

Rochester Beacon Academy Board of Directors Regular Board Meeting Official Minutes

Date: July 16, 2026

Time: 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm

Location: 974 Skyline Drive SW
Rochester, MN 55902

Call Meeting to Order: 6:03 pm

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	absent
Christina Pruka, Treasurer	present
Khristie Cano, Secretary	present
Lizzi Clobes, Teacher Member	present
Paige Galles, Community Member	present

Guests:

Beth Bruns	Executive Director
Traci LaFerriere	Business Manager

Conflict of Interest:

Approval of Agenda:

Move	Second Vote	Motion
Approved	Khristie	Lizzi

Ellen Nelson, Chair	No vote
Christina Pruka, Treasurer	aye
Khristie Cano, Secretary	aye

Lizzi Clobes, Teacher Member	aye
Paige Galles, Community Member	aye

Public Forum (review guidelines):

Information and Updates:

1. Committee Reports

- Community Outreach and Recruitment Committee (CORC)
 - Did not meet
 - District Advisory Committee (DAC)
 - Committee Goals and Priorities - last year: curriculum, community culture
 - suggestions for this year, clarifying and improving board academic oversight, strategic planning, succession planning for ED and Board Chair.
 - Action steps : Succession planning/ org chart for students
 - Strategic Planning -update on conversation with Gail Gilman from MSBA with a suggestion
 - Action steps: table for after school starts
 - Teacher evaluation framework - Charlotte Danielson and Kim Marshall
 - Action steps bring to board for approval
 - board makes the decision for how the evaluation tools are used
 - Mentorship - Green to Great - uses Kim Marshall rubric for evaluations
 - keep evaluations because the teachers are familiar with these types of evaluations.
 - Action steps: bring to board for approval
 - Graduation Credit - 2015-2023 was 21.5 credits
 - 2024-2026 was 22 credits
 - Propose 24 credits
 - MN minimum 21.5 credits - the suggestion increases from the state and for attendance, funding, and to make up credit time from the shortening of team time and a new opportunity for RCTC credit availability.
 - Action steps: bring to board to approval
- Next Meeting Aug, 13, 2026 @ 5:00pm

2.Increase to Graduate Credit Goal and use of current evaluation tools (Kim Marshall and Charlotte Danielson)

Move	Second Vote	Motion
approved	Khristie	Lizzi

Ellen Nelson, Chair	No vote
Christina Pruka, Treasurer	aye
Khristie Cano, Secretary	aye

Lizzi Clobes, Teacher Member	aye
Paige Galles, Community Member	aye

Facilities Committee

Leases received and communication clarified- investor issues between buyer and RPS, power lines, and cost of building

Lease was presented 240,000 out of budget per pupil unit which is about 75,000

- Negotiated a 5 year lease for a closer per pupil unit to closer match amount available
- More projects and installation for technology
- Committee goals and priorities -Last year: determine facility needs, secure funding, choose location
- the current property will agree to a 5 month lease to possibly another 5 months
- Suggestions for this year: communication with all stakeholders (when appropriate) needs to be a priority.

Determination date -Choose a date after which we will NOT be moving for 2026-27 school year

- Communicate out to all stakeholders

3. Sign 5 month lease with current location with October 15th deadline to decide to stay at current location or go ahead with move

Move	Second Vote	Motion
approved	Lizzi	Christina

Ellen Nelson, Chair	No vote
Christina Pruka, Treasurer	aye
Khristie Cano, Secretary	aye
Lizzi Clobes, Teacher Member	aye
Paige Galles, Community Member	aye

- Finance Committee
 - Did not meet
 - Budget approved
 - Budget revision in April 20, 2026
 - Director of students supports and district literacy
- Governance Committee
 - Did not meet
- Policy Committee
 - Large portion of Policies completed

2. Director's Report

Dear RBA Board of Directors,

As we prepare to open another exciting school year at Rochester Beacon Academy, I want to take a moment to share the incredible momentum building across our school community. This year represents more than a new beginning—it marks a chapter defined by compassion, resilience, and perseverance.

We are thrilled to welcome new Board members, new staff, and new students to the RBA family. Each brings fresh perspectives, new energy, and opportunities that will only strengthen our mission of serving students.

Our 2026–2027 Focus: Academics, Accountability, and Attendance

These three priorities will guide every decision we make this year and will continue to move RBA toward becoming the premier choice for students who need a different path to success.

Academics: Raising Expectations, Raising Achievement

Academic excellence will be at the center of everything we do.

This year, every content area will be implementing a new curriculum supported by ongoing professional development and coaching. We are strengthening curriculum alignment to Minnesota state standards while ensuring that every classroom reflects rigorous, engaging, and meaningful instruction.

Every student will begin the year with clear academic and behavioral expectations, establishing a consistent culture of learning the *RBA Way* from day one.

Last year's assessment results serve as a powerful testament to the academic shifts already underway. The progress our students demonstrated confirms that increasing rigor, strengthening instruction, and maintaining high expectations are producing meaningful outcomes. We are committed to building on that success.

To ensure continuous improvement, DAC will be developing a comprehensive process to measure the effectiveness of our curriculum, allowing instructional decisions to be driven by evidence, student performance, and continuous refinement.

Accountability: Supporting Excellence at Every Level

Strong schools are built through strong people.

This year, every teacher will receive mentorship designed around their individual experience and years of service at RBA.. Whether a first-year educator or seasoned veteran, every staff member will receive meaningful support focused on professional growth and student success.

