

Rochester Beacon Academy Board of Directors Regular Board Official Meeting Minutes

Date: August 20, 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: Christina

Attendance: To establish quorum

Name	Attendance
Ellen Nelson, Chair	present
Christina Pruka, Treasurer	present
Khristie Cano, Secretary	present
Lizzi Clobes, Teacher Member	present
Paige Galles, Community Member	present
Rosemary Stutzka, Parent Member	present

Guests:

Beth Bruns	Executive Director
Traci LaFerriere	Business Manager
Dr. Amy Woxland	Director of Student Supports
Kate Gustafson	Assistant SPED Director
Bridget Bruns	SPED Teacher
Darcy Bock	
Crystal Bartz	
Temperance Lovelace	

Conflict of Interest:
none

Approval of Agenda:

Move	Second Vote	Motion
approved	Lizzi	Khristie

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

Public Forum (review guidelines):

Information and Updates:

1. Committee Reports

- Community Outreach and Recruitment Committee (CORC)

Met August 10th, 2026

- Discussed Working agreements and agreed on updates
- Discussed Committee Goals and Priorities -back to school days Aug 18 & 19th
- Discussed the coming year: Fundraising, member recruitment, and a change of meeting time and day.

Combining Ray of Hope and Spring Fling fundraisers–

Flier Created

Hour change to 6:00pm, First Monday of the month

- District Advisory Committee (DAC)

- Update from Executive Director on: Curriculum: Art, health, life skills, ELA have been ordered, discussed Science Meeting with EBSCO rep meeting scheduled. Discussed need to develop a curriculum review
- Academics: need a plan for communicating
- Mentorship: Dr Meg presented at workshops, used Kim Marshal rubric
- Moving forward- show kids a map of academics, accountability, and attendance goals
- Put together a dashboard
- New members added to DAC
- Change of time to 8am First Friday of the month

Finalized: Green to Great mentorship program teacher evaluation rubric, and graduation credits

- Facilities Committee
 - lease aid application request
 - Church will be looking for a Lease
 - spoke to realtor and there are no new investors for building
 - Discussion with realtor about how to proceed looking at different options
 - looking for an lease extension
- Finance Committee
 - Full report will be in July/August
 - Audit is almost complete with hopes to fulfill within a week
 - (Tentative budget may be positive)
- Policy Committee
 - Updates: Policies approved in July have been finalized
 - Policy tracker has been updated
 - Handbooks done - just updated lunch prices
 - Bylaws - Laurie sent substantial feedback for us to discuss in September
 - Para handbook?
 - Communication plan?
 - 429: Teacher Evaluation Process
 - Discussed Instead of probationary/continuing, maybe 1st year mentees/renewals
 - Include at-will language
 - No MSBA policy - retire
 - 516.5: Overdose Medication - Sent to the Board
 - Technology and Cell phone Acceptable use and Safety- Language about PEDs
 - 531: Pledge of Allegiance: Board needs to vote on waiving requirement for 2026-27
 - New flags?
 - 534: School Meal Policy: editing language
 - 608: Instructional services - SPED discussed more detail about child find process
 - 806: Crisis Management Policy - complete
 - Wrapped up most of the remaining policies on the list and are revisiting a couple that were skipped along the way. Soon to be reaching the end of the major policy overhaul, and have decided to meet in person next month to clean up anything missed, update the policy tracker and map out the policy review cycle.
 - Look into AI policy and a health policy

2. Director's Report

Dear Esteemed Board Members,

I am happy to report that our transition to bringing staff back for the new school year went very well. We had several enriching professional development opportunities, including mandated reporting with Olmsted County, curriculum alignment to the MN state standards with Dr. Meg Cavalier, special education due process with our Special Education Leadership Team, leadership development with Mr. Brett Clarke, legislative updates with the schools attorney, and much more.

We are excited to welcome our students back this coming Monday and begin another school year together. By leveraging the strengths of our returning students, we hope to make our new students feel welcomed and a sense of belonging.

As we look ahead, we are ready to dive into our academic data and strengthen our Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) systems. Our focus will be on using data to identify student needs, provide targeted interventions, monitor progress, and ensure that every student is receiving the appropriate level of support to be successful.

I am looking forward to a strong start to the school year and continuing the important work of moving RBA forward.

Thank you for your continued support and partnership.

- Enrollment
-

2026-2027 School Year Enrollment Total as of 8/20/26 is 111 Students

6	7	8	9	10	11	12
6	8	19	14	14	20	21 + 9

- RBA New Hires
Kelsey Roe, Paraprofessional, effective August 24, 2026 at \$21.50
Dallas Carter, Paraprofessional, effective August 24, 2026 at \$21.50
Deb Kirchner, Special Education Case Manager, effective August 10, 2026 at \$50 per hour.
- RBA Personal Resignations- None
- RBA Personal Terminations- None

3. [Student Council Report]
Next Meeting-September 2026
4. Update on Change in Authorizer (CIA) process-
Hoping to hear from IQS
Anticipating a rejection from MDE and will reapply with any suggestions and also anticipate acceptance from MDE after 30 days.
RBA is number 4 in line it may take after the holidays to be under IQS officially.
IQS is working to make sure RBA is on the right track to acceptance and help RBA accountable

Consent Agenda:

4. ~~Approval of July 16, 2026 minutes~~— September Board
5. Approval of human resources actions
6. Approval of updated committee charters

Move	Second Vote	Motion
approved	Khristie	Christina

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

New Business:

6. 2026-2027 Building Lease Request for extension to June 30, 2026
(Discussion about possibility for a portable classroom or pod will discuss further with Facility committee)

Move	Second Vote	Motion
approved	Christina	Lizzi

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

7. Approval of policy committee recommendations
 - Policy 516.5: Overdose Medication
 - Policy 524: Internet, Technology, and Cell Phone Acceptable Use and Safety
 - Policy 534: School Meals
 - Policy 608: Instructional Services - SPED
 - Policy 806: Crisis Management
 - 2026-2027 Crisis Management Plan
 - 2026-2027 Para Handbook
 - 2026-2027 Communication Plan

Move	Second Vote	Motion
approved	Paige	Lizzi

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

- Policy 531: Pledge of Allegiance - waive the policy this year with the expectation following year 2027-2028 will be adopted

Move	Second Vote	Motion
approved	Rosemary	Christina

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

- Review brand assets portfolio:
Discussion of the RBA branding and the portfolio of art
-A task force will be created by CORC
- Approval of new board member
 - Darcy Bock, Teacher Member, effective upon completion of training, term to end 6/30/2029

Move	Second Vote	Motion
approved	Christina	Khristie

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

Upcoming Committee Meetings:

Community Outreach and Recruitment Committee (CORC): Monday, September 14, 2026 at 6:00 P.M.
District Advisory Committee (DAC): Friday, September 11, 2026 @ 8:00 A.M.
Facilities Committee: Monday, September 7, 2026 at 5:00 P.M.
Finance Committee: Thursday, September 17, 2026 at 5:00 P.M.
Governance Committee: Tuesday, August 25, 2026 at 5:00 P.M.
Policy Committee: Tuesday, September 1st, 2026 at 4:15 P.M., in person

***** All committee meetings will be held via Google Meet unless otherwise noted.***

RBA Events: First day of school - Monday, August 24

Next Meeting: Thursday, September 17, 2026 at 6:00 pm, in person

Adjourn Meeting:

Move	Second Vote	Motion
approved	Lizzi	Rosemary

Ellen Nelson, Chair	aye
Christina Pruka, Treasurer	aye

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