

Rochester Beacon Academy Board of Directors Regular Board Meeting Minutes

Date: October 23, 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: Beth Bruns

Attendance: To establish quorum

Name	Attendance
Ellen Nelson, Chair	Present
Elisa Bruske, Vice Chair	Absent
Christina Pruka, Treasurer	Present
Khristie Cano, Secretary	Absent
Lizzi Clobes, Teacher Member	Present
Kate Cook, Teacher Member	Absent
Jori Eidem, Parent Member	Present

Guests:

Beth Bruns	Executive Director, Ex Officio
Traci LaFerriere	Business Manager
Brad Falteysek	Auditor Representative

Conflict of interest:

Approval of Agenda:

Move	Second Vote	Motion
Christina	Lizzi	Approved

Ellen Nelson, Chair	Aye
Elisa Bruske, Vice Chair	No Vote
Christina Pruka, Treasurer	Aye
Khristie Cano, Secretary	No Vote
Lizzi Clobes, Teacher Member	Aye
Kate Cook, Teacher Member	No Vote
Jori Eidem, Parent Member	Aye

Public Forum:
Public Forum Guidelines -

Old Business:

1. Approve September 25, 2025 Board Minutes

Move	Second Vote	Motion
Lizzi	Jori	Approved

Ellen Nelson, Chair	Aye
Elisa Bruske, Vice Chair	No Vote
Christina Pruka, Treasurer	Aye
Khristie Cano, Secretary	No Vote
Lizzi Clobes, Teacher Member	Aye
Kate Cook, Teacher Member	No Vote
Jori Eidem, Parent Member	Aye

2. Committee Reports

- Community Outreach and Recruitment Committee (CORC)
 - The committee received the Ray of Hope list that was used in the past.
 - The committee will go into the community with the list and a new flyer to spread awareness and ask for donations.
 - Considering partnering with Barnes and Noble
 - Connecting with Minnesota State High School League (MSHSL) to potentially get into sports.
 - Discussion of rebranding for the upcoming 10 year anniversary
- District Advisory Committee (DAC)
 - Annual District Advisory was held on October 9, 2025.
- Facilities
 - Currently in Phase 1: Needs assessment
- Finance

- Just

Motion to approve Beth Bruns to purchase a van at the same price or lower.

Move	Second Vote	Motion
Christina	Jori	Approved

Ellen Nelson, Chair	Aye
Elisa Bruske, Vice Chair	No Vote
Christina Pruka, Treasurer	Aye
Khristie Cano, Secretary	No Vote
Lizzi Clobes, Teacher Member	Aye
Kate Cook, Teacher Member	No Vote
Jori Eidem, Parent Member	Aye

- Governance
 - Review what Governance will be responsible for
 - Top priority is establishing goals and criteria for Executive Director
 - Ellen started cleaning up the Board Chair Email
 - Haven't established when they will meet next
 - Started templates for annual calendar and dashboards
 - Policy Committee
3. Director's Report

Dear Esteemed RBA Board of Directors,

I would like to provide full transparency regarding a recent notification we received from the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE). Rochester Beacon Academy has been identified for support under Minnesota's North Star accountability system due to current math performance and attendance rates.

As a result, we will be engaging in a three-year performance improvement plan through COMPASS, MDE's statewide system designed to support schools in continuous improvement. A COMPASS Continuous Improvement Lead has already been assigned to RBA to guide and support us throughout this process. This work will be collaborative, data-driven, and centered on sustainable strategies to improve student outcomes. We will use this opportunity to strengthen instructional practices, address attendance challenges, and monitor progress through clear, measurable goals.

In addition, I want to inform you that RBA is in the process of purchasing a new van, as our current vehicle does not meet statutory requirements for school use. More details on this transition, including cost and anticipated use, will be provided as the process is finalized.

Lastly, I am pleased to share that Dr. Amy has done a fantastic job leading our efforts for National Bullying Prevention Week. Students have actively participated in Unity-focused activities, promoting kindness, awareness, and a collective stand against bullying. The engagement and positive energy throughout the school have been inspiring.

Thank you for your continued support and leadership as we move forward in these important initiatives.

With appreciation,

Beth Bruns
Executive Director
Rochester Beacon Academy

2025-2026 School Year Enrollment

6	7	8	9	10	11	12
4	10	16	13	20	19	25 + 8

RBA Hires

Bonny Bryan - Paraprofessional effective September 29, 2025 at \$21.50 an hour.
Nyayik Chan - Paraprofessional effective October 6, 2025 at \$21.50 an hour.
Justin Joel - Special Education Teacher effective October 6, 2025 at \$54,212.38.

