

Rochester Beacon Academy Board of Directors Regular Board Meeting Minutes

Date: June 18, 2026

Time: 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm

Location: 974 Skyline Drive SW
Rochester, MN 55902

Call Meeting to Order: 6:00pm

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

Attendance: To establish quorum

Name	Attendance
Ellen Nelson, Chair	Present
Christina Pruka, Treasurer	Present
Khristie Cano, Secretary	Present
Lizzi Clobes, Teacher Member	Present

Guests:

Traci LaFerriere	Business Manager
Paige Galles	Incoming Board Member

Conflict of Interest: NONE

Approval of Agenda:

Move	Second Vote	Motion
approved	Khristie	Lizzi

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

Public Forum (review guidelines):

Information and Outreach:

1. Committee Reports

- Community Outreach and Recruitment Committee (CORC)
 - Recruitment for 9th grade
 - Check into local restaurants for work experience/fundraising
 - Pizza Ranch
 - Chipotle
 - Noodles and Co
 - Panera
 - *Possible Ray of Hope and Spring Fling combo
 - *Food Truck for open house event
 - *Bookmobile for open house
 - *Next Meeting Aug 10, 2026
- District Advisory Committee (DAC)
 - Annual Review -Next meeting when more members are present
 - Strategic Plan -Student feedback to be synthesized, will be prepped for next Meeting
 - Contact MSBA's Gail Gilman (Mn School Board Association) to help draft, edit, and polish (in process)
 - Succession Planning-
 - Admin team clarified roles and responsibilities
 - New Administrative assistant will train in essential parts of each admin position
 - Need to write out succession plan for Executive Director/admin roles
 - Need to plan for Board Chair
- Facilities
 - Follow up with staff, classes packed but unknown if there will be a move.
 - *Discussion of the building for next year either staying at the current building or possibility of moving.
 - *Chair of Facilities committee will ask for an update on the building search
- Finance

Rochester Beacon Academy #4238

Financial Report to the School Board - May 2026

The following reports are provided for review: bank statements, receipt listing, check listing, wire listing, bank reconciliation, outstanding payments, journal entries, balance sheet, and income/cashflow/revised budget statement. Additionally, the FY2027 draft budget is provided for approval.

The balance sheet shows the school has sufficient cash available to meet immediate obligations. 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 May actual and a schedule of June projected revenues and expenditures and compares year to date to the FY2026 revised 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 shows expected variance from the revised budget.

State revenues have been adjusted to 110.82 adm/132.04wadm. The current schedule estimates a negative net income of -\$33,521 and a \$22,759 transfer between funds. The ending fund balance in the general fund is expected to be \$1,170,729.

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.

The FY2027 revised budget should be approved as:

Fund 01 Fund 02

Revenue \$3,405,802 \$26,650

Expense \$3,315,603 \$26,650

Net \$90,199 \$0

Ending \$1,263,679 \$0

A year end transfer from fund 01 to fund 02 is authorized at the minimum amount to create a positive fund balance in fund 02.

- Governance
 - *Not met since special board meeting
 - *Will meet soon to discuss the Executive Director Evaluation
 - * Possibility of using the Board Self assessment tool
- Policy Committee
 - Several updates have been drafted into Bylaws per Alul's recommendations
 - Website is updated with policies approved in May
 - Recommendations to the Board- Sented to board for approval in June:
 - *Bylaws, 403, 425, 429, OLD 405, 525, 532, 604, 605, 606, 608, 609, 610, 613 619, 621
 - Sending to the board to retire: none
 - Tabled for now: 534, 602, 612, 624
 - Next meeting June 30, 2026
 - Handbook update possibly in August

2. Director's Report

Dear Esteemed Board of Directors,

We have officially concluded the 2025–2026 academic school year, and what a year it has been. As we reflect on the many successes, challenges, and unexpected moments that defined this school year, several lessons stand out.

First, we learned that perhaps purchasing a 12-passenger van rather than a 10-passenger van is not a venture we are eager to revisit anytime soon. Some experiences provide a valuable perspective, and this was certainly a colorful one.

Second, we were reminded that if something is working well, it does not always need to be reinvented. Sometimes the greatest wisdom lies in recognizing what is already effective and building upon those strengths rather than fixing what is not broken.

Most importantly, this year reinforced who we are as a school community. We discovered, once again, that we are stronger together. Whether navigating staffing challenges,

responding to unexpected changes, relocating classrooms (& buildings), or preparing for transitions on short notice, our team consistently demonstrated resilience, flexibility, and unwavering commitment. We learned that we can pack up and pivot in the blink of an eye when our students need us to do so.

Throughout it all, our staff continued to show up each day with dedication and purpose. They remained steadfast in their commitment to teaching and learning, ensuring that students received the support, encouragement, and high expectations they deserve. Even in less-than-ideal circumstances—including learning and working in spaces that were, at times, uncomfortably warm—our team persevered with grace, humor, and professionalism.

The 2025–2026 school year challenged us in ways we did not anticipate, but it also highlighted the incredible strength, heart, and determination that define RBA. We have much to celebrate and even more to build upon as we look toward the future.

