

## **BlueSky Charter School January 15 Board Minutes**

Meeting called to order at 10:10 am by Jlayne Torma

**Directors Present:** Josh Aston, Kathy Taylor, Renee Parcheta(10:20), Jlayne Torma.

**Directors Absent:** Jennifer Knutson

**Others Present:** Adm. Tom Ellis, Jerry Stalberger, Jeffery Schulz, Dennis Perry, Deb Zepeda, and Melissa Lahr.

(All motions unanimous unless otherwise indicated).

Dennis Perry, Registrar, informed the board that Amber Biehn, a BlueSky graduating senior, had received a \$40,000 scholarship from St. Mary's University. Amber is also a candidate for St. Mary's Honors Program.

**Motion by Josh Ashton, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Kathy Taylor, to approve the agenda.**

**Public Input:** Jeffrey Schulz updated the board on area learning center issues. No action taken at this time.

**Motion Josh Aston, 2<sup>nd</sup> Renee Parcheta to approve the Dec. 2007 minutes as presented.**

**Audit Report:** Melissa Lahr from MMKR auditing firm presented the 2006-07 audit and financial notes to the board. She explained that BlueSky received an unqualified opinion, which is good. There were also no findings in regards to compliance. So it was a 'clean' audit. BlueSky's fund balance had increased 103% from last year, due primarily to the huge increase in ADMs, and conservative budgeting. However, BlueSky had greatly increased its staff over the summer and fall of 2007, which will show up as expenses in the next year's audit. Copies of the audit have been provided to the Minnesota Department of Education, and the Minnesota Auditor.

**Moved by Kathy Taylor, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Renee Parcheta to accept the audit as presented.**

**Finance Report:** Jerry Stalberger presented January's financial report. He explained that the finance staff are currently reviewing and updating the budget for board approval with the revised ADMs of 700. BlueSky is now receiving regular, twice a month payments from the state, and cash flow projections show that BlueSky's general education fund is growing slowly each month.

**BlueSky received the 2008 finance award from the Finance Department of the Minnesota Dept. of Education for the 2<sup>nd</sup> year in a row.**

**Moved by Renee Parcheta, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Josh Ashton to accept the financial report and pay bills in the amount of \$217,526.62.**

**Family Medical Leave Act:** Renee Parcheta updated the board on the process of reviewing the family medical leave act at BlueSky. Staff input has been solicited, and many good ideas and suggestions are coming forth. An attempt is being made to budget for any contributions BlueSky may make in this area. A formal proposal will be brought to the board in the near future for action.

**Professional Development Reimbursement:** Jeffrey Schulz updated the board on the committee work to develop a process to review and approve professional development plans involving tuition reimbursements. This is needed since some plans are several thousand dollars, and BlueSky has agreed to reimburse staff for up to one-half of the cost of such plans provided they benefit BlueSky and/or BlueSky students. Good discussions are taking place, and staff are providing good input. Once a plan is firmly developed, it will be brought to the board for formal approval.

**Contracts Approved:** Kyra Kirk, Social Science at \$47,500 with a start date of 1/15/08 and Laura Welciek, Math at \$35,000 with a start date of 1/1/08, both prorated from a 180 day contract.

**Moved Josh Ashton, 2<sup>nd</sup> Kathy Taylor to approve the contracts.**

**Special Consideration for students:** Tom Ellis reminded the board that they had approved discontinuing accepting students that do not enroll in BlueSky, with possible unusual circumstances exceptions. Two students, one desiring to take a math course, and one desiring to take 3 academic courses, were discussed and tacit approval given by the board provided financial arrangements could be made directly with the schools of enrollment.

**Student Services Update:** Renee Parcheta updated the board on student services. BlueSky is planning on being a presenter at the MAAPS conference in conjunction with ECLASS/ECOLLEGE. In addition, the counselors held a meeting Monday Jan. 14 to review the work of the counseling department as a whole, and as individuals. The idea of counselors being generalists, ie-involved in many different things, is still being followed.

**Graduation Update:** Deb Zepeda and Nely Duran are coordinating the graduation ceremonies to be held Feb. 7 at Harriet Island. About 40 seniors are expected to graduate.

**Adjourn:** Motion by Kathy Taylor 2<sup>nd</sup> by Renee Parcheta to adjourn.