

BlueSky Charter School  
2051 Killebrew Drive, Suite 500  
Bloomington, MN 55425  
Regular Board Meeting  
Wednesday, January 31, 2024  
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**

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**+13017158592,,632473021# US (Germantown)**

**1. Call to Order @ 2pm**

**2. Roll Call**

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

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

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

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

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

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

Jim Stocco, *Chair Seat G: Required Community Member 2022-2024 - present; (attended virtually due to vacation)*

**3. Notice of Any Conflict of Interest**

none

**4. Approval of Agenda**

**Kelbel/Johnson**

Allen Charles - aye

Matthew Schempp- aye

Heidi Kelbel - aye

Julie Johnson - aye

Jim Stocco - aye

**5-0 approved**

## **5. Approval of Previous Board Minutes**

5.1 Action - Approve [board meeting minutes, December 20, 2023](#)

Kelbel/Schempp motion to approve

Allen Charles - aye

Matthew Schempp - aye

Heidi Kelbel - aye

Julie Johnson - aye

Jim Stocco - aye

5-0 approved

## **6. FY23 Financial Audit**

6.1 Action - Presentation and approval of FY23 financial audit (MMKR, Bill Lauer)

[FY23 Financial Statements](#)

[FY23 Management Report](#)

Lauer reviewed the audit results which included one finding report - material weakness in internal control over financial reporting for Internal Control and Compliance; audit was submitted on time and was clean

FY23 594 ADM

Kelbel/Johnson motion to approve

Allen Charles - aye

Matthew Schempp - aye

Heidi Kelbel - aye

Julie Johnson - aye

Jim Stocco - aye

5-0 passes

## **7. Filing of Finance Claims** - EdFin, Scott Brown

The highlights from the income statement are:

Percent of fiscal year completed: 50%

YTD revenue as a percent of budget: 48%, based on estimated enrollment

YTD expenses as a percent of budget: 51p% as compared to prior month of 43%

Balance sheet: Cash account \$3.6 million

Supplies and budget - slightly over budget - when we buy laptops they are now categorized as Supplies.

Schempp/Kelbel motion to approve

Allen Charles - aye

Matthew Schempp - aye

Heidi Kelbel - aye

Julie Johnson - aye

Jim Stocco - aye

5-0 passes

## **8. Reports**

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

Pekarek was not in attendance but the minutes were reviewed.

8.2 Information- [Curriculum Committee](#) – Schempp

Options for new elective for middle school with letting the middle school team decide.

We are also okay with 7th and 8th grade students taking electives at the same time if that's what the MS team wants. Discussed 5th grade expansion - possible model for what that would look like.

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

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. Scott Brown and his team helped to gather budget data from a variety of schools to see the percentage of funds that are going towards employees salaries/benefits in 2023. Proposed scale for base salary increase and step increase for new steps and lanes pay scale. Will no longer have a PhD Lane.

Add holiday pay for 181 and 191 hourly staff - make changes to employee handbooks for FY25

Long term sub opening - 1 for business and health. Hoping to fill positions soon.

Incentive drawing has happened and will be presented at a meeting on Friday 2/2.

#### 8.4 Information- Director's Report – Larsen

We are at capacity. 615 budget ADM is 580 - we are over on ADM because we met our cap so soon at the beginning of the year. Planning for April/May withdrawals with no longer accepting students. Waitlist is for 6-12. No longer accepting 12th grade. It's difficult to get them in, in enough time to earn enough credits to graduate.

Supplemental program is strong! Our goal was 200 course enrollments, 190 semester 1, 230 for semester 2.

State will be doing a review of our supplemental program.

Creekstone Montessori is still active - tuition based for 6-7th Grade Math.

Marketing - we are updating the back end of our website, a more user friendly model. Our site loads pages slowly so we are aiming to bump up the speed. Hopefully the new site will roll out after spring break. There should be no disruption in access to the website when the change is updated.

Videos on course electives will be up and running soon.

#### 8.5 Information- [Student Activity/Updates](#) – Miner

Clubs are going well. Nature club has swapped out to be Chess club. Possibly adding Chess as part of Esports next year. Esports ended season: Fortnite went to state finals - runner up for 2nd year in a row. Tryouts start February 5th. Possibility of adding Mario Kart. Survey for students to do commentary to our streams.

Events for the rest of the year:

February Activity is a Palentine's party 2/14

Forestview Planetarium Baxter 02/29 1pm-2:30pm in Brainerd.

March Activities Tech Day 3/13 students will be making their own phone case using a 3D printer. Full day affair including lunch.

