	Nay	abstain
	Rasheda Jenkins	x			Matthew Goodman	x		
	Patty Blake	x			Melanie Spall	x		
	Elizabeth Brobeck	x			Norah Antil	X		
	Stacey Ray	x						
	Matheu Weidenbach	X						
Decision: Motion passed								
Notes:								
● None								

Motion: To approve the following mission statement: Beacon Academy fosters a results-driven small learning community supported by family involvement. Our school is rooted in a culture of positive character development that provides students with a proven, rigorous, and content-rich curriculum.								
Made by: Elizabeth Brobeck				Seconded by: Patty Blake				
Discussion:								
Vote:	Member	Yea	Nay	Abstain	Member	Yea	Nay	abstain
	Rasheda Jenkins	x			Matthew Goodman	x		
	Patty Blake	x			Melanie Spall	x		
	Elizabeth Brobeck	x			Norah Antil	X		
	Stacey Ray	x						
	Matheu Weidenbach	X						
Decision: Motion passed								
Notes:								
● None								

- c. Principal, Mike Reeder
 - i. Authorizer Update- Mid-Year Report Follow-Up (informational)

Notes:
● The Kindergarten academic data from fall to winter was a mismeasure and IQS received updated information. Updates to their report will be delivered at the July board meeting.

- ii. Staffing report (informational)

Notes:
● Beacon hired an HR professional who will start on June 2 nd
● A SPED middle school teacher was hired recently – he has experience in charter and traditional districts

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- An EL teacher was also hired in May.
- There was recently a strong interview for another SPED candidate with other interviews coming up in the next week. The candidates have backgrounds in SPED and SPED licensures.
- Two positions that have been offered (but we are waiting to finalize) are for Food Services Coordinator and School Counselor

iii. Student Support Services/CEIS Report (informational)

Notes:

- 15% of SPED budget can be used for CEIS – This year, counselor, Steph Cramer, has worked with groups of students to work on various skills such as self-management, preparedness, and management of a school day.
- CEIS is another way to catch students before additional concerns come to the forefront
- 6th, 7th, and 8th grades make up the highest percentages of groups
- Groups were graduated out of the program in Trimester 2.

d. Employee Retention and Compensation Committee

i. Review/Approve BA+ Steps

Motion: To approve the Licensed Staff pay scale, Option 1, as presented by ERCC

Made by: Melanie Spall

Seconded by: Stacey Ray

Discussion:

Vote:	Member	Yea	Nay	Abstain	Member	Yea	Nay	abstain
	Rasheda Jenkins	x			Matthew Goodman	x		
	Patty Blake	x			Melanie Spall	x		
	Elizabeth Brobeck	x			Norah Antil	X		
	Stacey Ray	x						
	Matheu Weidenbach	X						

Decision: Motion Passes

Notes:

- Option 1 from an optics perspective, shows that Beacon is more comparable to other districts and is more attractive to potential employees
- Option 1 is simple; in that it is 2% down for the middle lane from Step 1. However, ERCC can adjust the scales aesthetically for either option.

e. Marketing Committee

i. Summer Events (informational)

Notes:

- Summer Events include marketing for Robbinsdale Little League, Crystal Frolics and Night to Unite. We will not be participating in Wiz Bang Days – part of that is due to lack of staff participation.
- Volunteer events (dates) need to be communicated more clearly. Ideas include calendar invites and separate emails about volunteering for events.
- For visibility purposes, name tags would be helpful and would advertise the School Board. Name Tags are created and ready to be picked up.
- The new website is ready to be implemented. There will be continued changes, updates, and refreshes. Any website questions should be sent to Mr. Reeder so that he can reach out and meet with Digital Fruit.

f. Curriculum Committee

i. Review/Approve K-5 Literacy Curriculum

Motion: To approve the McGraw Hill K-5 Literacy Curriculum as presented by the board, including the professional development costs

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Made by: Matthew Goodman		Seconded by: Melanie Spall						
Discussion:								
Vote:	Member	Yea	Nay	Abstain	Member	Yea	Nay	abstain
	Rasheda Jenkins	x			Matthew Goodman	x		
	Patty Blake	x			Melanie Spall	x		
	Elizabeth Brobeck	x			Norah Antil	X		
	Stacey Ray	x						
	Matheu Weidenbach	X						
Decision: Motion passed								
Notes:								
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The cost has decreased due to our McGraw-Hill rep and Committee Chair, Kris Gapinski – thank you to both. The curriculum is comprehensive and designed to appropriately meet the needs of K-2 (Open Court) and 3-5 (Wonders) 								

