

**Bluesky Charter School  
Board of Directors- Minutes  
March 22, 2007-9 a.m.**

**In Attendance**

Jayne Torma	Chair
Josh Ashton	Vice-Chair
Jennifer Knutson	Secretary
Renee Parcheta	Treasure

**Guests**

Christopher Umidha SBS  
Tom Ellis  
Mary Swingle-Assistant Director  
Amanda Furth-  
Eleanor Groby  
Kathy Taylor

**Meeting called to order at 9:05 a.m.**

**Approval of Agenda**

Tom Ellis asked that these items be added to the agenda 1a- Public Comment, 3a- In house Finance Person-SBS Contract, 9a- Growth Committee, 9b- Hiring an Attorney.  
Kathy Taylor asked that these items be added to the agenda 11a- Vantage for communicating free on the computer, and # 13 On line parent support group.  
Renee Parcheta asked that item #14 Policy for graduation be added to the agenda

Motion by Renee Parcheta, Second by Josh Ashton to approve the changes to the agenda 4-0

1. Web page will have unapproved minutes. Secretary will send to Anna to post, will approve special meeting minutes at next meeting.

Motion by Josh Ashton, Second by Renee Parcheta to approve the minutes of February 27<sup>th</sup> meeting. 4-0

1a. No public comment

2. Kathy Taylor appointed to the board to fill Ben MacPearson seat who has resigned

Motion by Renee Parcheta Second by Josh Ashton to approve the appointment of Kathy Taylor to finish Ben MacPearson's term on Bluesky Board of Directors. 4- 0

Tom will send out a thank you to Ben MacPearson for serving on the board.

3. Christopher Umidha present to go over month-end finance sheets, revised budget and discussion about budget being figured on 300 ADM, but actually be closer to 400 ADM. Budget hard with growth and not being constant as traditional schools are.

Motion by Josh Ashton, Second by Renee Parcheta to accept financial reports 5 – 0

3a. Tom addressed hiring an in-house Finance Person. SBS has raised their fee for next year to 48,000 and we are paying Paychex around 500 a month which goes up the more employees we have. Tom has interview 2 people for the position and found both to be qualified, but one had previous school finance and is willing to take the position for \$50,000. At this time we would keep SBS thru June 30 to finish the existing contract and Tom has spoken to them about this and they are also willing to help with the transition, and will to help with consulting services.

Motion by Kathy Taylor, Second by Renee Parcheta to notify SBS that we will not be renewing the contract for 2007-2008 school year 5/0

Tom will draft letter to SBS to inform them.

4. Mary presented 2007-2008 school calendar, with 167 student contact days 180 teacher days which include 13 staff development days, which 3 are home base student contact days for June, July, August and 3 retreat days for retreat in August.

Motion by Jennifer Knutson, Second by Renee Parcheta to accept the presented 2007-2008 school calendar. Passed Unanimously. 5/0

5. Contracts for office staff, administrative staff, teaching staff including counselors and social workers were presented. Discussion consisted of goals to improve education for at risk kids which is a large number of our students and how to improve and keep staff not to have a turnover of staff. A generalist has been hired to help like a substitute for staff leaves and family leave if necessary. We have outgrown the small group medical since we have reached the #50 employees, and this will be getting looked at when renewal time come up this fall.

Motion by Jennifer Knutson Second by Kathy Taylor to approve the office staff, teaching staff, and administrative staff as presented. Passed Unanimously Anyone wishing for more information on the contracts contact Bluesky School at 33 Wentworth Ave East, Suite 300, West St Paul, MN 55118

6. Evaluation and approval of Directors contract. Tom left during the discussion. The administrative evaluation was discussed from the forms that were mailed and a final one with all the overall views was drafted.

Motion by Renee Parcheta, Second by Kathy Taylor to approve final evaluation that was drafted. Passed Unanimously. 5/0 Anyone wishing for more information on the evaluation contact Bluesky School.