See below for our final Quarter 4 data and the year-end summary.

Quarter 4 Data Review

In alignment with the school's continuous improvement goal, Quarter 4 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

- A total of 114 minor incidents were recorded during Quarter 3.
- 47 major incidents were documented and addressed through office-managed interventions. This remains relatively low compared to the beginning of the school year.

Suspensions.

- 23 suspensions occurred during Quarter 4, including 1 in-school and 22 out-of-school suspensions.

Attendance

- Quarter 4 average daily attendance was 86%.
- 22% of students were identified as chronically absent (missing 10% or more of school days), down from 50% in Quarter 3.
- 12% of students had perfect attendance.

Course Performance: Students Not Passing

- 12% of students are currently not passing one or more courses

Year-End Summary

2025–2026 Quarterly Data Analysis

In alignment with Rochester Beacon Academy's continuous improvement process, quarterly data were reviewed across four key indicators: behavior, suspensions, attendance, and course performance. The analysis below highlights trends observed throughout the school year and identifies areas of success as well as opportunities for continued growth.

Behavior: Minor and Major Incidents

Behavior data demonstrate substantial improvement over the course of the school year, particularly when comparing Quarter 1 to subsequent quarters.

Quarter	Minor Incidents	Major Incidents
Quarter 1	283	101
Quarter 2	113	50
Quarter 3	134	27
Quarter 4	114	47

RBA experienced a significant reduction in behavioral incidents following Quarter 1. Minor incidents decreased by 60% from Quarter 1 (283 incidents) to Quarter 4 (114 incidents). Major incidents declined by 53% from Quarter 1 (101 incidents) to Quarter 4 (47 incidents), despite a modest increase during the final quarter.

Although Quarter 4 reflected an increase in major incidents compared with Quarter 3, rates remained considerably lower than those observed at the beginning of the school year. This pattern may reflect end-of-year challenges, changes in routine, or increased behavioral needs as students approached summer break.

Suspensions

Suspension data serve as an important measure of both school climate and the effectiveness of behavioral supports.

Quarter	Total Suspensions	ISS	OSS
Quarter 1	34	3	31
Quarter 2	23	2	21

Quarter 3	22	5	17
Quarter 4	23	1	22

Suspensions declined substantially after Quarter 1. Overall suspensions decreased by 35% from Quarter 1 to Quarter 3. While Quarter 4 showed a slight increase compared with Quarter 3, suspension rates remained significantly lower than those recorded at the start of the year.

The data indicate a gradual shift toward utilizing restorative practices and individualized interventions before exclusionary consequences become necessary. Quarter 3 reflected the highest use of in-school suspensions, suggesting increased efforts to maintain student access to instruction while addressing behavioral concerns.

Attendance

Attendance trends throughout the school year present both encouraging outcomes and ongoing challenges.

Quarter	Average Daily Attendance	Chronic Absenteeism	Perfect Attendance
Quarter 1	81%	27%	7%
Quarter 2	85%	44%	11%
Quarter 3	86%	44%	12%
Quarter 4	86%	22%	12%

Average daily attendance improved steadily throughout the year, increasing from 81% in Quarter 1 to 86% in Quarters 3 and 4, representing a five-percentage-point gain.

Perfect attendance rates also improved, rising from 7% to 12%, indicating that attendance recognition efforts may have positively influenced student engagement.

However, chronic absenteeism emerged as a significant concern during the middle of the school year. Rates increased from 27% in Quarter 1 to 44% in Quarters 2 and 3. Despite this challenge, Quarter 4 demonstrated substantial improvement, with chronic absenteeism decreasing to 22%, representing the lowest rate recorded after Quarter 1.

Implications

Although overall attendance improved, chronic absenteeism continues to warrant focused attention. RBA will be making Attendance one of its three internal goals for the 2026-2027 school year.

Course Performance: Students Not Passing One or More Courses

Academic performance data reveal fluctuations throughout the year but ultimately demonstrate improvement by the end of Quarter 4.

Quarter	Students Not Passing One or More Courses
Quarter 1	8%
Quarter 2	24%
Quarter 3	12%
Quarter 4	12%

The percentage of students failing one or more courses increased significantly during Quarter 2, rising from 8% to 24%. This increase coincided with elevated rates of chronic absenteeism, suggesting a relationship between missed instructional time and academic difficulties.

Following the implementation of academic interventions, tutoring opportunities, and credit recovery supports, the percentage of students not passing courses declined to 12% in Quarter 3 and remained stable through Quarter 4.

Although Quarter 4 rates did not return to Quarter 1 levels, RBA successfully reduced failing rates by 50% from the Quarter 2 peak.

Overall Findings:

A review of the 2025–2026 school year data reveals several encouraging trends:

- **Behavior improved significantly**, with major incidents decreasing by more than half from Quarter 1 to Quarter 4.
- **Suspensions declined overall**, suggesting increased effectiveness of restorative practices and individualized supports.
- **Average daily attendance increased by five percentage points**, while chronic absenteeism showed meaningful improvement by the end of the year.
- **Academic performance rebounded following Quarter 2 challenges**, with failing rates reduced by half and maintained through the final two quarters.

