

BlueSky Charter School

2051 Killebrew Drive, Suite 500
Bloomington, MN 55425
Regular Board Meeting
Wednesday, September 24, 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>

Password: **flexible**

Meeting ID: 632 473 021

One tap mobile

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1. Call to Order @ 2:00pm Sep 24, 2025

2. Roll Call

Allen Charles, *Seat A: Community Member 2025-2027 - present*

Matthew Schempp, *Seat B: Vice Chair, Teacher Member 2025-2027 - 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 2025-2027 -present*

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

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

3. Notice of Any Conflict of Interest

none

4. Approval of Agenda

Kelbel/Pekarek motion to approve

Allen Charles -aye

Matthew Schempp - aye

Heidi Kelbel -aye

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

6-0 motion passes

5. Approval of Previous Board Minutes

5.1 Action - Approve [board meeting minutes, August 27, 2025](#)

Kelbel/Johnson motion to approve

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

6-0 motion passes

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

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 versus budget, considering the percentage of the fiscal year completed, is imperative.

Highlights from the income statement:

- Percent of fiscal year completed: 16%
- Year-to-date (YTD) revenue as a percent of budget: 16%, based on an estimated enrollment of 590 ADM
- YTD expenses as a percent of budget: 13%, compared to the prior month of 4%

Highlights from the balance sheet:

- Cash and Investments: \$1.015, \$2.669m; respectively- a net increase of almost \$500k
- Estimated due from MDE: \$849k
- Estimated fund balance: \$4.329m beginning, ending projected overstated at this point until salaries start.

Other Items:

- HoldBack First payment received, online learning aid loaded at \$309k for FY2025.
- Enrollment: Budgeted at 590 ADM for adopted and revised.

Schempp/Kelbel motion to approve

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

6-0 motion passes

7. Reports

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

Brown reported that we are at 16% of the budget year complete with 13% of expenses paid and 16% of revenue received.

Our technology expense is large this month because of prepaid technology (to MTG) for the new office location. This pays for technology equipment and labor but \$100k will be reimbursed to us by the landlord. Pekarek noted that this is risky to pay all of the bill up front prior to work being completed. This is somewhat less of a risk for us since the work is written into the amended lease agreement. This is due to our move to the new office space in December.

Questions:

Charmtech Labs - this is required curriculum by the state to meet the READ Act requirements
MSHSL - didn't we already pay annual membership fee; Scott verified that our last payment to MSHSL was in August of 2024.

MA IEP- revenue from Medical Assistance we receive as a reimbursement from insurance company for some IEP services

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

-Updating Forensic science for FY27

-Lengthy conversation about Drivers Ed. - we can easily do the online curriculum. The struggle will be the 6 hours of driving - who would work with BlueSky across the entire state. Determined it was not cost effective and difficult to manage across the entire state.

-Student AI Use Levels - its being used in 11th and 12th grade English classes - where it is and isn't acceptable and how to source it. How can a teacher see if the student used AI? - 1st would be the language changes, also google searches - also can see key strokes to see if they paste it in.

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

- Recognition Ideas

- Continue department spotlights and social media posts as it's more valuable to receive department recognition. Survey staff for them to shout out the department for things they saw them exceed at.
- Do fun things at staff meetings for appreciation ie. coffee barista, treats etc.

-Benefit enrollment is coming up. Staff Satisfactory survey sent out to staff

Take aways from survey:

Lower health premium rates was the highest "want" for changes to the current benefit package

Staff would like more of a discretionary time off plan - looking at changing the time off plan for the 26-27 school year

Conversation about staff who use their spouse's health insurance plan receiving some sort of compensation

Look at increasing the 403(b) employer match % - could do an analysis on what that would cost for staff

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

-Enrollment is strong - current enrollment is 627.

-Supplemental is at 298 with 220 as the goal. Wait list enacted for next semester

-Marketing priorities - updated website to be more mobile friendly

-not a lot of changes for the legislative

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- no update on Office space at the moment but a Contractor decision has been awarded on 9/5
- Technology reimbursement has been submitted

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

- Strong interest in eSports. Try outs are on 10/20. Set out a eSport blurb to families to express that its not just video games and that they can earn scholarships for college and other benefits.
- Discussed a regional field trip. Splitting the state up in four and finding a field trip spot in those areas on the same day. Spring time maybe the best option, might create a sub committee
- Renaissance Festival is this Friday, September 26th, completely booked!
- Middle school meet up is October 2nd.
- Halloween Party is October 31st
- November will be at Central Lakes College - tour of their robotics departments. Thanks to Darren for the connection!
- December trip will not be at Sea life as we've done in the past. We'll find another option at the MOA. Considering Sea life for an every other year field trip.

