

BlueSky Charter School
Annual Board Meeting
Wednesday, December 20, 2023
2:00pm

BlueSky School Board commits to Student Centered Decision making and improving the culture of the district by focusing on the following goals; finance, strategic planning, internal Board operations, and district planning.

BlueSky Vision: *BlueSky is defining education for the 21st century by creating an individualized, dynamic education for all students. We are committed to empowering our community by facilitating relevant learning, skills, hopes and relationships.*

BlueSky Mission: *Bringing quality online education and diverse learners together.*

Public can watch/listen to the meeting by joining:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/632473021>

Password: **flexible**

Meeting ID: 632 473 021

One tap mobile

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1. Call to Order at 2:05 pm

2. Roll Call

Allen Charles, Seat A: Community Member 2023-2025 - present

Matthew Schempp, Seat B: Vice Chair, Teacher Member 2023-2025 - absent

Sandra Meinerts, Seat C: Required Parent Member 2022-2024 -

Heidi Kelbel, Seat D: Teacher Member 2022-2024 - present

Judy Pekarek, Treasurer, Seat E: Community member 2023-2025 - present

Julie Johnson, Secretary, Seat F: Required Teacher member 2022-2024 - present

Jim Stocco, Chair Seat G: Required Community Member 2022-2024 - present

3. Notice of Any Conflict of Interest

none

4. Approval of Agenda

Pekarek/Kelbel

Allen Charles, yes

Heidi Kelbel, yes

Judy Pekarek, yes

Julie Johnson, yes

Jim Stocco, yes

5-0

Motion passes

5. Approval of Previous Board Minutes

5.1 Action - Approve [board meeting minutes, November 29, 2023](#)

Kelbel/Pekarek

Allen Charles, yes

Heidi Kelbel, yes

Judy Pekarek, yes

Julie Johnson, yes

Jim Stocco, yes

5-0

Motion passes

6. Filing of [Finance Claims](#) - EdFin, Scott Brown

We are 42% of the budget year complete with 39% of revenue received and 43% of expenses spent. Investments are now listed under Assets on the balance sheet. Quarter end statements will be shared next month. Expense sheet now shows the payroll protection plan stipend under salaries and benefits which make our budget skewed at a high 98.8%. Brown spoke with auditors who usually attend the December board meeting but they are behind and are working hard to meet the Dec. 31st deadline. Hopefully they will be prepared to share audit results at the January meeting.

Kelbel/Johnson

Allen Charles, yes

Heidi Kelbel, yes

Judy Pekarek, yes

Julie Johnson, yes

Jim Stocco, yes

5-0

Motion passes

7. Reports

7.1 Information- [Finance Committee](#) – Pekarek

Nothing to add from Brown's financial statement report other than two new EA's FTE 1.0 were hired after one resigned. Through discussions related to support needs (intervention, study hall, Back on Track, and SPED resource room) we found that we were needing a significant increase in student support. This added position fills a partial gap from the beginning of the year (we did not have as many EA FTE's as we did last school year) and fills needs in added student counts to programs like Back on Track and 9th grade study hall. The financial impact to the budget will be very minimal as the position will be paid with grant funds and special education funds.

7.2 Information- [Curriculum Committee](#) – Ondich

A well rounded discussion was had with some concerns related to moving forward with adding 5th grade. Additional information was provided to the committee, however, no decision or consensus was made. It will be brought up again at next month's curriculum committee meeting. ASL 3 is on hold, looking to update ASL 1 and 2 and middle school intro to ASL course. Updating behind the music 7 with a more american theme - called American Melodies.

Tabled discussion on ethnic studies.

7.3 Information- [HR Committee](#) – Egner

HR committee's conversation regarding comparable data for salaries from other districts. Every three years we review steps and lanes and this is the year to review. Brown will be reporting back to the HR committee with data related to percentage of budget spent on salaries and dollar amount per student spent on staffing which should help provide comparable data for the committee to review. Creating practices to recruit highly qualified staff and retain staff. Review and update the staff handbook to reflect best practices within BlueSky regarding employment issues. Possibly getting rid of PHD lane and cap off at Masters +60.

Benefit enrollment reflection - not much feedback but overall went well.

Education assistance - we hired 2 new EA's. Fully staffed with the addition of Xavier and Sheila. Next meeting is January 15, 2024.

