

Rochester Beacon Academy Board of Directors Official Minutes

Board of Directors

Date: July 17, 2025

Time: 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm

Location: 974 Skyline Drive SW
Rochester, MN 55902

Call Meeting to Order:

Reading of Mission: RBA equitably meets the unique needs of students by inspiring integrity, cultivating compassion, and practicing perseverance. Read by: Lizzi

Attendance: To establish quorum

Name	Attendance
Dean Frank, Chair	present
Elisa Bruske, Vice Chair	Not present
Christina Pruka, Treasurer	present
Khristie Cano, Secretary	present
Lizzi Clobes, Teacher Member	present
Ellen Nelson, Teacher Member	present

Guests

Beth Bruns	Executive Director, Ex Officio
Traci LaFerriere	Business Manager

Eli Zetche
Jori Eidem
Kate Cook

Conflict of interest: None

Approval of Agenda:

Move	Second Vote	Motion
Approved	Ellen	Lizzi

Dean Frank, Chair	aye
Elisa Bruske, Vice Chair	absent
Christina Pruka, Treasurer	aye
Khristie Cano, Secretary	aye
Lizzi Clobes, Teacher Member	aye
Ellen Nelson, Teacher Member	aye

Public Forum - Public Forum Guidelines -

Eli Zetche - 12th grade RBA student entered a public comment regarding the draft of Policy 527: Student Use and Parking of Motor Vehicles requesting a revision/clarification in the text. His concern being that the reference to search because of “overdue books,” inside of the vehicle was a questionable reason for a vehicle search. He also expressed his concern about the drafted cell phone policy, disagreeing with the no cell phone use during school hours. One objection was in the case of an emergency, ie, a school shooter. He also suggested that students have the ability to earn use of their phones during lunch periods.

Old Business

1. Approve June 19th, 2025 Board Minutes

Move	Second Vote	Motion
Approved	Khristie	Lizzi

Dean Frank, Chair	aye
Elisa Bruske, Vice Chair	absent
Christina Pruka, Treasurer	aye
Khristie Cano, Secretary	aye
Lizzi Clobes, Teacher Member	aye
Ellen Nelson, Teacher Member	aye

2. Committee Reports

- Community Outreach and Recruitment Committee (CORC)
Meeting set up for August 2025
- Policy Committee
We are working closely with the RBA Way Committee to align our Discipline Policy with the behavior consequences they developed during the last school year. After a final meeting with them on Thursday, we will have 5 policies ready to send to the Board for review. All policies referenced in the Student Handbook will then be up-to-date. The Student Handbook will also be sent to the Board for approval this month.

Other action steps:

- Update policy tracker (Ellen)
- Communicate time of next meeting to Dean (Kate)
- Order school copies of *The Anxious Generation* by Jonathan Haidt (Beth)
- Technology policy-
- RBA Way- to align with discipline policy
- Handbooks to be approved in August

(August 7th special meeting set for handbooks)

- District Advisory Committee (DAC)

Discussed recruiting, working agreements, and priorities for the upcoming school year. Will continue moving forward with several projects, including a communication plan, grant writing, succession planning, technology, and mentorship for new teachers and paras.
Curriculum community , and culture, priorities upcoming school year
MDEs used for research
Goal to have all staff will have a mentor
- Finance and Facilities: Consideration of Claims and Accounts
Beginning of fiscal year
Audit scheduled
Reports coming in September

3. Directors Report

As we begin the Fiscal Year 2025–2026, we are entering a season of meaningful change, renewed focus, and strengthened systems. Over the past several months, our leadership team has worked diligently to tighten processes and lay a more intentional foundation for the year ahead.

This effort is reflected in several key developments:

- Over 20+ board policies have been reviewed and adopted, helping to ensure clarity, compliance, and alignment across all areas of operation.
- We have refined and clarified our behavior management system, establishing consistent expectations and supportive interventions that promote a safe, positive learning environment.
- We have launched and committed to a structured curriculum adoption and review cycle, ensuring high-quality, standards-aligned instruction across all grade levels and subject areas.
- We are focused on strengthening professional development opportunities—not only for our staff, but also for our Board of Directors—to ensure everyone is well-equipped to lead, govern, and serve effectively in their respective roles.

