

BlueSky Charter School

2051 Killebrew Drive, Suite 500

Bloomington, MN 55425

Regular Board Meeting

Wednesday, December 18, 2024

2:00 pm

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

+19294362866,,632473021# US (New York)

+13017158592,,632473021# US (Germantown)

1. Call to Order

2. Roll Call

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

Matthew Schempp, *Seat B: Vice Chair, Teacher Member 2023-2025 present @ 2:02*

Kelsey Waits, *Seat C: Required Parent Member 2024-2026 - present*

Heidi Kelbel, *Seat D: Teacher Member 2024-2026 - present*

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

Julie Johnson, *Secretary, Seat F: Required Teacher member 2024-2026 - present*

Jim Stocco, *Chair Seat G: Required Community Member 2024-2026 (attending virtually) - present*

3. Notice of Any Conflict of Interest

none

4. Approval of Agenda

Pekarek/Kelbel motion to approve

Allen Charles - aye

Matthew Schempp -aye

Kelsey Waits - aye

Heidi Kelbel - aye

Judy Pekarek - aye
Julie Johnson - aye
Jim Stocco - aye

7-0 motion passes

5. Approval of Previous Board Minutes

5.1 Action - Approve [board meeting minutes, November 20, 2024](#)

Kelbel/Waits motion to approve

Allen Charles - aye
Matthew Schempp -aye
Kelsey Waits - aye
Heidi Kelbel - aye
Judy Pekarek - aye
Julie Johnson - aye
Jim Stocco - aye

7-0 motion passes

6. FY24 Financial Audit

6.1 Action - Presentation and approval of FY24 financial audit (MMKR, Bill Lauer)
[FY24 Financial Statements](#)

What is the biggest take away from the audit? - Compliance standpoint this was a very clean audit. BlueSky is in great financial shape.

[FY24 Management Report](#)

Pekarek/Schempp motion to approve

Allen Charles - aye
Matthew Schempp -aye
Kelsey Waits - aye
Heidi Kelbel - aye
Judy Pekarek - aye
Julie Johnson - aye
Jim Stocco - aye

7-0 motion passes

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

Income Statement: The focus of the School's income statement is to monitor the ongoing revenues and expenses of the various programs. Monthly review of the actual spent vs. budget as well as taking into consideration the percentage of the fiscal year completed is imperative.

The highlights from the income statement are:

Percent of fiscal year completed: 42%

YTD revenue as a percent of budget: 41%, based on estimated enrollment of 580ADM
YTD expenses as a percent of budget: 38% as compared to prior month of 28%

Other Items: The remaining Salary/Benefit Payable is for the current year. Will begin accruing after September for next June 30, 2025. Holdback to be paid at the end of August, September and October. Current MDE estimates are \$1,138,627 of holdback payments.
Enrollment: Budgeted at 580ADM for adopted and revised. Monitor enrollment through the Fall for FY2025.

Kelbel/Johnson motion to approve

Allen Charles - aye
Matthew Schempp -aye
Kelsey Waits - aye
Heidi Kelbel - aye
Judy Pekarek - aye
Julie Johnson - aye
Jim Stocco - aye

7-0 motion passes

8. Reports

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

We are 42% budget year complete with 41% of revenue received and 38% of our expenses paid. There are no cash flow concerns at this time. The fund balance is currently reported as being 45%. The committee had a discussion related to if we should be using these funds. Brown and Larsen noted concerns related to unknowns that we should save for, i.e. new state and federal politics that may affect legislation and educational funding, increased costs from vendors such as curriculum and technology subscriptions, and loss of COVID funds.

Pekarek inquired about the difference between staff retreat expenses having it onsite versus at a resort. Miner noted that onsite was approximately \$25,000 but did not include the additional time and effort required from BlueSky staff. Resort expenses would have been around \$58,000.

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

Briefly discussed social studies and had the schedule done.

- The new sequence will go into effect for the 2026-27 school year (9th - American History, 10th - World History, 11th - Geography/Personal Finance, 12th - Economics/Government
 - Discussion about where to place Personal Finance next year noted that it can remain paired with Geography or can be taught during any year as it's just a suggested sequence
 - Personal Finance doesn't have to be taught by social studies, several different licensure areas can teach it including business and math
 - It is recognized that there will be a bubble of enrollments in certain classes when the change happens
- Data training for whole staff with MNTSS

- Committee created to go over grading policy. There are a lot of different approaches to grading and expectations in classes, difficulties especially for SPED students. Meet the end of January to get a streamlined policy for grading.
- Is it realistic to complete the regular class in 3 weeks? Yes, about 5-6 hours per day. Only focusing on 1 class.
 - Courses still need to be 86 hours, even though they are credit recovery
 - Can have students start where they left off or have a pre assessment to determine what skills the students' need to focus on
 - Students that have not attempted the course will need to take the entire course
 - Teachers still have room to adjust as long as all standards/benchmarks are covered

Journalism policy - Dan will double check with administration and make sure we are following policy. Amy sent MSBA template policy and Dan will bring it to the Library Committee.

Actions:

- Current 9th graders have to take personal finance sometime before graduation while in 10th-12th grade

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

Bereavement Time Off

Pg 19 - "Employees will be permitted to use sick leave to extend bereavement leave one work day immediately preceding and one day immediately following the approved bereavement leave."

