



7094 Cottonwood Tree Drive, Colorado Springs, CO 80927  
Phone: 719.570.0075 - Fax: 719.522.2900 Email: boardblra@blracademy.org

**Mission Statement:**

*Create a safe, positive environment that fosters intellectual curiosity and  
a thirst for discovery where students and staff succeed through exceptional programs*

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
OCTOBER 17, 2023 AT BANNING LEWIS RANCH ACADEMY AT  
6:00pm MT.**

**1. Opening Items**

- 1.1. Pledge of Allegiance
- 1.2. Reading of the Mission Statement
- 1.3. Roll Call - Leigh Bolton, Kevin Clark, Guinn Leeder, Chris Thompson, Roland Rainey, Kimberly Whitten-Chung (call in)
- 1.4. Meeting called to order at 6:21pm MT
- 1.5. Approval of the minutes. Guinn motioned to approve September minutes. Leigh seconded. Motion carries.
- 1.6. Amendments to Agenda
  - 1.6.1. Add agenda item to discuss new course proposals. Within Principal Report. Chris motioned to approve. Kevin seconded. All in favor. Motion carries.
- 1.8. Good News
- 1.9. Public Comment - None.

**2. Finance Review**

- 2.1. Review Financials
  - 2.1.1. Financial Package Review
    - 2.1.1.1. Open question on why the fraudulent activity was included in the audit when it occurred in previous year.
    - 2.1.1.2. Guinn asked the Finance Committee to look into the recommendations from the audit and what action items should come of it. Roland acknowledged the request.
  - 2.1.2. Bank Update
    - 2.1.2.1. \$6M went to Wells Fargo and \$3M remains at State Bank.
  - 2.1.3. Investment Structure
    - 2.1.3.1. \$28k has been earned in interest to date.
    - 2.1.3.2. The interest earned is not subject to fees or payment to ACCEL.
  - 2.1.4. Employee Admin Fee
    - 2.1.4.1. Increase in admin fee month over month is due to an increase in substitutes.
    - 2.1.4.2. Leigh motioned to pay \$16,320 for the Employee Admin fee. Kevin seconded. Roland sustained. Rest in favor. Motion carries.
- 2.5. Review of Legal Counsel Options
  - 2.5.1. Three options.
    - 2.5.1.1. One is the district's attorney, but would represent us if we so chose.
    - 2.5.1.2. Second option represents ACCEL and would not represent us.

2.5.1.3.Third option is Dustin Sparks. Cost is less than Barry. References had good reviews. No contract needed. Chris motioned to request a proposal from Dustin Sparks to be our legal representation. Guinn seconded. All in favor. Motion carries.

## 2.6. Address Interest from Investment

2.6.1.Guinn suggested that we spend the interest on the school and allow the base to continue to earn interest.

### **Executive Session: § 24-6-402(4)(e), C.R.S: “Determining positions relative to matters that may be subject to negotiations; developing strategy for negotiations; and instructing negotiators.” Re: Banning Lewis Academy Employee Administrative Services.**

*Leigh motioned to enter into an executive session. Chris seconded the motion.*

*Kevin Clark - Yes*

*Leigh Bolton - Yes*

*Roland Rainey - Yes*

*Guinn Leeder - Yes*

*Chris Thompson - Yes*

*Kim Whitten-Chung - Yes*

*Motion carries. The Board entered into Executive session at 7:25pm MT.*

*Leigh motioned to enter back into regular session at 8:06pm MT.*

*Kevin Clark - Yes*

*Leigh Bolton - Yes*

*Roland Rainey - Yes*

*Guinn Leeder - Yes*

*Chris Thompson - Yes*

*Kim Whitten-Chung - Yes*

*The motion carries.*

## **3. School Updates**

### 3.1. Principal Reports

3.1.1.Enrollment - Looking like we will be at our stretch goal of 1625! Currently at 1631 actually.

3.1.2.Staffing - Looking to add some teacher support roles.

3.1.3.Review of New Course Proposals. Chris motioned to add the new proposed new courses to the course catalog. Guinn seconded. All in favor. Motion carries.

3.2. D49 Board Certification Forms - Leigh will send them out to the Board for signatures.

3.3. Special Education Roll Out Update

3.4. Update on Field Process

3.4.1.Funds

3.4.2.Requests

3.4.3.Pressbox, Concessions, Etc

3.5. Field Usage - We will need to think through how we will manage usage requests for the field.

3.6. MLO Resolution from D49 - A new version was provided, but we do not need to sign because it is already in our charter that we will use the MLO funds.

3.7. Finalize School Mission and Vision

3.7.1.VISION: Every Student, Every Day

3.7.2.MISSION: Create a safe, supportive environment where students thrive academically and develop the skills, character, and mindset to engage with the world.

3.7.3.Guinn motioned to approve the new Vision and Mission statement. Kim seconded. All in favor. Motion carries.

#### **4. Committee**

- 4.1. PTO Update - None.
- 4.2. SAC Update - Held second meeting of the year. 2 new attendees. One with students and one community member. Still looking for a Ranch prep. Will look into working with city to improve traffic flows for drop off and pick up. Updated Bylaws.
- 4.3. Athletic Boosters Club Update - None.
- 4.4. Updated Charter Agreement - Postponed our meeting with D49 until we have legal counsel.
- 4.5. Foundation Donation Update - Oakwood asked for a grant proposal for our recommendations.
  - 4.5.1. Guinn motioned to approve Dr. Weyman sending the list for the Foundation Donation Update to Oakwood. Leigh seconded. All in favor. Motion carries.
    - 4.5.1.1. The list of proposed items include:
      - 4.5.1.1.1. Science Department Lab remodel
      - 4.5.1.1.2. Playground upgrades
      - 4.5.1.1.3.2- 15 passenger vans
      - 4.5.1.1.4. Theater upgrades
      - 4.5.1.1.5. Lift and Trailer
      - 4.5.1.1.6. Cameras in classrooms
      - 4.5.1.1.7. Teacher and staff holiday party
      - 4.5.1.1.8. Varsity cheer mats
      - 4.5.1.1.9. Uniforms for Girls BBALL
      - 4.5.1.1.10. Murals at prep
      - 4.5.1.1.11. Upgraded Science Department
      - 4.5.1.1.12. Classroom libraries for ELA teachers at Prep
- 4.6. Committees for 2023 School Year
  - 4.6.1. Guinn to combine the policies into one document. Maybe add a section for enrollment numbers, budget. Update Grievance Policy. Remove Banned List. Maybe something about communication to parents from the Board.
  - 4.6.2. Finance to look at Audit Recommendations

#### **5. Communication/Other**

- 5.1. Board Communication to Stakeholders
  - 5.1.1. Timeline - Send monthly within week of Board meeting.
  - 5.1.2. Criteria Determination - Define at each Board meeting.
    - 5.1.2.1. Field Update, Board Approved Purchase of Membership to Colorado Charter League, Increase in EPI Pens on hand, approved list of proposed projects to Oakwood Foundation, approved new mission and vision.

#### **6. Closing Items**

- 6.1. Next Board Meeting is November 14 and then December 12th, 2023.
- 6.2. Adjourn Meeting at 9:04pm MT.

DATE: October 17, 2023

//Signed//

---

Chris Thompson

Board Secretary