

# BlueSky Charter School

2051 Killebrew Drive, Suite 500

Bloomington, MN 55425

Regular Board Meeting

Wednesday, May 28, 2025

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>

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Meeting ID: 632 473 021

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## 1. Call to Order at 2:02pm

### 2. Roll Call

Allen Charles, *Seat A: Community Member 2023-2025 - present at 2:11pm*

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

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

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 - absent*

## 3. Notice of Any Conflict of Interest

None

## 4. Approval of Agenda

**Pekarek/Kelbel**

4-0 motion passes

## 5. Approval of Previous Board Minutes

5.1 Action - Approve [board meeting minutes, April 30, 2025](#)

Pekarek/Johnson Motion to approve

4-0 motion passes

## 6. [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: 83%

YTD revenue as a percent of budget: 84%, based on estimated enrollment of 580ADM

YTD expenses as a percent of budget: 81% as compared to prior month of 72%

Other Items: Salary/Benefit Payable is for current year, remember this will get paid out through the summer for the majority of staff. Many of the expenses paid through the accounts payable system are paid as received, at June 30th there will be additional invoices accrued back into this fiscal year and thus increasing the current year expenses. It is good that the current expenses are under the percentage of year complete- gives the admin team flexibility in purchases and flexibility for unanticipated items. Special Ed: Prorated at 95% impacting cash flow and revenue. If the legislature does not "increase the size of the pie," will decrease the revenue assumption of 92-95% reimbursement of special education expenditures.

Enrollment: Budgeted at 580ADM for adopted and revised.

Kelbel/Johnson Motion to approve

5-0 motion passes

## 7. Reports

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

We are 83% of the fiscal year complete with 84% of revenue received and 81% of our expenses paid. If we ended the year today, not calculating the additional enrollment, we would have a surplus of \$90,258.

Salaries are tracking low, which is expected until Q comp gets paid out and teacher summer pay gets paid out.

We have kept a line item of \$50k for year end accounts payable for expenses that may come through this summer after the new fiscal year begins.

Some items on the check register will be coded 131 for FY26 expenses as we have begun making curriculum purchases for next school year.

Check register questions:

Illinois Unemployment - why multiple entries? Paid unemployment, but then re-coded which is why there is a red transaction

Health Equity - why 2 separate payments? one is HSA and one is FSA - Pekarek inquired about someone making those designations more clear in the check register

Erin Winchell reimbursement - Noteflight which is a curriculum subscription used only in her music class

Blankets - purchased for Native students who are graduating as a gift

MCA Courier expense - this was for testing laptop delivery to out state sites

Receipt listing - why multiple entries; in order for books to balance, we have multiple entries because MDE's payments are always being adjusted based on last year's student numbers but paying us this year

Check V1- this transaction was voided because it initially went to the incorrect cash account  
Finance committee is recommending the MTG Visual Quote, also a second amendment to the lease.

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

Policy 4.6.4 Curriculum - education program on cannabis and alcohol use, emphasis on community values and it should be noted that the updated policy has not been posted to our website but will be soon.

AI Use Guidelines - this is a sub committee - they will be 2 more times. Create purpose statement, presenting in August to MN Summit on Learning & Technology (Aug. 7 at SCSU)

FY25 Grading Policy This document is a starting point and we can build on it for recommendations in the years to come

- There is time at the fall retreat to go over this
- Important question
  - What do we want this grade to tell?
    - ☐ Suggestions
      - Past performance in a class, inclusive of mastery, participation, other behaviors
      - Mastery of standards as primary focus
      - What about the embedded academic SEL pieces
      - Different content areas seem to feel that some specific areas are a higher focus vs a variety of pieces
      - Soft skill grading - Perkins consortium/employers say yes, bias in grading says no - can/how do we separate the soft skill grade from the Algebra grade?
      - How much of the grade is currently based on SEL/soft skills? Estimated to be around 10% or less in most classes
      - It indicates readiness at the next level
      - This is how you did, this is how we expect you to do in the future
    - ☐ Added a statement to the first paragraph to reflect this question/discussion
  - What does “flexible pacing” in point 2 look like in MP/GP/MS courses?
    - ☐ Sometimes it is moving from GP to MP in HS courses
    - ☐ It is providing options for students to make up live sessions in a way that makes sense for the course
    - ☐ Some classes have differing needs for pacing, like PhyEd and music lessons.