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

- Overall attendance is looking really good. 7th grade has almost perfect attendance. Amy and Dan met with Brightworks because we were identified as Comprehensive Support and Improvement. We could challenge this but we do get a lot of free resources. First identified in 2019, then in 2022 and now 2025, our grade rates have increased since first being identified.
- 2018 - 32.08%
- 2022 - 49.55%
- 2025 - 59.57%

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

- Special Education is at an all time high, with 175 students with IEP's.
- MS Back to school night and 9th grade orientation - great participation by families!
- 504/Health plans - working with nurse to update those plans
 - plans in place for onsite and field trips to alert staff
- Advisors are working hard to put in early interventions.
- Summer school had similar enrollments for BlueSky students. Tuition did increase. The passing rate for our BlueSky students was great to see! Had 2 summer graduates!

Schempp/Pekarek motion to approve

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

6-0 motion passes

8. Consent Items

- 8.1 Action - Review [Policy 2.4.2 Harassment and Violence](#)
- 8.2 Action - Review [Policy 6.6 Pledge of Allegiance](#)
- 8.3 Action - Review [Policy 4.4.1 Family and Medical Leave](#)
- 8.4 Action - Review [Policy 6.14 BlueSky Online Parent and Family Engagement Policy](#)
- 8.5 Action - Review [Policy 6.9 Compliance with Academic Standards & Authorizer Contract](#)
- 8.6 Action - Review [Policy 5.4.2 Bullying Prevention and Response](#)
- 8.7 Action - Review [Policy 5.8.2 Internet Acceptable Use and Safety](#)
- 8.8 Action - Review [Policy 5.4.4 Student Discipline](#)
- 8.9 Action - Review [Policy 5.4.7 Title IX Sex Nondiscrimination Policy, Grievance Procedure & Process](#)

Schempp/Kelbel motion to approve

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

6-0 motion passes

9. Unfinished Business

none

10. New Business

- 10.1 Action - Approve Minnesota Paid Family Medical Leave [private plan \(MetLife\)](#) versus state plan

Pekarek/Johnson motion to approve

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

6-0 motion passes

- 10.2 Action - Approve waiving the Pledge of Allegiance requirement in Policy 6.6
- Schempp/Allen motion to approve

Allen Charles -aye
Matthew Schempp-aye
Heidi Kelbel -aye
Judy Pekarek -aye
Julie Johnson -aye

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Jim Stocco -aye

6-0 motion passes

10.3 Action - Approve revised [Policy 6.4.1 Release Time for Religious Events and Religious Accommodation](#) and remove [Policy 5.4.6](#)

Pekarek/Schempp motion to approve

Allen Charles -aye

Matthew Schempp-aye

Heidi Kelbel -aye

Judy Pekarek -aye

Julie Johnson -aye

Jim Stocco -aye

6-0 motion passes

10.4 Action - Approve revised [Policy 4.7.1 Maltreatment of Minors - Mandatory Reporting](#)

Kelbel/Johnson motion to approve

Allen Charles -aye

Matthew Schempp-aye

Heidi Kelbel -aye

Judy Pekarek -aye

Julie Johnson -aye

Jim Stocco -aye

6-0 motion passes

10.5 Action - Approve revised [Policy 8.3 Crisis Management](#)

Kelbel/Allen motion to approve

Allen Charles -aye

Matthew Schempp-aye

Heidi Kelbel -aye

Judy Pekarek -aye

Julie Johnson -aye

Jim Stocco -aye

6-0 motion passes

11. Public Input

Darren - The Robotics program is 100% job placement after they finish the program - it's highly engaging and would really love students to check it out as possible job opportunities. Located in Staples, MN (NW St. Cloud)

12. Adjourn @ 3:39pm on Sep 24, 2025

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Schempp/Pekarek motion to adjourn

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

6-0 motion passes

Future Meetings/Events Below:

October 29, 2025
November 19, 2025
December 17, 2025
January 28, 2026
February 25, 2026
March 25, 2026
April 29, 2026
May 27, 2026
June 24, 2026

Other: Next Board Election: May 2026