

**BlueSky Charter School
Board of Directors-Minutes
April 24, 2007**

Board Members In Attendance

Jlayne Torma	Chair
Josh Ashton	Vice-Chair
Jennifer Knutson	Secretary
Renee Parcheta	Treasurer
Kathy Taylor	

Guests

Christopher Umidha	SBS
Tom Ellis	Director
Mary Swingle	Assistant Director
Jerry Stelberger	
Chris Kerno	
Andrea Swanson	
Amanda Furth	
Eleanor Groby	
Greg Nelson	
Eric Thronson	

Meeting called to order at 2:00 p.m.

Approval of Agenda

Tom Ellis asked that a type-o of the date on Agenda for last months meeting to be corrected to March 22nd. Item # 14 to be moved to 5A. MDA letter update to be added, #17A. Contract with Bob Waedl to be added as #17B. #18 be 5B. Add 13A as a Vision Steering Committee. Change on teachers contract that was passed at last meeting to define paid time off and add personal day. Kathy Taylor asked for #15A to be added about Summer School Charge.

1. Motioned by Jennifer Knutson, Second by Renee Parcheta to approve the changes to the agenda 5/0
2. No Public Input
3. Tom addressed the paid time off with Teacher Contracts to be for funerals, medical appointments, etc and to amend the contract to add 1 personal day per year which are non accumulative. Motioned by Josh Ashton second by Kathy Taylor to approve the March 24th minutes with the amendment to teacher contracts 5/0
4. Motion by Josh Ashton, second by Jennifer Knutson to approve special Board Meeting minutes of January 18, 2007 5/0

5. Christopher Umidha discussed the present budget and went over the March financial reports. BlueSky will receive the additional ADM payments in the fall for adjustments from the 300 that are presently being reported to the 400 + that will be reported. Motion by Josh Ashton, second by Kathy Taylor to accept the March financial report. 5/0

5A. (#14) Tom introduced Jerry Stalberger as new staff that will be taking over BlueSky finance. He will be using the Smart system that SBS is presently using also. He has school background and has used the Smart program in the past. Jerry introduced Greg Nelson and Eric Thronson who spoke briefly to the board about a retirement plan that had been previously discussed with Tom Ellis and a committee about 403b retirement plan for all employees that they would automatically be enrolled taking 3% of the gross salary and BlueSky adding 2% unless the employee opted to decline. If employee opted to decline enrollment then BlueSky would not give the 2% either. The employee would be fully vested immediately. A 457b deferred comp plan was also briefly discussed that possibly some of the administrative staff would qualify for. Josh Ashton motioned for BlueSky School to begin participation with the presented retirement plan as of July 1, second by Renee Parcheta. 5/0

5B.(18) Tom presented a rough budget for 2007-2008. In 2005 BlueSky had 50 ADMs, 2006 BlueSky had 150 ADMs and 2007 BlueSky had 450 ADMs. This shows a growth each year 300%. The rough budget has expenses at \$6,842,000 and this has BlueSky with total of 70 employees. BlueSky does have CDs for reserve funding if necessary if the student ADMs are not reached. The June meeting will go into budgeting more in detail with numbers.

6. The MACS course 4 Financial Workshop is May 8th from 5-7:30 pm. Jlayne Torma, Renee Parcheta, Josh Ashton plan to attend.

7. Jlayne presented having more parental Involvement and possibly having a larger board with more parent members. The present bylaws state majority of teachers on the board. The next election will be in a year and a half and the maximum board members of 10, which would mean at least 6 teachers. Student Service Director Chris Kerno will be in contact with Kathy Taylor to talk more about Parental Involvement emailing parents for parent networking, support groups, PTO group, etc. Mary Swingle will incorporate Parent Survey and communicate with Chris and Kathy.

