

Rochester Beacon Academy Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Date: February 19, 2026

Time: 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm

Location: 974 Skyline Drive SW
Rochester, MN 55902

Call Meeting to Order: 6:04pm

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

Guests:

Beth Bruns	Executive Director, Ex Officio
Traci LaFerriere	Business Manager

Conflict of interest:

Approval of Agenda:

Move	Second Vote	Motion
Lizzi	Elisa	Approved

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
Kate Cook, Teacher Member	Aye
Jori Eidem, Parent Member	Aye

Public Forum - Public Forum Guidelines -

Old Business

- 1. Approve January 15, 2026 Board Minutes

Move	Second Vote	Motion
Christina	Kate	approved

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

- 2. Board Dashboard
Discussed

3. Committee Reports

Met Feb 10th

- Community Outreach and Recruitment Committee (CORC)
Got everything started for Spring fling, just need to finalize the date, activities & donations. Work on marketing for spring fling & recruitment. Discussed follow up opportunities for students with jobs and extra curricular activities.
Quik Trip funds go to Prom
Fund raising opportunities
- District Advisory Committee (DAC)
Meeting Cancelled
- Facilities
Viewed a building
Real estate agent found an investor, excited for the opportunity to work with RBA
Purchase agreements signed
Investor understands constraints
The property was designed to be a school
13 classrooms
Several office spaces
- Finance
Rochester Beacon Academy #4238
Financial Report to the School Board
January 2026

The following reports are provided for review: 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 January actual and a schedule of February-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 \$102,472 and a \$24,719 transfer between funds. The ending fund balance in the general fund is expected to be \$1,306,643. 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.

- Policy Committee

We are continuing to work on our last missing mandatory policy. In the meantime, we are sending 5 missing legislative policies to the board for adoption in February. Since there are a relatively small number of missing legislative policies in the 100, 200, and 300 levels, we are going to tackle those next, then continue with our overhaul of 400-level policies.

Given the number of existing policies that are overdue for review and the amount of work it will take to match those up with MSBA policies, we are considering longer meetings/ work

4. Director's Report

Dear Esteemed Board of Directors,

Returning from winter break presented some challenges, as many students and staff were still adjusting from the slower "homebody" pace of the holidays back into the structure of the school routine. Our Upper Classroom students worked diligently to submit assignments and maximize their academic credit, demonstrating perseverance and commitment. While we pushed forward academically, we also recognized that many students experienced social and emotional challenges during this transition period.

This time of year traditionally brings shifts in enrollment, and we are currently experiencing the typical ebb and flow as families respond to semester grade concerns and seek new academic opportunities. With new enrollments comes a natural shift in school culture and dynamics. Each new student provides us with an opportunity to reinforce and revisit schoolwide expectations to ensure consistency and clarity across classrooms.

To support this transition, we are holding ongoing grade-alike meetings to ensure alignment in instruction, expectations, and communication so that all students receive consistent information and support. These collaborative efforts are helping us maintain stability while fostering a positive and structured learning environment.

As always, we appreciate your continued support as we navigate this mid-year transition and remain committed to our school goals. Below is a review of Quarter two along with identifying trends in the data from Quarter 1.

Quarter 2 Data Review

In alignment with the school's continuous improvement goal, Quarter 2 data have been analyzed across several key domains: behavior, suspensions, attendance, and course performance. The following summarizes current trends and areas requiring continued attention.

Behavior: Minor and Major Incidents

Quarter 2 behavior data reflect the school's ongoing efforts to strengthen Tier 1 expectations and social-emotional supports.

- A total of **133 minor incidents** were recorded during Quarter 2. That is a **47% decrease** from Quarter 1.
- **50 major incidents** were documented and addressed through office-managed interventions. This number **decreased** by **50%** from Quarter 1.

Initial review of the data shows that the decrease in both minor (47%) and major (50%) incidents suggests that our efforts to strengthen Tier 1 expectations and social-emotional supports are making a positive difference. While overall behavior has improved from Quarter 1 to Quarter 2, we will continue to review grade-level data and adjust supports as needed to maintain progress and address any areas of concern.

