



Banning Lewis Academy

Board Meeting

Date and Time: March 19th, 2024 - 6:00pm - 8:00pm

Location: 7094 Cottonwood Tree Drive, Colorado Springs, CO 80927

Phone: 719.570.0075; Fax: 719.522.2900; Email: BoardBLRA@blracademy.org

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

Agenda

1. Opening Items:

	Purpose (vote discuss, FYI)	Presenter	Time (start):
Pledge of Allegiance Reading of Mission Statement Roll Call <ul style="list-style-type: none">Leigh BoltonKevin ClarkTiffany BlagmonChris ThompsonDr. Kimberly Whitten-ChungGuin Leeder	FYI	Leigh Bolton	6:00
Call the Meeting to Order	FYI	Leigh Bolton	6:03
Approve Minutes Leigh motioned to approve the February 2024 minutes. Kevin seconded. All in favor. Motion carries.	Vote	Leigh Bolton	6:03
Amendments to Agenda <ul style="list-style-type: none">Under financials, add update regarding fraudulent check and alleged ACH hack issue.Kevin motioned to update the agenda with the above. Leigh seconded. All in favor. Motion carries.	Discuss/Vote	Leigh Bolton	6:04
Good News	FYI	Board	6:07

<p>Public Comment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concern raised regarding home that was recently purchased in Banning Lewis that houses a non-profit organization by the name of Hope is Alive. The organization provides support for recovering addicts. The nature of the non-profit was allegedly not disclosed prior to purchase and the lack of ongoing transparency is concerning. The safety of students is a concern given that the home is near Banning Schools. 	FYI	Public	6:08
<p>Board Spotlight: Overview of State Testing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CMAS highlights achievement gaps based on state standards alignment. (P)SAT prepares students for higher learning. The rules have changed such that the PSAT is no longer allowed to be administered to 8th graders. The alternate is the Accuplacer. Emily Witczak (Ast Principal at Prep) walked through the CMAS and (P)SAT prep process, content, and execution of testing. 	FYI	Administration	6:13

2. Finance Review:

		Presenter	Time:
<p>Review financials</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maria Szalay, COO of Accell was in attendance virtually and XP, Director of Finance at Accell was in attendance in person. Financial Package review <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Currently have 229 days in cash reserve. At least 3 months is considered healthy and we are above that. Review of Finance Committee meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Primarily focused on Employee Admin Fee Rate (\$42.50) has not gone up over the years. Our staff count has gone up. One proposal is to cap the admin fee at \$150,000 instead of \$192,000. So, we would owe \$90,000, as we have already paid \$60,000. Draft budget is due to the district by April 15th. 	<p>Vote Discuss/Vote</p> <p>FYI/vote</p> <p>Vote</p>	Finance Committee/ ACCEL	6:25

- Final (approved) budget is due by June 1st.
- The Employee Admin Fee (EAF) at this time is not clearly defined in our contract with Accel, which is why we are pushing back to ensure accountability to our stakeholders.
- Guin asked twice for the legal memo to include an explanation of why we do not have to abide by the contract pp 1.02 (alpha).
- Maria admitted that leaving the EAF in the contract was a mistake.
- Bank Discussion
 - Full transition to Wells Fargo of remaining balance would complete in June or July.
 - No additional fees to close and transfer outside of wire transfer fees.
 - Transferring and closing State Bank would not preclude BLA from investigating past fraud concerns.
 - The operating account at Wells Fargo could be swept into an interest earning account, but this has not been set up yet. The Board would need to approve this. Leigh asked Sharon to research this option.
 - A work session will be needed to discuss how to proceed with closing out State Bank.
- E-Rate
 - No movement is allowed on the e-rate account with the district as the district account is being investigated.
 - Banning is not being investigated directly and this investigation does not appear to pose any risk to Banning.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ We are currently being charged ~\$1,000 by D49 as part of the investigation. The Board will likely dispute this. <p>Proposed budget</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposed Budget to D49 is Due: 4/19 • Final (approved budget) is Due: 6/1 • XP reviewed the cash balance, recommendations for future spending, budget forecast, and revenue. • Action Item: Follow up with Chuck on landscaping vendor given that Banning Lewis has changed vendors. • Chris motioned to approve the FY25 Proposed Budget. Tiffany seconded. All in favor. Motion carries. <p>Follow Up on Fraudulent Check from TN</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funds were returned and confirmed back into our account Jan 24. <p>Follow Up on Breach on ACH Account</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An employee's system or network was hacked and a request came into the payroll team requesting that the bank account info be changed. The account was changed and money was stolen. The employee was made whole, but the person got away with it for now. IT ticket was submitted to further investigate the employee's network. 			
--	--	--	--

3. School Updates:

	Purpose (vote, discuss, FYI)	Presenter	Time:
Principal Reports	FYI	Principals	8:13
Special Education Roll-out Update	FYI	Dr. Weyman	8:14
<p>Facilities requests (Safety and Security)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spending request <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Tiffany motioned to approve the spending of \$30,000 for a concrete pad, shed, and cameras at the Prep, as well as \$5219 to change the direction of the door at the Ranch for the SPED room. Kim seconded. All in favor. Motion carries. • Safety notices <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Dr. Weyman will begin looking into signage for the schools 	FYI/discussion/Vote	Facilities/Dr. Weyman	8:14

regarding firearms on campus.			
<p>Handbook Updates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Uniform – The principals will send the Board edits. Latex – We do not currently have any students with latex allergies. The handbook will be updated. Other 	FYI/vote	Administration	8:25

4. Committee:

	Purpose (vote, discuss, FYI)	Presenter	Time:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PTO Update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recruitment – The PTO is looking for all positions and is at risk of not having a PTO if they do not get enough interest. Would like to have Watch D.O.G.S. dads involved if possible. SAC Update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Katie attended the DAC (District Accountability Committee) and witnessed concerning behavior by Dr. Gutierrez that Katie will follow up on. Athletic Boosters Club Update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leigh requested an update on the concession shed from Dr. Weyman. 	<p>FYI</p> <p>FYI</p> <p>FYI</p>	Representatives	9:15
<p>Board Appointment Committee update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No vote 3 applicants currently 	Vote	Guin Leeder/Tiffany Blagmon	9:22
<p>Policy and Governance Committee update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Communication policy – Posted to website with zero comments. Guin motioned to approve updated Communication Policy. Tiffany seconded. All in favor. Motion carries. Guin will get it posted to the website. Facility Fee Schedule is in review. Two policies are in development. Finance and Budget Policy (Roland, Amanda, and XP) and the Curriculum Policy (Emily Witczak and Cassie). At the Charter League Conference, Guin learned about AI Policies. Step one is to insert language around usage of AI and plagiarism into the handbook. 	Vote/FYI	Guin Leeder	9:23

Step two we inform the community that we are working on it.			
---	--	--	--

5. Communication/other:

	Purpose (vote, discuss, FYI)	Presenter	Time:
Board communication to stakeholders <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Deadline for applications 4/9, PTO Recruitment, safety signage, finalizing budget for next year. 	FYI	Chris Thompson	9:31

Closing Items:

	Purpose (vote, discuss, FYI)	Presenter	Time:
Next Board Meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • April 16th • May Board meeting is on May 7th • Work session on 3/29 at 5:30 • Tentatively scheduled a planning session with Ron for 4/23. 	FYI	Leigh Bolton	9:35
Adjourn Meeting	FYI	Leigh Bolton	9:41