Pg 24 - "An employee may take up to three (3) paid work days off using their accrued sick or personal/vacation time for any death."

The above excerpts do not align. Should staff receive one bereavement day and then two additional sick days if needed or should staff receive 3 sick days for any death?

- The committee recommends that the language in the handbook be clarified and that we continue with the current process which is that staff can use up to 3 sick days, not add an additional time off bucket of bereavement.
- Sick and Vacation Hours vs Personal Days
- Do we need to indicate in the handbook how time can be requested?
 - Sick and vacation time can be taken by the hour whereas personal days can only be taken by the ½ or full day
 - The committee recommended that the time off request form is edited to include this information so staff know how they can take time off.
 - Leslie and Dawn Mensing will meet to make changes to the form
 - There is a test group that is currently trying out a new time off request feature with the SMART program. The plan is to roll this out to the rest of staff at the start of second semester.

2) [Incentive Drawing Review](#)

- Suggested changes from the committee:
 - The committee recommended changing "going above and beyond" to "doing great work," going above and beyond is subjective.

- Remove the self-nomination option
- “Rebrand” the incentive recognition program to emphasize community and positive work culture
- Leslie will make the edits

3) Recognition Follow Up

- a) Department Spotlight Days
 - i) Working with leads to highlight department accomplishments and goals in 2025. Selected a few Fridays for leads to sign up and provide information for their department.
- b) Work Anniversaries
 - i) Have listed a couple in my weekly updates so far as they come up.
 - ii) Sarah Miner has been giving tenure shout outs in the monthly newsletters (they look awesome!).
 - 1) Do we feel like we need more exposure? Social Media?

8.4 Information- Director’s Report – Larsen

We are still at cap for the district. 12th grade is over cap and 6th grade is under cap which balances out. Leadership will be discussing adjusting the 6th grade cap to avoid adding additional sections. We discussed the potential for expanding to accept more students since we currently have over 100 students on the waitlist. We reviewed our expansion proposal and shared that we would want to hire with increases of at least 50 to get full time staff. We also discussed the cultural impact of growing. This can be something we investigate as we work on the budget for 2025-26.

Final MARSS submission due on Jan. 2. Working on getting errors cleared up on that. Supplemental enrollment is going great. They are no longer accepting enrollments for semester 2. Marketing - It's our 25th anniversary and we'll have a fun logo and banner for our website. Still figuring out how to best promote that. Creating short videos for FB ads using course descriptions and using videos shot from the field trips this summer. MS will be hosting a virtual open house in January. Building move - speaking with a building representative on how to improve our space today. Seeing different footprints for new space. Will need permits to zone for the new space to be a school. We are getting new helpdesk software. This will go out in the newsletter for parents/students.

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

Esports update: Sarah is working with Grant to make a survey for HS students to see what they're interested in. The league we participate in has 8 games to play. We only offered 2 in the past and maybe we need to open the opportunity to play other games that may help. Sarah will be helping Grant to figure this all out. He is open to others stepping in and helping with the other games. They also have a junior league for MS students and we may look into offering a Jr. league.

Sealife was our last field trip and it was packed, always a big one for students!

January field trips:

Still have openings for the Ojibwe tote bag art project

CanCan Wonderland is at capacity.

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

Attendance update - we are above state average. And overall attendance for all grades is 91.3%

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

SPED numbers are holding steady and have been very consistent throughout the school year.

Monitoring & compliance: waiting to hear from MDE for any corrections. Next phase in January is policy review. Jim asked what exactly they were reviewing for policies. Restrictive procedure policy and the corresponding process that goes with it. Many SPED staff prepared over the summer for all the things they needed. Mandy will send out info for the board. Letter from Department of Ed. We are on fiscal monitoring, unsure of the reason but will have more information soon.

Social work - continue on Tier 1 intervention and compassionate school training. Self care meeting on Friday on work life balance from home.

Finished 3rd session for teacher mentor training

Schempp/Waits motion to approve

Allen Charles - aye

Matthew Schempp -aye

Kelsey Waits - aye

Heidi Kelbel - aye

Judy Pekarek - aye

Julie Johnson - aye

Jim Stocco - aye

7-0 motion passes

9. Consent Items

9.1 Action -

10. Unfinished Business

10.1 Action -

11. New Business

11.1 Action -

12. Public Input

Concerned about the length of the waitlist and the possibility of losing future students. Possibilities of adding additional staff members to accommodate more students. - Lots of moving parts there.

Sarah would like an oven in our new office space.

13. Adjourn @ 3:41pm

Schempp/Pekarek motion to approve

Allen Charles - aye

Matthew Schempp -aye

Kelsey Waits - aye

Heidi Kelbel - aye

Judy Pekarek - aye

Julie Johnson - aye

Jim Stocco - aye

7-0 motion passes

Future Meetings/Events Below:

January 29, 2025

February 26, 2025

March 26, 2025

April 30, 2025

May 28, 2025

June 25, 2025

Other: Next Board Election: May 2025

Alternate Meeting Locations:

In addition to 2051 Killebrew Drive, Suite 500, Board members may be joining virtually from the following locations:

24400 Perdido Beach, Orange Beach, AL