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There can still be flexibility within that structure.

- ☒ Opportunity looks different in different classes - this should be outlined in course syllabi and expectations

- What is the goal for August training?
  - Get the conversation started
  - Set the stage for future work
  - Conversations around the different sections
    - ☒ Table conversations
    - ☒ If time short could jigsaw sections
  - Relate to supplemental program questions
  - Group people from different categories or do this in the future if time is short
  - There is also benefit for departments to talk together

### Actions:

- This will be added to the student handbook and teacher manual
- We want to make sure parents have access and teachers/students are familiar
- Official post will be in the handbook

### FY26 Annual Focus

- Current:
  - MnMTSS Implementation
    - ☒ Focus on embedding tier 1 interventions next year
  - Academic engagement through evidence-based curriculum design and instructional practices
    - ☒ Focus on the whole student experience (support student services)
    - ☒ will focus on this through Q-Comp instead of curriculum, include classroom management
  - Using AI and technology in the classroom
  - Use of data to drive instruction and support with the support of AI
    - ☒ Analyze and use data to drive instructional decisions and outcomes
  - Training staff to proactively address accessibility needs (will shift the focus of this to the technology committee)
- Suggestions:
  - Live Sessions
    - ☒ Re-evaluate best practices
    - ☒ MS vs HS
    - ☒ Quality 1-on-1 vs small group
  - AI
  - Grading/Feedback
    - ☒ Keep other committee
    - ☒ Not focus of curriculum committee
    - ☒ Can bring to curriculum as needed
  - Engagement/classroom management
- Plan
  - MnMTSS
  - AI and technology
    - ☒ Curriculum development
    - ☒ Data
    - ☒ Feedback

- Other uses
- Live Sessions
  - Re-evaluate best practices
  - MS vs HS
  - Quality 1-on-1 vs small group

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

- FMLA Policy changing to MN Paid Leave Program Starting Jan. 1, 2026. Paid leave program - state-run insurance program that will provide up to 12 weeks of paid leave for their own serious health condition or to bond with a new child, as well as up to 12 weeks to care for a family member with a serious health condition with a combined maximum of 20 weeks.
  - Can be medical, and family reasons, which includes medical leave, caregiving leave, maternity/paternity leave, safety leave and deployment related leave.
  - Funding: The program will be funded by a payroll tax, with employers and employees both contributing
- a) State vs Private Sector
  - State Premium Rate: As of now the premium rate for 2026 is 0.88% of the employee's wages. This will be split between the employer and employee, the employer needs to contribute at least half of the rate. It will most likely increase in 2027.
  - Private Sector: Insurance carriers are used to getting documentation for Short Term Disability (STD) and already have systems set up. The private sector has a smoother transition and customer service appeal. As of now we are unsure on what the premium rates will be with a private sector.
    - MN Paid Leave will most likely be in place of STD.

To be eligible staff have to earn at least 5.3% of statewide average annual wage in the past 12 months of employment (\$3,700 in 2024) AND one of the two options below must be true:

- Employee has worked at least 50% of time in MN in a calendar year OR
- If employee does not work at least 50% of their time in MN or in any other state an employee performs some work in MN and lives in MN at least 50% of the year
- Employees who work outside the state of MN or less than 50% of their time are ineligible
- Payout ranges from 90% for lower income earners down to 60% for higher wage earners to a maximum weekly benefit.
  - Anyone who earns over \$120,000 annually will not receive the full 60% wage (math is not completely confirmed on this).

**Student Activity Attendance Expectation**

- Might have seniors graduate a week early
  - Seniors graduating a week early has worked well for supplemental students
  - If this change happens it might cause a strain on teachers' workloads
  - We might want to consider surveying parents to determine their preferred

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graduation dates, considering potential conflicts with other holidays.

- Changes might be made to the student activity attendance expectation in the handbook.
  - High school staff will be expected to attend graduation and middle school staff would be attending their middle school activity day in the spring
  - Will need to take into consideration participation for other student activities during the year and how to still have staff volunteer for these.
- Possible changes being brought to Leads

### 7.4 Information- [Director's Report](#) – Larsen

No new enrollment, our ADM went down a little bit

Increased Google Ads and FB ads targeting middle school, especially 6th grade. We had a videographer come last week as our prize for winning the innovation award.

