

Rochester Beacon Academy Board of Directors Regular Board Meeting Minutes

Date: January 15, 2026

Time: 5:00 pm – 7:30 pm

Location: 974 Skyline Drive SW
Rochester, MN 55902

Call Meeting to Order: 5:07pm

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

Attendance: To establish quorum

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

Guests:

Beth Bruns	Executive Director, Ex Officio
Traci LaFerriere	Business Manager

Conflict of interest: None

Approval of Agenda:

Move	Second Vote	Motion
Approved	Lizzi	Elisa

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

1. Closed Meeting- Expulsion

Move	Second Vote	Motion
Approved	Jori Ediem	Kate Cook

Ellen Nelson, Chair	Aye
Elisa Bruske, Vice Chair	Aye
Christina Pruka, Treasurer	Aye
Khristie Cano, Secretary	Aye
Lizzi Clobes, Teacher Member	Aye
Jori Eidem, Parent Member	N/V
Kate Cook, Teacher Member	Aye

2. Open Meeting:

Move	Second Vote	Motion
Approved	Christina	Lizzi

Ellen Nelson, Chair	Aye
Elisa Bruske, Vice Chair	Aye
Christina Pruka, Treasurer	Aye
Khristie Cano, Secretary	Aye
Lizzi Clobes, Teacher Member	Aye
Jori Eidem, Parent Member	N/V
Kate Cook, Teacher Member	Aye

3. Expulsion Recommendation of the Hearing officer to expel the student in question

Move	Second Vote	Motion
Approved	Christina	Lizzi

Ellen Nelson, Chair	Aye
Elisa Bruske, Vice Chair	Aye
Christina Pruka, Treasurer	Aye
Khristie Cano, Secretary	Aye
Lizzi Clobes, Teacher Member	Aye
Jori Eidem, Parent Member	N/V
Kate Cook, Teacher Member	Aye

Public Forum - Public Forum Guidelines -

none

Old Business

1. Approve November 20, 2025 Board Minutes

Move	Second Vote	Motion
Approved	Kate	Elisa

Ellen Nelson, Chair	Aye
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Elisa Bruske, Vice Chair	Aye
Christina Pruka, Treasurer	Aye
Khristie Cano, Secretary	Aye
Lizzi Clobes, Teacher Member	Aye
Jori Eidem, Parent Member	N/V
Kate Cook, Teacher Member	Aye

2. Committee Reports

- Community Outreach and Recruitment Committee (CORC) No update
- Policy Committee
 We are sending 7 more missing mandatory policies to the board for approval at next week's meeting. Our missing mandatory policies list is down to 2 required and 4 recommended policies; we will prepare the required policies for the board's review in February, and we will readdress the recommended policies over the summer as none of them currently apply to RBA. Moving forward, our next task will be an overhaul of 400-level policies relating to staff. We will review existing 400-level RBA policies that are due for review and also consider 400-level legislative policies that RBA doesn't have.
- District Advisory Committee (DAC) No update
- Finance

Rochester Beacon Academy #4238
 Financial Report to the School Board
 December 2025

The following reports are provided for review (November and December): bank statements, journal entries listing, receipt listing, check listing, wire listing, bank reconciliation, outstanding payments listing, balance sheet and income/cashflow statement. The balance sheet shows the school has sufficient cash available to meet immediate obligations. The state owes the school \$3,064 of prior year's revenue. The school has the following restricted fund balances: \$3794 read act literacy aid, \$3426 teacher compensation read act, \$3844 student support, \$19,075 library, and \$16,380 medical assistance. The income/cashflow statement shows November and December actual and a schedule of January-June projected revenues and expenditures and compares year to date to the FY2026 budget. There is a column to the right that shows the projected end-of-year accruals which are primarily the 10% state aid holdback and salaries and benefits earned in FY2026 but paid after June 30. The estimated actual column to the right shows expected variance from the adopted budget and may become the revised budget. Revenues and expenditures should be monitored to prevent actual from falling short of or exceeding budget. The prior year ending general fund balance is more than estimated in the authorized budget at \$1,204,251. State revenues have been adjusted to 117 estimated actual adm/139.6 wadm. The

current schedule estimates a positive net income of \$117,419 and a \$24,719 transfer between funds. The ending fund balance in the general fund is expected to be \$1,321,670. The FY2026 budget assumed 128 adm/151.8 wadm, a net income in the general fund of \$351,777, a \$23,655 transfer between funds, and \$1,548,395 ending fund balance.