These efforts represent more than procedural updates—they are part of a larger commitment to organizational

excellence and student success. With a strong foundation in place, we are excited to move forward while building momentum. Beth Bruns

- Enrollment

2025-2026 School Year Enrollment

6	7	8	9	10	11	12
9	9	18	20	20	20	28 + 8
2	2	5	2	2	4	Waitlist

- RBA Personal Resignations
None
- RBA Personnel New Hires
Erse Reed, Social Studies Teacher effective on August 11, 2025 at \$44,795.00
Kate Cook, Science Teacher effective on August 11, 2025 at \$53,039.00
- RBA Personal Terminations

4. Board Nominations

- Parent Representative: Jori Eidem
- Teacher Representative: Kate Cook

Move	Second Vote	Motion
Approved	Ellen	Christina

Dean Frank, Chair	aye
Elisa Bruske, Vice Chair	absent
Christina Pruka, Treasurer	aye
Khristie Cano, Secretary	aye
Lizzi Clobes, Teacher Member	aye
Ellen Nelson, Teacher Member	aye

5. Board Retreat

- Complete survey-discussed

New Business:

- 6. Oath of Office -Discussed and will be signed at the Retreat
- 7. Officer Position - By September the Board is to nominate and elect a new Board Chair
 - a. All other officer positions will continue for 2025-2026

Move	Second Vote	Motion
Approved	Khristie	Lizzi

Dean Frank, Chair	aye
Elisa Bruske, Vice Chair	absent
Christina Pruka, Treasurer	aye
Khristie Cano, Secretary	aye
Lizzi Clobes, Teacher Member	aye
Ellen Nelson, Teacher Member	aye

- 8. Identified Official with Authority (IOwA)

Beth Bruns- IOwA

Vicki Bruske - IOwA by proxy

Move	Second Vote	Motion
Approved	Lizzi	Christina

Dean Frank, Chair	aye
Elisa Bruske, Vice Chair	absent
Christina Pruka, Treasurer	aye
Khristie Cano, Secretary	aye

Lizzi Clobes, Teacher Member	aye
Ellen Nelson, Teacher Member	aye

9. Policies

- a. Policy 501: School Weapons
- b. Policy 506: Discipline Policy
- c. Policy 524: Internet, Technology, and Cellphone Acceptable Use and Safety
- d. Policy 533: Wellness

Move	Second Vote	Motion
approved	Christina	Khristie

Dean Frank, Chair	aye
Elisa Bruske, Vice Chair	absent
Christina Pruka, Treasurer	aye
Khristie Cano, Secretary	aye
Lizzi Clobes, Teacher Member	aye
Ellen Nelson, Teacher Member	aye
Jori Eidem, Parent Member	aye
Kate Cook, Teacher Member	aye

- e. Policy 527: Student Use and Parking of Motor Vehicles

- will consult with school attorney for verbiage on policy before voting to finalize Policy 527 with Student Handbook

10. 2025-2026 SOAR Transition Handbook

Move	Second Vote	Motion
Approved	Khristie	Christina

Dean Frank, Chair	aye
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Elisa Bruske, Vice Chair	absent
Christina Pruka, Treasurer	aye
Khristie Cano, Secretary	aye
Lizzi Clobes, Teacher Member	aye
Ellen Nelson, Teacher Member	aye
Jori Eidem, Parent member	aye
Kate Cook, Teacher	aye

Committee Meeting:

Finance & Facility Committee: Thursday, August 21, 2025, at 5:00 pm via Google Meet
Community Outreach and Recruitment Committee (CORC): Monday, August 11, 2025, at 5:00 pm via Google Meet
Policy Committee: Tuesday, August 12, 2025, at 3:00 pm via Google Meet
District Advisory Committee (DAC): Thursday, August 14, 2025, at 5:00 pm via Google Meet

RBA Events: Annual Board Retreat is on Saturday, August 16, 2025 from 9:00-3:00

Next Meeting: Annual Board Meeting is on Thursday, August 21, 2025, at 6:00 pm, in-person

Special Meeting: Thursday, August 7, 2025 at 6:00 pm

Adjourn Meeting: 7:18pm

Move	Second Vote	Motion
Approved	Ellen	Lizzi

Dean Frank, Chair	aye
Elisa Bruske, Vice Chair	absent
Christina Pruka, Treasurer	aye
Khristie Cano, Secretary	aye
Lizzi Clobes, Teacher Member	Aye
Ellen Nelson, Teacher Member	aye
Jori Eidem, Parent Member	aye

Kate Cook, Teacher	aye
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Respectfully submitted by: Khristie Cano