- g. Governance Committee
 - i. Review/Approve Election Results

Motion: To review/approve election results								
Made by: Rasheda Jenkins		Seconded by: Melanie Spall						
Discussion:								
Vote:	Member	Yea	Nay	Abstain	Member	Yea	Nay	abstain
	Rasheda Jenkins		X		Matthew Goodman		X	
	Patty Blake		X		Melanie Spall		X	
	Elizabeth Brobeck		X		Norah Antil		X	
	Stacey Ray		X					
	Matheu Weidenbach		X					
Decision: Motion fails								
Notes:								
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two adults in the same household were unable to both vote – this issue was not resolved. This could have impacted election results. The board must look into this issue of the community being unable to vote – in order to verify results, the Board agreed to not approve the motion. Next steps will be communicated to the community once the issue is fully understood and resolved. 								

- ii. By-Laws 1st Read/Review (informational)

Notes:								
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Items that are not incorporated will go back to Governance – an updated version will come to the board in June. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o The bylaws do not currently say that all eligible voters include the board, including the o Presence in meetings – open meeting law/following MN state statutes o Board training should refer to MN state statute o Officer section needs to have term limits indicated o Anywhere it says Chief Executive Officer should be changed to Key Administrator o Article 4 Section 3, Nomination Process: The window of time should be widened to 90 Days Change Made: Filling Officer Positions – Require the president and vice president to be 1:1 (one teacher, one parent/community member), and treasurer and secretary 1:1 (one teacher, one parent/community member) Suggestion from IQS – changing term limits to ensure too much of the board is not new at any given time (Board decision to determine limits at annual meeting) 								

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h. Executive Committee

i. Review/Approve Principal's Performance Review

Motion: To approve principal's performance review								
Made by: Matthew Goodman				Seconded by: Melanie Spall				
Discussion:								
Vote:	Member	Yea	Nay	Abstain	Member	Yea	Nay	abstain
	Rasheda Jenkins	x			Matthew Goodman	x		
	Patty Blake	x			Melanie Spall	x		
	Elizabeth Brobeck	x			Norah Antil	X		
	Stacey Ray	x						
	Matheu Weidenbach	X						
Decision: Motion passed								

Notes:								
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Academic growth: MCA testing – Succeeded and surpassed 2% in reading, work is needed in Middle School math, and science results are not available as it is a new test. The actions taken with MCA reading testing improvements were successful. Measurement of Character Ed: Assemblies, expectations taught in class – FastBridge measures SEL results. Character Education is a pillar of Beacon so needs to be emphasized. Positive Climate: 90% Retention Healthy Financial Status: Salary increases approved – accomplished The recommendation as the Executive Committee is to improve Principal's working agreement. 								

ii. Review/Approve Principal's Working Agreement

Motion: To approve extending the principal's working agreement, pending the document next month								
Made by: Elizabeth Brobeck				Seconded by: Patty Blake				
Discussion:								
Vote:	Member	Yea	Nay	Abstain	Member	Yea	Nay	abstain
	Rasheda Jenkins	x			Matthew Goodman	x		
	Patty Blake	x			Melanie Spall	x		
	Elizabeth Brobeck	x			Norah Antil	x		
	Stacey Ray	x						
	Matheu Weidenbach	X						
Decision: Motion passed								

Notes:								
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is not a working agreement, so it'll need to be voted on in June. 								

iii. Charter Board Performance Assessment (informational)

Notes:								
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Required by IQS This is part of Beacon's annual report Homework for board members: review the assessment, look at Board Chair's initial ratings – over the coming months, the board will complete the development plan 								

j. Action items

Notes:								
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None 								

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IX. Adjournment

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Motion to adjourn at 9:03 pm forwarded by Rasheda Jenkins seconded by Elizabeth Brobeck. Approved unanimously.
 Meeting adjourned

Motion: To adjourn meeting								
Made by: Rasheda Jenkins				Seconded by: Elizabeth Brobeck				
Discussion:								
Vote:	Member	Yea	Nay	Abstain	Member	Yea	Nay	abstain
	Rasheda Jenkins	x			Matthew Goodman	x		
	Patty Blake	x			Melanie Spall	x		
	Elizabeth Brobeck	x			Norah Antil	X		
	Stacey Ray	x						
	Matheu Weidenbach	X						
Decision: Motion passed								
Notes:								
• none								

Next Regular Meeting: June 12, 2025 at 5:30 pm

Approved on June 12, 2025
Elizabeth Brobeck, Secretary
Beacon Academy School Board