Approval of Directors Salary. Tom gone during this discussion. Toms present salary is \$78,000.00 and this is found to be low for his job duties. Salary range for his job is \$110,000 and \$130,000. Discussion to find a salary in the mid range.

Motion by Kathy Taylor, Second by Renee Parcheta to approve the contract and salary of Tom Ellis at \$115,000.00 annually, retroactive to July 1, 2006 to July 1, 2008. Unanimously approved 5/0

7. Discussion of staff, recommended Mary Swingle \$80,000, Amanda Furth at \$70,000 retroactive as of March 1, 2007. Cindy Baer has been dismissed. Much documentation has been done and is on file. Cindy as asked to resign instead of being dismissed.

Motion by Josh Ashton, Second by Jennifer Knutson to approve the salary increase for Mary Swingle annually \$80,000 and Amanda Furth annually \$70,000 retro-active to March 1, 2007. Passed Unanimously 5/0

Discussed Chris Kerno being hired as of April 16, 2007 as Director of Student Services, as well as looking over the list of all staff and salaries.

Motion by Josh Ashton, second by Kathy Taylor to approve the date of hire, assignments, and salaries of all staff presented. Any one wishing to receive or see additional information contact Bluesky School, 33 Wentworth Ave East, Suite 300, West St Paul, Mn 55118

8. Board and Administration retreat is scheduled for April 11 and 12. Develop communication skills, insight, and team work. Possibly do a follow-up with total staff at August Retreat,

Motion by Renee Parcheta, Second by Jennifer Knutson to do Phase I of the retreat with Board and Administration and consider for All Staff Retreat in August. Passed Unanimously 5/0

11. Technology Update-by Mary Swingle, Marco is monitoring Bluesky 24 hours. Will be working Web Page update and rebuilding.

Brought up to increase Eleanor Groby salary to \$20 an hour.

Motion by Renee Parcheta, Second by Jennifer Knutson to raise Eleanor Groby Salary to \$20.00 per hour. Passed Unanimously 5/0

9. Discussion of preliminary budget and enrollment projections for 07-08. Setting up a budget for 07-08 got 1000 students as of 12/07. Presently have staff for 750 students. The 06-07 budget as 400 student ADM. We need to identify resources for student growth. Question to think about is how big we would like to become. Josh Ashton of the Board is on the Long Range Planning Committee.

10. Curriculum update given by Amanda Furth- All Bluesky courses are within Grad Standards, going to consider doing a 6 year planning with grade 7 students. Looking at many online learning materials from different venders. Testing dates are coming up again.

12. Directors Report given by Tom Ellis. Tom and Mary have been at the Capital discussing on line learning and Bluesky School. Meeting with Karen Johnson and Glory Kibbel from the MN Department of Education. Discussion about budgeting money in our budget for Attorney fees for necessary issues. Heidi Christianson name was brought up to use as she is familiar with Charter Schools. Meeting with Bob Wedl and Keith Lester about renewing Sponsor Contract.

Motion by Kathy Taylor, Second by Renee Parchetta to have \$5000.00 in Budget for Attorney Fees if necessary. Passed Unanimously 5/0

13. Kathy Taylor brought up to download Vantage to talk free over the computer and to possibly get a 800 number to be used. This is to be referred to Technology Committee. Also she is interested in starting a support group to exchange information with other parents this was also referred to Technology.

14. Renee Parcheta brought to the boards attention issues to waive requirements that are not acceptable by their culture. A policy was discussed.

Motion by Josh Ashton, Second by Jennifer Knutson that Bluesky board approves the waiving of graduation requirements in opposition to religious and /or political beliefs that can be demonstrated and verified of the student involved, and strongly encourages course and/or experiences in lieu thereof. Passed Unanimously. 5/0

Went around the table to discuss how everyone felt the meeting went. The consensus was the meeting went well, lots covered, and the board is moving forward and has come a long way, with communication and trust.

Next meeting Tuesday April 24<sup>th</sup>, 2-4 pm

Motioned by Kathy Taylor, Second by Renee Parcheta to adjourn at 12:40 pm