8. Jlayne Torma and Amanda Furth discussed Board Makeup and the amendment process of bylaws. The present bylaw section 3.2 composition is: The Board shall consist of five Directors, the majority of which are licensed teachers employed by BlueSky School. The remaining members will be stakeholders defined as parents and guardians of currently enrolled students; non-licensed employees of BlueSky Charter School; and any other person who demonstrates support to the mission, values and goals of BlueSky Charter School. Motion by Josh Ashton, second by Kathy Taylor to amend the bylaw to read

“The Board shall consist of five Directors, the majority of which are licensed or non-licensed teaching employees of BlueSky Charter School. Motion by Josh Ashton, second by Kathy Taylor 5/0

9. Amanda Furth discussed process of selection of future board members and the board decided to come up with a board development committee of 10-12 to bring a list of candidates to the next meeting.

10. Jayne Tormas and Amanda Furth discussed the Admin retreat. Kathy Taylor was unable to attend do to illness. All felt the retreat went very well.

11. The workshop that was also incorporated with the retreat was very interesting as it was with other schools and lots of budget issues. Tom pointed out to the group the Charter School only have 2% of the overall students, so that Charter Schools should not be a overall threat to school districts.

12. Tom Ellis brought to the attention of the board of new employees and asked for approved as stated on the agenda. Motion by Kathy Taylor , 2nd by Renee Parcheta to accept the contracts and salaries that have been proposed to them. 5/0
Josh Ashton brought up the general turnover of the staff and BlueSky has a very small staff turnover ratio compared to other Charter Schools. When an employee is dismissed a process of phone calls, emails, face to face discussions are held, so the employee is aware that there is an issue with work performance.

Jennifer Knutson asked to leave the meeting for prior commitment.

13. Tom introduced Chris Kerno and Chris went over some of the services that Student Services will provide. He is bringing lots of skills to BlueSky School. He will be overseeing the counselors, special ed, student records etc. The student service department will provide service to students from enrollment to graduation, providing needs to students and families. Chris asked to renew the contract with Special Ed Contract at \$5,500 a year. Motion by Renee Parcheta 2nd by Kathy Taylor to renew Minnesota Special Ed Project Contract 4/0

13A. Vision Steering Committee was discussed spring of 2006 and has been on the back burner. Motion by Josh Ashton, 2nd by Renee Parcheta to set up a committee of employee volunteers that would be interested being a part of the Vision Steering Committee 4/0 Renee Parchetta, Jayne Torma, Chris Kerno, Andrea Swanson, and Tom Ellis volunteered to be part of the committee. The staff will be e-mailed and a committee meeting will be held following the staff meeting on Wednesday May 2.

15. Mary reported on student testing and Sarah McFarland is doing a great job. Additional BST test will be given in July at office. Retake MCA's are being given this week and next. Two, 3 week summer school programs will be run for one credit each, one in June and one in July. The cost is \$250 for non BlueSky students and \$125 for BlueSky students. For BlueSky seniors the 1st credit is free and the 2nd credit will cost \$125. Discussion of the advantages of Student Services for Special Ed. TIES-Transcript discussion and all is going quite well. Course lists are available. Working on registration for the coming year. Task force started in Student Services to put together a process. A student Survey is started and will start in Amanda's home base. Kathy Taylor has offered to help Mary put together a Parent and Staff Survey.

15A. Kathy Taylor inquired about summer school cost and the reason we charge –we are not a year around school.

16. Graduation day correction-Wednesday May 16 at Harriet Island at 7:30 pm for Metro Area Graduation. Saturday May 19th Graduation at International Falls. Jlayne Torma, Gabra Lokken, Suzie Bordeau, Josh Ashton, and Tom Ellis will attend International Falls.

17. BlueSky discussion on position for OLL students for next year. Department of Education Meeting and department letter discussion. Proposal to hire Bob Waedl and set up meeting with the Department of Education. Bob Waedl continues to write and renew contracts as part of the Charter review process. Motion by Josh Ashton 2nd by Renee Parcheta to hire Bob Waedl for a reasonable fee and invite Bob on a volunteer bases to attend meeting with Department of Education. 4/0 Tom will move forward with this.

Discussion of changing the board meeting to Thursdays at 10 a.m. to 12 noon in May. June meeting set for 10-12

Board Assessment of meeting was taken

Motion by Kathy Taylor, 2nd by Renee Parcheta to adjourn. 4/0