Estimating that we will move to our new space during our winter break December 2025, if any delays happen we will change the move in date to June/July 2026.

Looking to replace BrightArrow for our communications to students/parents.

Performance Self Review/Board review will be in July instead of June.

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

No updates.

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

Way above our goal! Benchmark is 50% and we're well above that!

We have some preliminary MCA Results in Reading

394 total students (6th-11th grade, 9th grade exempt)

170 official opt outs

75 no shows

149 attended

Other online's schools have about the same participation rates but we outperform in terms of scores.

Attendance ranges 71.6 and 73% for attendance depending on how the year ends, we have slipped slightly under the state average of 74.5%

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

Counselors and advisors went into 8th grade advisory mid May to talk about HS.

Summer school - a lot of interest for tuition based summer school (35 students, 61 enrollments and 11 incomplete apps.) This will close June 6th.

Special Education program audit is complete and being reviewed by MDE, early June is the anticipated time frame for results.

ADSIS was given provisional approval, narrative updated and submitted again.

### 7.8 Information - [24-25 Staff Development Annual Report](#) & [24-25 Q Comp Annual Review](#) - Schempp

This annual report to the director of BlueSky is intended to provide an overview and evaluation of staff development opportunities available to BlueSky staff during the 2024-25 school year as

outlined in the Staff Development Plan. The data provided in this report will be utilized to support the continuous improvement of BlueSky's staff development program for the 2025-2026 school year.

### FY25 Staff Development Survey Results

The committee reviewed staff feedback twice a month through Staff surveys and CEU forms. Staff were positive and receptive to the training offered. At the end of the year, 92.5% of staff rated the PD opportunities as "Somewhat Positive" or higher, with 53.7% rating "Positive".

### FY25 Q Comp Annual Review

- We met our goal!
- Goal = The percentage of all students in grades 6-11 at BlueSky School who meet or exceed 50 Student Growth Percentile (SGP) on the Star in Math will increase from an average of 38.7% in 2022-2024 to 43% in 2025.
- Results = As of May 20, 174 out of 381 students had met or exceeded 50 SGP on the Star Math (45.7%)!
  - As of May 20, 104 students achieved lower than 50 SGP (27.2%), while 103 students didn't take the Star Reading twice while continuing enrollment with us (27%).

### Career Advancement Opportunities

- 9 Coaches successfully led 9 PLCs and performed peer observations
- Support staff transitioned to a goal cycle that focused on longitudinal student engagement goals, while teaching staff continued to create goals around engagement and achievement
- 5 mentors trained 5 staff in new positions over the year.

### PLC Focus Areas

- **Advisors:** focused on utilizing the MnMTSS model, specifically prioritizing Family and Student Engagement with an emphasis on engaging with families earlier and more often.
- **Science/Health/Art:** Read "The Anxious Generation" and centered discussion on how digital phone based childhoods are impacting students in various ways and what we can do as teachers and as a school to take action.
- **Social Workers:** implemented interventions that promote overall student well-being through the Compassionate Schools framework
- **High School:** focused on increasing students' engagement in their courses using various techniques.
- **Middle School:** focused on increasing engagement in classes by teaching the engagement scale and ways students can improve their engagement.
- **Language Arts/Math:** explored various data points to drive their use of tier 1 interventions throughout the year.
- **Counselors:** read "Behind Their Screens: What Teens are facing (and Adults are missing)". We discussed how use of phones and screens are impacting youth, and especially how our students are particularly challenged because of attending an online school.
- **SPED:** focused on updating and expanding the IEP goal bank including objectives to include on

all new IEP's.

- **Social Studies/Electives:** Read and discuss the book “Everything You Want to Know About Indians but Were Afraid to Ask” by Anton Treuer. We then created lesson plans for our courses that align with MN State Standards to foster culturally responsive and inclusive classrooms.

### Highlights from this year

- Site-wide license to Trauma Informed Schools Institute
- MnMTSS training focusing on establishing Tier 1 thresholds and monitoring student pacing
- Covered required license areas during onsite meetings: American Indian History and Culture, Positive Behavioral Intervention Strategies
- Offered Mental Health/Suicide Prevention/Reading Preparation trainings
- Staff-wide conversation on support plan best practices
- Book club on “The Promises and Perils of AI in Education”

Judy Pekarek questions if anyone ever pops into classes unannounced. Dan has done it a few times and Mandy has done it on a case by case basis.