RBA Resignations

N/A

RBA Terminations / Non-renewal

Mikel Smallwood terminated on September 24, 2025

Motion to approve personnel changes made by the Executive Director

Move	Second Vote	Motion
Christina	Lizzi	Approved

Ellen Nelson, Chair	Aye
Elisa Bruske, Vice Chair	No Vote
Christina Pruka, Treasurer	Aye
Khristie Cano, Secretary	No Vote
Lizzi Clobes, Teacher Member	Aye
Kate Cook, Teacher Member	No Vote
Jori Eidem, Parent Member	Aye

New Business:

4. 2024 Audit

- Audit Opinion: unmodified opinion under GAAP.
- Minnesota Legal Compliance: No instances of noncompliance.
- Average Daily Membership: ADMs have continually increased over the past 4 years.
- General Fund Budget to Actual:
 - Food service caused a transfer of \$22,052
 - End the year with \$1,204,251 fund balance
 - Expenditures are a little higher than the state average
 - Expenditures by object code: 77% are allocated for salaries, wages, and benefits.
 - General Fund Balances have continued to rise over the four years.

Motion to approve the 2024 Audit

Move	Second Vote	Motion
Lizzi	Christina	Approved

Ellen Nelson, Chair	Aye
Elisa Bruske, Vice Chair	No Vote
Christina Pruka, Treasurer	Aye
Khristie Cano, Secretary	No Vote
Lizzi Clobes, Teacher Member	Aye
Kate Cook, Teacher Member	No Vote
Jori Eidem, Parent Member	Aye

5. Annual Report

Motion to approve the 2024-2025 Annual Report

Move	Second Vote	Motion
Lizzi	Christina	Approved

Ellen Nelson, Chair	Aye
Elisa Bruske, Vice Chair	No Vote
Christina Pruka, Treasurer	Aye
Khristie Cano, Secretary	No Vote
Lizzi Clobes, Teacher Member	Aye
Kate Cook, Teacher Member	No Vote
Jori Eidem, Parent Member	Aye

6. Kate Cook Board Resignation

Motion to deny the resignation of Kate Cook, Teacher Representative

Move	Second Vote	Motion
Christina	Lizzi	Approved

Ellen Nelson, Chair	Aye
Elisa Bruske, Vice Chair	No Vote
Christina Pruuka, Treasurer	Aye
Khristie Cano, Secretary	No Vote
Lizzi Clobes, Teacher Member	Aye
Kate Cook, Teacher Member	No Vote
Jori Eidem, Parent Member	Aye

7. Policy

- Policy 615: Testing Accommodations, Modifications, and Exemptions for IEP's, 504, and LEP Students
- Policy 618: Assessment of Student Achievement
- Policy 801: Equal Access to Charter School Facilities
- Policy 903: Visitors to Charter Schools Building and Sites

Motion to approve Policy 615, 618, 801, & 903 (with additions made by attorney)

Move	Second Vote	Motion
Lizzi	Christina	Approved

Ellen Nelson, Chair	Aye
Elisa Bruske, Vice Chair	No Vote
Christina Pruuka, Treasurer	Aye
Khristie Cano, Secretary	No Vote
Lizzi Clobes, Teacher Member	Aye
Kate Cook, Teacher Member	No Vote
Jori Eidem, Parent Member	Aye

Committee Meetings:

Community Outreach and Recruitment Committee (CORC): Monday, November 10, 2025 at 5:00 P.M.
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District Advisory Committee (DAC): Thursday, November 13, 2025 at 5:00 P.M.
Facilities Committee: Wednesday, November 12, 2025 at 5:00 P.M.
Finance Committee: Thursday, November 20, 2025 at 5:00 P.M.
Governance Committee: TBD
Policy Committee: Tuesday, November 11, 2025 at 5:00 P.M.

**** All committee meetings will be held in person and via Google Meet.**

RBA Events: Boo Bash is Friday, October 24, 2025; End of Quarter 1 is Friday, October 31

Next Meeting: Next regular Board Meeting is on Thursday, November 20, 2025, at 6:00 pm, in person

Adjourn Meeting at 7:05 pm

Move	Second Vote	Motion
Lizzi	Jori	Approved

Ellen Nelson, Chair	Aye
Elisa Bruske, Vice Chair	No Vote
Christina Pruka, Treasurer	Aye
Khristie Cano, Secretary	No Vote
Lizzi Clobes, Teacher Member	Aye
Kate Cook, Teacher Member	No Vote
Jori Eidem, Parent Member	Aye

Respectfully submitted by: Khristie Cano