7.4 Information- Director's Report – Larsen

Enrollment update - still doing well budget is 580 ADM, cap is 615 students and we are at our cap. 6th grade has some room but all other grades are waitlisted. Supplemental program has some eb and flow but still going strong. Submissions due for fall enrollment numbers were submitted Dec. 14. All reports are updated from the state. FRL count and SPED numbers and our projected ADM numbers and American Indian education. We will get American Indian aid next year due to the number of American Indians enrolled. Free and Reduced Lunch is 43% which is a lot higher than we anticipated. Signed work order for school website update. Update about 5th and 6th grade discussion - a decision needs to be made at some point this year to know the direction we should take.

7.5 Information- Student Activity/Updates – Miner

Clubs are performing really well. We decided to change the nature club because of the weather. Several students are interested in chess club so we will put something out and see about that for 2nd semester. The ESports fall season just ended. Valorant placed 3rd. Fortnite is #1 out of 41 teams and is going to State! This will be held at the Mall of America. Spring season starts right after. Looking for students to give commentary while watching. Even if they are not into video games, maybe communication is an area of interest for a major. Looking into a planetary trip in January. Valentine party in Feb. and March the 3D lab from St. Cloud will make a cell phone case. The case will be mailed to them after they design it. No plans for a field trip in April due to MCA testing. May is prom and middle school day. Graduation is June 8th at St Paul College will wrap up the year.

7.6 Information- Assessment Updates/ [IQS Goal Progress](#) - Ondich

Attendance is consistent with last month. Overall attendance took a dip with all grades going down.

7.7 Information - [Student Services Report](#) - Parker/Kasowicz

Mentor program - provided surveys to staff and here are the results and actions steps. New Hire Orientation from new staff. Mixed results on that. Mentor training = solid results on that and what we can do better. Relationship building - our new staff feel very supported by mentors. Time and scheduling - mentors and mentees are able to find time to meet and feel supported. Resource and tools - what is it that new staff need to be successful and what do mentors need to support their roles. Looking to add more moodle training and give more mentor training for new and existing mentors.

Pekarek/Johnson

Allen Charles, yes
Heidi Kelbel, yes
Judy Pekarek, yes
Julie Johnson, yes
Jim Stocco, yes

5-0
Motion passes

8. Consent Items

8.1 Action - Approve hire of 1.0 Educational Assistant - [Sheila Pelowski](#)
8.2 Action - Approve hire of 1.0 Educational Assistant - [Xavier Ondich](#)
8.3 Action - Approve resignation of 1.0 Edu. Asst. - De Xiong

Kelbel/Pekarek

Allen Charles, yes
Heidi Kelbel, yes
Judy Pekarek, yes
Julie Johnson, yes
Jim Stocco, yes

5-0
Motion passes

9. Unfinished Business

9.1 Action -

10. New Business

10.1 Action - Approve revised [Bylaws](#)

Last year we had an observation from IQS asking that we include “change in governance structure” process to our bylaws. They also require that we include the type of board structure we currently have.

Kelbel/Pekarek

Allen Charles, yes
Heidi Kelbel, yes
Judy Pekarek, yes
Julie Johnson, yes
Jim Stocco, yes

5-0
Motion passes

10.2 Action - Approve revised [Policy 5.4.4 Student Discipline](#)

Have to review this policy annually. There is a lot of change in the legislation with discipline. XI:

removal of students from class we had to edit items C-K for what our practices are. Everything in red is our process. Pekarek asks if students are removed from class a lot and Ondich says it's more prevalent in the middle school level, but no, not often. Typically removal is due to inappropriate behavior.

Johnson/Pekarek

Allen Charles, yes
Heidi Kelbel, yes
Judy Pekarek, yes
Julie Johnson, yes
Jim Stocco, yes

5-0
Motion passes

10.3 Action - Approve revised [Policy 5.1.1 Admissions Policy with Lottery](#)

When we renewed our contract with IQS MDE had some comments about our process for enrollment. We had reference to a statute that charter schools do not need to follow. We removed the statute reference.

10.4 Action - Approve revised [Graduation Requirements](#) - updated to reflect personal finance requirement

Currently being taught as an elective but in 2025-26 it will be a requirement for graduation for next year's 9th graders to take when they are in 10th grade.

Kelbel/Pekarek

Allen Charles, yes
Heidi Kelbel, yes
Judy Pekarek, yes
Julie Johnson, yes
Jim Stocco, yes

5-0
Motion passes

11. Public Input

None

12. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 3:18pm

Pekarek/Johnson

Allen Charles, yes
Heidi Kelbel, yes
Judy Pekarek, yes

Julie Johnson, yes
Jim Stocco, yes

5-0
Motion passes

Future Meetings/Events Below:

January 31, 2024

February 28, 2024

March 20, 2024

April 24, 2024

May 29, 2024

June 26, 2024 - Annual Meeting

Other: Next Board Election: May 2024