March 22 online option is a Career and College day. In person option is MN History Museum.

Prom is May 3rd with the theme being Fire & Ice.

May 10th is the middle school meet up.

Graduation is in the preliminary stages. There might be a senior activity sometime between prom and graduation. Could possibly be a banquet for Esports.

Club leaders will be added to the agendas going forward.

Library committee is doing something for Black History Month including a Bingo Card for reading books on specific topics.

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

Highest passing rate for 1st semester. Consistent attendance trending at 73.3%. This is a strong predictor of student success. Overall attendance is at 89%.

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

160 on IEPs = 25.72%.

81 on 504 AT 13%.

504s have increased a little bit since November.

504s are for regular ed students with documented disabilities but do not qualify for an IEP.

Student Support Plans - advisor plan a mtg. with any student who is struggling. Typically that is a meeting but if they can't get a meeting they will email the plan. Last year we had 137 student support referrals. This year we have 163. Why the increase? We are possibly documenting it better, we have them earlier in the process and we are seeing students have higher needs this year. Dean referrals 88 last year, at 95 this year. If after 2 student support meetings, there is no improvement. They get referred to the Dean of Students to a more formal plan.

9-12 grades are required to complete a Career Portfolio to graduate.

Career Day will be March 22. 19 colleges are interested in coming with 10 speakers.

Monitoring and Compliance for due process - we are a year 1 cohort and we will start this next year. They will be reviewing progress reports and randomly pulling files for compliance.

Johnson/Kelbel to approve

Allen Charles - aye

Matthew Schempp - aye

Heidi Kelbel - aye

Julie Johnson - aye

Jim Stocco - aye

5-0 passes

#### **9. Consent Items**

9.1 Action - none

9.2 Action - none

#### **10. Unfinished Business**

10.1 Action - none

#### **11. New Business**

11.1 Action - Approve [Meal & Mileage Reimbursement Rates 2024](#)

Policy to review this every year. Mileage reimbursement rate has increased slightly. Takes effect Feb. 1st when the mileage is accumulated.

Kelbel/Schempp motion to approve

Allen Charles - aye

Matthew Schempp - aye

Heidi Kelbel - aye

Julie Johnson - aye

Jim Stocco - aye

5-0 passes

11.2 Action - Approve revised [Policy 5.9.2 English Language Program](#)

Language taken directly from statute and added to the policy. Plan portion has been removed and will be separate document.

Schempp/Kelbel to approve

Allen Charles - aye

Matthew Schempp - aye

Heidi Kelbel - aye

Julie Johnson - aye

Jim Stocco - aye

5-0 passes

11.3 Action - Approve revised [Policy 6.12 Inclusive Educational Program](#)

We are required to participate in an Inclusive Educational Program. This is policy and plan in one document.

Johnson/Kelbel motion to approve

Allen Charles - aye

Matthew Schempp - aye

Heidi Kelbel - aye

Julie Johnson - aye

Jim Stocco - aye

5-0 passes

11.4 Action - Approve Direction for Middle School Enrollment - [enrollment target options](#)

Board approved back in 2019 for 6th grade. Unsure at that time if we wanted to add 5th grade. Seeking clear direction on what we should do regarding 5th grade. Using trend data for retention by grade level shows 45% retention. Timing is good to add 5th grade for FY25 because of existing staffing and curriculum projects. Board needs to determine if we want to remain the same enrollment cap or expand. If expand, which area/grade levels should the focus be. Data shows that increasing size at lower grade levels has a cascading effect on other higher grade levels because of retention rates grade to grade. Therefore, adding 5th grade or increasing 6th grade numbers should create more stability in the higher grade levels.

Jim Stocco: We need a board workshop to continue discussion and make a determination.

Administration is directed to continue enrollment caps and targets as is for now and FY25 until further discussion can be had.

Schempp/Kelbel Motion to have a special Board session immediately following the board meeting in March.

Allen Charles - aye

Matthew Schempp - aye

Heidi Kelbel - aye

Julie Johnson - aye

Jim Stocco - aye

5-0 passes

## **12. Public Input**

none

## **13. Adjourn @ 4:14pm**

**Schempp/Kelbel**

Allen Charles - aye

Matthew Schempp - aye

Heidi Kelbel - aye

Julie Johnson - aye

Jim Stocco - aye

5-0 passes

## **Future Meetings/Events Below:**

February 28, 2024

March 20, 2024

April 24, 2024

May 29, 2024

June 26, 2024 - Annual Meeting

**Other:** Next Board Election: May 2024