7.9 Information - [FY25 Supplemental Program Update](#) - Housh

Far exceeded our goal of 200 course enrollments for FY26 our goal will be 220 course enrollments. We're already trending high with our early enrollments for next school year.

7.10 Information - [2023-2024 Retention Report](#) - Torvik

MnMTSS- Minnesota Multi Tiered Systems of Support Data-driven decision making and implementation of evidence-based early interventions and multi-tiered levels of support.

- This year, the MnMTSS team identified 5 focus areas: Behind in Pacing, Attendance Concerns, Low Quality of Work, Communication Concerns, and Academic Dishonesty/Blank Assignments.

- As we train staff on MnMTSS and begin to implement a strong Tier 1 base, we are focusing on 1 of these 5 areas for the year: Behind in Pacing.

Focusing on Identifying students early:

- Looking at determining the key identifiers and the “thresholds” that trigger intervention or increased support.

- School-wide focus on Tier 1 pacing concerns this year - training staff on using data to identify students early, defining thresholds, and conducting early Interventions.

Not on Track students struggle significantly with attendance historically. What are we doing for our Not on Track students at the very beginning when they enroll to ensure that right off the bat they have support?

- Counselors know about their enrollment status - what interventions should Advisors and Teachers conduct?

- Social Workers are implementing 3 new T1 interventions in orientation for FY26. However, these are not targeted interventions to Not on Track students.

- These numbers are not changing from year to year. We need to modify our practices to support these students in terms of attendance right away at enrollment.

### Recommendations:

MnMTSS Implementation:

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- Continue implementation of Tier 1 interventions
- ☑ Build a strong base to reach 80% of students in Tier 1
- ☑ We won't see implications of Tier 1 interventions for at least 1 or 2 years in the data.

### Attendance Interventions:

- Not on Track students overall have significantly lower consistent attendance; indicators appear as early as enrollment
- ☑ Trend is consistent year over year
- ☑ We need to modify our approach & implement early attendance interventions for students enrolling Not on Track and our minority students

35% of our students are receiving Tier 2 or 3 interventions.

Allen Charles left meeting at 3:20pm

Pekarek/Kelbel Motion to approve

4-0 motion passes

## 8. Consent Items

- 8.1 Action - Approve hire of 1.0 Educational Assistant - [Michelle Behnke](#)
- 8.2 Action - Approve [resignation of Elise Lahmann-Sharbonda](#), Educational Assistant
- 8.3 Action - Approve [MTG Audio Visual & Security Proposal Vendor Comparison Chart](#)
- 8.4 Action - Approve [Designation of IOWA](#) - Amy Larsen, Superintendent
- 8.5 Action - Approve [25-26 MSHSL Resolution for Membership](#)

Pekarek/Kelbel Motion to approve

4-0 motion passes

## 9. Unfinished Business

- 9.1 Action -

## 10. New Business

[2025 Board Election Results](#) - will be moved to June's meeting as we do not have quorum.

10.1 Action - Approve Elected School Board Member; Allen Charles, Seat A, Community Member

10.2 Action - Approve Elected School Board Member; Matthew Schempp, Seat B, Teacher Member

10.3 Action - Approve Elected School Board Member; Judy Pekarek, Seat E, Community Member

10.4 Action - Approve [BlueSky/MSP BLN Office L.L.C. Second Amendment to Lease](#)

Our lease will be renewed for another 10 years. E occupancy has been added to the lease the building is in charge of verifying that with permits etc. We will be given an

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allowance for updates in another 5 years.

Pekarek/Johnson motion to approve with provision that the deadline for submitting technology vendor invoices to the landlord be extended in case our move in date changes to June/July.

4-0 motion passes

10.5 Action - Approve new [Policy 2.0 Legal Status of the Charter School Board of Directors](#)

Pekarek/Kelbel motion to approve

4-0 motion passes

10.6 Action - Approve revised [Policy 2.2 Board Member Training and Development](#)

Kelbel/Johnson motion to approve

4-0 motion passes

### **11. Public Input**

None

### **12. Adjourn @ 3:53pm**

Kelbel/Pekarek motion to adjourn

4-0 motion passes

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

June 18, 2025 10:00 a.m. - strategic planning meeting to follow  
July 30, 2025

**Other:** Next Board Election: May 2026

#### **Alternate Meeting Locations:**

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