Suspensions

Suspension data remain a critical indicator of school climate and student support needs.

- **23 suspensions** occurred during Quarter 2, including **2 in-school** and **21 out-of-school** suspensions. The Academy had **one expulsion** in Quarter 2.

The administrative team continues to prioritize restorative practices and individualized behavioral interventions and plans to reduce the need for exclusionary discipline while maintaining a safe learning environment.

Attendance

Attendance remains one of the strongest predictors of academic progress.

- Quarter 2 average daily attendance was **85%**. A four percent increase from Q1.
- **44%** were identified as chronically absent (missing 10% or more school days). A 17% increase since Quarter 1.
- **11%** of students had perfect attendance.. A four percent increase from Quarter 1.

Increased communication with families, attendance initiatives, referrals to appropriate support services are being implemented to improve attendance rates and reduce chronic absenteeism.

Course Performance: Students Not Passing

Quarter 2 grade reporting shows:

- **24% of students** are currently not passing one or more courses. A 16% increase since Quarter 1.

A review of failing grades suggests a significant overlap with students who exhibit attendance concerns or repeated behavioral incidents. Efforts will go to providing structured intervention opportunities, learning labs, independent studies, and credit recovery support to prevent long-term credit deficiencies and to help students remain on track for graduation.

Conclusion

Quarter 2 data show meaningful progress in behavior and overall attendance, with significant decreases in both minor and major incidents and a 4% increase in average daily attendance. However, chronic absenteeism and the percentage of students not passing one or more courses have increased, with data indicating a strong connection between attendance, behavior, and academic performance. Moving forward, the school will continue strengthening Tier 1 supports, restorative practices, and targeted academic and attendance interventions to sustain positive momentum and ensure students remain on track for Semester 2.

2025-2026 School Year Enrollment as of 2/11/26 Total: 117 SPED: 79%

6	7	8	9	10	11	12
5	12	15	14	19	21	23 + 5
	(+2)	(+1)			(+1)	

RBA Hires

Sammy Duarte, Special Education Paraprofessional effective February 4th at \$21.50.

Madison Foster, Special Education Paraprofessional effective February 11th at \$21.50.

RBA Resignations

N/A

RBA Terminations / Non-renewal

N/A

New Business:

5. Policy

- 101: Legal Status of the Charter School
- 101.1: Name of the Charter School
- 103: Complaints - Students, Employees, Parents, Other Persons
- 104: Charter School Mission Statement
- 405: Veteran's Preference
- 408: Subpoena of a Charter School Employee
- 409: Employee Publications, Instructional Materials, Inventions, and Creations
- 423: Employee-Student Relationships
- 424: License Status
- 701: Establishment and Adoption of Charter School Budget

Move	Second Vote	Motion
Christina	Jori	Approved

Name	

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

6. Committee Charters

Move	Second Vote	Motion
Khristie	Elisa	Approved

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

7. Facility Resolution

Motion: I move that the board delegates the process of pursuing a new facility lease for RBA to the facility committee. Formal decisions will be brought to the board for approval.

Move	Second Vote	Motion
Kate	Elisa	Approved

Name	

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

8. Formal Complaint
Discussed

Committee Meetings:

Community Outreach and Recruitment Committee (CORC): Monday, March 9, 2026 at 5:00 P.M.
District Advisory Committee (DAC): Thursday, March 12, 2026 at 5:00 P.M.
Facilities Committee: Thursday, March 5, 2026 at 5:00 P.M.
Finance Committee: Thursday, March 19, 2026 at 5:00 P.M.
Governance Committee: Tuesday, February 24, 2026 at 5:00 P.M.
Policy Committee: Tuesday, March 3, 2026 at 5:00 P.M.

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

RBA Events: No school February 13 & 16, March 2 & 3; ACT on March 10; Spring Break March 28 - April 5

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

Adjourn Meeting: 7:31pm

Move	Second Vote	Motion
Elisa	Kate	Approved

Name	
Ellen Nelson, Chair	aye

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