In fact, every employee at RBA will participate in a mentorship program in some capacity, reinforcing our belief that continuous learning starts at the top

Accountability will extend beyond instruction. We are strengthening expectations across every aspect of our organization—from academic achievement and grading practices to compliance reporting, operational systems, and organizational performance. Student data and measurable outcomes will remain at the center of our decision-making process.

Attendance: Every Day Matters

We know that students cannot achieve if they are not present.

To address attendance proactively, RBA has implemented a new *Attendance Protocol* led by Dr. Amy Woxland and our Student Support Team, including the School Counselor, School Social Worker, and Office Manager.

This collaborative system is designed to identify early warning signs, intervene quickly, and provide increasingly targeted levels of support before attendance concerns become significant barriers to student success. Our goal is simple: remove obstacles, strengthen family partnerships, and ensure every student has the opportunity to succeed.

Looking Ahead

The year ahead is filled with tremendous opportunity. With an outstanding team, a dedicated Board of Directors, and a shared commitment to our students, I am confident we are positioned to make this our strongest year yet.

Thank you for your continued leadership, trust, and unwavering commitment to RBA. I look forward to partnering with each of you as we continue to build this amazing place.

- Enrollment

2026-2027 School Year Enrollment Total as of 6/4/26 Total:103 Pending 4

6	7	8	9	10	11	12
4	7	16	11	15	20	21 + 9

- RBA Personnel Resignations

- RBA Personnel New Hires

Charlotte Becker, Social Studies Teacher, effective August 10, 2026 at \$44,795

Darcy Bock, Special Education Resource Teacher, effective August 10, 2026 at \$65,339

Murielle Harrison, Paraprofessional, effective August 10, 2026 at \$21.50 per hour

Emily Jacobson, Special Education Resource Teacher, effective August 10, 2026 at \$54,064

Samantha Volkart, Administrative Assistant, effective August 3, 2026 at \$36,400

- RBA Personnel Terminations

Sara Dion, Special Education Paraprofessional, effective July 9, 2026

3. Update on Change in Authorizer (CIA) process

Lori IQS their board approved our transfer to submit

Consent Agenda:

4. Approval of June 18, 2026 minutes

Move	Second Vote	Motion
approved	Christina	Lizzi

Ellen Nelson, Chair	No vote
Christina Pruka, Treasurer	aye
Khristie Cano, Secretary	aye
Lizzi Clobes, Teacher Member	aye
Paige Galles, Community Member	aye

5. Approval of human resources action
6. Approval of policy formatting/number changes

New Business:

7. 2026-2027 Board Meeting schedule
8. Designation of Identified Official with Authority (IOwA)
Beth Bruns
Vicki Bruske is a proxy

Move	Second Vote	Motion
approved	Khristie	Page

Ellen Nelson, Chair	No vote
Christina Pruka, Treasurer	aye
Khristie Cano, Secretary	aye
Lizzi Clobes, Teacher Member	aye
Paige Galles, Community Member	aye

9. Designation of depositories
Beth Bruns
Vicki Bruske
Traci LaFerriere

Move	Second Vote	Motion
Approved	Lizzi	Christie

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

10. Designation of Title IX Coordinator
Kate Gustafson Coordinator
Dr Amy woxland Proxy

Move	Second Vote	Motion
approved	Khristie	Lizzi

Ellen Nelson, Chair	no
Christina Pruka, Treasurer	aye
Khristie Cano, Secretary	aye
Lizzi Clobes, Teacher Member	aye
Paige Galles, Community Member	aye

11. Approval of policy committee recommendations

- 2026-2027 Student Handbook
- 2026-2027 Staff Handbook
- Bylaws

Move	Second Vote	Motion
approved	Page	Lizzi

Ellen Nelson, Chair	No vote
Christina Pruka, Treasurer	aye

Khristie Cano, Secretary	aye
Lizzi Clobes, Teacher Member	aye
Paige Galles, Community Member	aye

12. Parent membership

Rosemary Stutzka

Move	Second Vote	Motion
approved	Lizzi	Khristie

Ellen Nelson, Chair	No vote
Christina Pruka, Treasurer	aye
Khristie Cano, Secretary	aye
Lizzi Clobes, Teacher Member	aye
Paige Galles, Community Member	aye

13. Board retreat information August 1, 2026 9:00am to 3:00 pm

Upcoming Committee Meetings:

Community Outreach and Recruitment Committee (CORC): Monday, August 10, 2026 at 5:00 P.M.
District Advisory Committee (DAC): Thursday, August 13, 2026 at 5:00 P.M.
Facilities Committee: Monday, August 3, 2026 at 5:00 P.M.
Finance Committee: Thursday, August 20, 2026 at 5:00 P.M.
Governance Committee: TBD
Policy Committee: Tuesday, August 4, 2026 at 5:00 P.M.

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

RBA Events: Teacher workshops begin Monday, August 10; Open House for students and families will be held on August 18 & 19

Next Meeting: Our annual Board Retreat will take place on Saturday, August 1, 2026 from 9:00am to 3:00pm. Next regular Board Meeting is on Thursday, August 20, 2026 at 6:00 pm, in person.

Adjourn Meeting: 7:35pm

Move	Second Vote	Motion
approved	Lizzi	Khristie

Ellen Nelson, Chair	No vote
Christina Pruka, Treasurer	aye
Khristie Cano, Secretary	aye
Lizzi Clobes, Teacher Member	aye
Paige Galles, Community Member	aye