At the same time, the data reinforce the interconnected nature of attendance, behavior, and academic achievement. Students experiencing chronic absenteeism were more likely to

demonstrate behavioral concerns and course failures, highlighting the importance of early intervention and cross-department collaboration.

Next Steps

During the upcoming 2026-2027 school year, Rochester Beacon Academy will continue to:

- Focus its efforts on *Attendance, Academics, and Accountability*
- Strengthen Tier 1 behavioral expectations and restorative practices;
- Expand attendance initiatives and family engagement efforts;
- Utilize early warning indicators to identify students at risk academically or behaviorally;
- Provide targeted academic interventions, tutoring, and credit recovery opportunities; and
- Monitor quarterly data to evaluate the effectiveness of implemented strategies and guide continuous improvement efforts.

Overall, RBA demonstrated resilience and responsiveness throughout the year, using data to inform decisions and improve outcomes for students. While growth opportunities remain, particularly regarding chronic absenteeism, the trends observed suggest that current intervention efforts are moving the school in a positive direction.

Thank you for your continued leadership, advocacy, and support of our mission. Together, we have navigated another remarkable year, and together, we will continue creating a school where every student is known, supported, and empowered to succeed.

Beth Bruns
Executive Director
Rochester Beacon Academy

- Enrollment

2025-2026 School Year Enrollment Total as of 6/4/26 Total:114 SPED: 80%

6	7	8	9	10	11	12
6	13	12	14	20	21	23 + 5

- RBA Personal Resignations
 - Kate Cook, Science Teacher, effective June 4, 2026
 - Erse Reed, Social Studies Teacher, effective June 4, 2026
- RBA Personnel New Hires
- RBA Personal Terminations/Non-renewal
 - Jamie Schlichting, Special Education Teacher, effective June 4, 2026 - Non-renewal

3. Update on Change in Authorizer (CIA) process

- IQS- 11 School Goals for requirements
 - draft versions created for each goal
- IQS- wants to move forward to submit a draft to MDE
- MDE 30 days to respond to a request

-MDE may have RBA resubmit the CIA request if there are any areas that need to be addressed.

Consent Agenda:

4. Approval of May 21, 2026 and June 4, 2026 minutes
5. Approval of Human Resources Actions
6. Approval of policy formatting/number changes
 - 431: Salary and Wage Compensation System (formerly 405)

Move	Second Vote	Motion
Approved	Christina	Lizzi

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

New Business:

7. Approval of Paige Galles, new community member, effective 7/1/26

Move	Second Vote	Motion
approved	Christina	Khristie

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

8. Approval of Christina Pruka as community member (to fill vacancy), effective 7/01/26

Move	Second Vote	Motion
------	-------------	--------

approved	Khristie	Lizzi
----------	----------	-------

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

8. Designation of Identified Official with Authority (IOwA)

Move	Second Vote	Motion
approved	Khristie	Christine

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

9. Designation of depositories - At the July Meeting the board will put to a vote

10. Designation of Title IX Coordinator- July meeting will be discussed further and who will be named the coordinator.

11. Approval of 2026-2027 calendar change

From June 4, 2027

To Aug 13, 2026

Move	Second Vote	Motion
approved	Khristie	Lizzi

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

12. Approval of 2026-2027 budget

Move	Second Vote	Motion
Approved	Lizzi	Khristie

Ellen Nelson, Chair	
Christina Pruka, Treasurer	
Khristie Cano, Secretary	
Lizzi Clobes, Teacher Member	

13. Approval of policy committee recommendations

- 403: Discipline, Suspension, and Dismissal of Charter School Employees
- 425: Staff Development and Mentoring
- ~~— 429: Teacher Evaluations~~
- 525: Violence Prevention (Applicable to Students and Staff)
- 532: Use of Peace Officers and Crisis Teams to Remove Students
- 604: Instructional Curriculum
- 605: Alternative Educational Services
- 606: Textbooks and Instructional Materials
- ~~— 608: Instructional Services — SPED (Edit to Child Find Process)~~
- 609: Religion and Religious and Cultural Observances
- 610: Field Trips
- 613: Graduation Requirements
- 619: Staff Development for Standards
- 621: Literacy and the Read Act

Move	Second Vote	Motion
approved	Christina	Lizzi

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

Upcoming Committee Meetings:

Community Outreach and Recruitment Committee (CORG): August 10, 2026 at 5:00 P.M.
District Advisory Committee (DAC): Thursday, July 9, 2026 at 5:00 P.M.
Facilities Committee: Monday, July 6, 2026 at 5:00 P.M.
Finance Committee: Thursday, July 16, 2026 at 5:00 P.M.
Governance Committee: TBD
Policy Committee: Tuesday, June 30, 2026 at 5:00 P.M.

***** All committee meetings will be held via Google Meet.***

RBA Events:

Next Meeting: Next regular Board Meeting is on Thursday, July 16, 2026 at 6:00 pm, in person

Adjourn Meeting:

Move	Second Vote	Motion
approved	Christina	Khristie

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