Revenues have been adjusted for actual enrollment and changes in state funding. Expenses have been adjusted primarily for staffing and a van purchase. The prior year 02-fund balance ended at \$0 after a \$22,052 transfer from the general fund. The FY2026 budget assumes a \$23,655 transfer will be necessary to keep the 02-fund balance from being negative.

The school will have to monitor the state aid payments because they may be adjusted for enrollment, special education aid calculations, or prior year adjustments. Also, federal expenditures must be made before reimbursement may be requested which may impact cashflow.

- Facilities
 - Met with realtors
 - 3 sites seen
 - Possible site found

3. Director's Report

Dear Esteemed RBA Board of Directors,

As we welcome students and staff back to school, we are excited for all that 2026 has in store. With a strong emphasis on continued growth and development, we are ready to begin Semester 2 and finish the school year strong.

We are pleased to share a major update regarding transportation. Our new "NEW" van has officially been inspected and approved for use on the roads. With the support and dedication of Ms. Lizzi, Ms. Dawn, and Ms. Vicki, opportunities to take our students into the community, transport students to and from RCTC, and support additional activities are coming together beautifully. In addition, RBA has received its Driver's Education curriculum, which will be taught by our very own Mr. Joel Justin. Through this program, students will have the opportunity to receive 30 hours of classroom instruction at no cost, supporting their independence and future success.

These updates align closely with the school's goal of ensuring all students are college and career ready. RBA is also addressing its academic performance goals by beginning preparation for state testing in the spring. During our most recent professional development day, teachers dove deeper into the Science of Reading alongside Christine Meshak, our COMPAS Regional Literacy Coach. I'd like to note the Language Arts department has done an excellent job supporting the district's literacy plan that was approved this summer. Our next focus is improving math proficiency—an area in which many of our students continue to face challenges.

Lastly, I would like to highlight the significant progress we have made not only academically, but operationally. We are running like a finely tuned machine, which allows us the opportunity to look ahead. For several years, we have focused on meeting immediate needs; now is the time to plan for the future. Strategic planning must be at the forefront of our growth and long-term sustainability. I respectfully ask

for your trust as we work to identify the right people and resources to help make this vision a reality.
 Rochester Beacon Academy

2025-2026 School Year Enrollment: Current = 118 Total:123

6	7	8	9	10	11	12
3	12	17	15	20	19	25 + 6

*5 students not included. Seeking additional resources and supports

RBA Hires
 N/A

RBA Resignations
 Mollie Denton, Paraprofessional effective December 19, 2025.

RBA Terminations / Non-renewal
 N/A

New Business:

4. School & Board Dashboards

A new system, the RBA Board Dashboard, has been created and is located in the Board's shared drive to provide centralized access to board documents, reports, and organizational information.

5. Policy

- 214: Out of State Travel by Charter School Board Members
- 305: Policy Implementation
- 412: Expense Reimbursement
- 427: Workload Limits for Certain Special Education Teachers
- 520: Student Surveys
- 601: Charter School Curriculum and Instruction Goals
- 603: Curriculum Development

Move	Second Vote	Motion
Approved	Elisa	Lizzi

Ellen Nelson, Chair	Aye
Elisa Bruske, Vice Chair	Aye
Christina Pruka, Treasurer	Aye
Khristie Cano, Secretary	Aye

Lizzi Clobes, Teacher Member	Aye
Jori Eidem, Parent Member	N/V
Kate Cook, Teacher Member	Aye

6. Committee Charters - TBA

Committee Meetings:

Facilities Committee: Wednesday, February 4, 2026 at 5:00 P.M.
District Advisory Committee (DAC): Thursday, February 12, 2026 at 5:00 P.M.
Community Outreach and Recruitment Committee (CORC): Monday, February 9, 2026 at 5:00 P.M.
Policy Committee: Tuesday, February 3, 2026 at 5:00 P.M.
Finance Committee: Thursday, February 19, 2026 at 5:00 P.M.
Governance Committee: TBD

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

RBA Events:

Next Meeting: Next regular Board Meeting is on Thursday, February 19, 2026 at 6:00 pm, in person

Adjourn Meeting: 6:02pm

Move	Second Vote	Motion
Approved	Lizzi	Elisa

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

Jori Eidem, Parent Member	n/v
Kate Cook, Teacher Member	aye