



Banning Lewis Academy

Board Meeting

Date and Time: January 21st, 2025 at 6:00pm - 8:45pm

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

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

Vision: Every student. Every day.

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

Agenda

1. Opening Items:

	Purpose (vote discuss, FYI)	Presenter	Time (start):
Pledge of Allegiance Reading of Mission Statement Roll Call Chris Thompson Leigh Bolton Guin Leeder Roland Rainey Kevin Clark Tiffany Blagmon Kimberly Whitten-Chung	FYI	Chris Thompson	6:03
Call the Meeting to Order	FYI	Chris Thompson	6:04
Approve Minutes <ul style="list-style-type: none">o December 2024o Administrative changeso Motion- Chris Thompsono Second- Guin Leedero All in favor (Kim Abstains- absent at December meeting), motion carries	Vote	Chris Thompson	6:05
Amendments to Agenda Draft of the ACCEL contract was not received at the requested deadline Chris motion Leigh second All ion favor, motion carries	Discuss/Vote	Chris Thompson	6:06

<p>Good News</p> <p>Two Varsity cheerleaders made All-State (Breeah and Sadie)</p> <p>Acknowledge ACCEL team for traveling out in early January to discuss the future of Banning</p> <p>Recognizing the Facilities staff for taking care of the grounds during the very cold weather</p>	FYI	Board	6:08
<p>Opening Board Comments: High School English Language Arts Curriculum</p> <p>The Board does not believe this book is appropriate for Banning students.</p> <p>The Board will work with Administration to re-evaluate all reading in the curriculum.</p> <p>The new Curriculum Committee will review.</p> <p>Parents should have the option to opt out.</p> <p>The Board offers apologies to Banning families.</p>	FYI	Chris Thompson	6:09
<p>Public Comment</p> <p>None</p>	FYI	Public	6:12
<p>Board Spotlight: MOY (Middle of the Year) Data Discussion</p> <p>MOY compared to BOY (Beginning of the Year)</p> <p>Ranks test-takers in reference to one another compared in age range and grade level</p> <p>START (Math and Reading) 2nd-12th</p> <p>Amplify (Reading) 2nd-5th</p> <p>ThinkCERCA ELA at Prep</p> <p>Math- UIP Goal #1 (3-to-5-year goal) average trend is positive; 4th grade needs the most focus but determined intervention time best used on math and identified a more effective math curriculum. Math coaches and interventionalists have been added to staff.</p> <p>Homework policy conversation- take back to the Administration team</p> <p>ELA- UIP Goal #2 (Year 3) Significant Reading Deficiency (SRD) was decreased by 15%. In previous years the SRD numbers would increase.</p> <p>Reading interventionalists and coaches on staff.</p> <p>Additional systems being implemented to support teachers and students to ensure appropriate resources are available.</p> <p>Positive trending in K-5 in ELA</p>	FYI	Administration – Cassandra Brauner	6:13

<p>6th-8th Math and ELA positive trending 9th-12th Math and ELA positive trending (few Seniors test, likely due to CTE courses) Timing of the STAR test (administered during Finals week) likely impacted the scores. Mastery in the classroom does not reflect the scores on STAR New Math curriculum at Prep starting 25/26 ThinkCERCA evaluates reading and writing of 6th to 12th grade students. 82% of Prep students showed progress in writing.</p>			
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2. Finance Review:

		Presenter	Time:
<p>Financial Updates</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Review Financial Package <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. YTD results- Cash operating account decreased because of bonuses, waiting on PPR payment. Cash reserves decreased because of bond payment. Cash decrease ~2 million. Cash on hand 169 days. b. Average \$1.5 million/month income. Waiting for MLO and PPO payments. c. Forecasting this will be lowest cash on hand until payments come in. D49 emailed that payment will come in January. d. Fund 43 Allocation to move unrestricted cash to restricted cash e. Operating surplus is higher than anticipated at the beginning of the year. 2. Finance Committee Meeting Update <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Recent Committee Meeting. No significant updates b. Budget submitted to D49 at end of 2024. No comments from the District to date c. Wells Fargo representative at the Finance Committee Meeting in February 3. Fund 43 Allocation - \$500k 	<p>FYI</p>	<p>Finance Committee/ ACCEL</p>	<p>7:12</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Distributes funds in a meaningful way toward capital improvement projects b. Resolution has been signed and the funds have been allocated c. Currently set up as an allocation within the main account (an accounting practice), but can be created as a separate account 			
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3. School Updates:

	Purpose (vote, discuss, FYI)	Presenter	Time:
Principal Reports Clarified that P1 students have enrolled since the cap date	FYI	Principals	7:28
RVP Report Conversation has started regarding re-contracting employees for next year Transportation vendor that can do the inspections of the new vans identified Upcoming conversation about who will be driving the vans and required training for the drivers Anticipate ACCEL draft tomorrow	FYI	Administration	7:32
Banning Lewis Prep Facility Expansion Update No update to date. February 7 th next expected update Recognized at the D49 Board meeting for the possible expansion	FYI	Principals	7:34
School Management Committee – ACCEL Contract Negotiation Process Establishment Waiting for first draft from ACCEL. The first draft was not received on the date promised. Board will continue to be transparent ACCEL contract ends in June. We recognize that the Administration ties to the current contract. The ACCEL evaluation was deliberate and specific. We do not believe we are getting the value out of the contract from what we are paying. We want to have control of staff, technology, and student data. Plan is to get contract draft and have a version for Board to approve by the February meeting. The Board does not want to drag this process on. ACCEL did not provide an idea of the new contract language before this	Vote	Chris Thompson	7:35

meeting. Board lawyer will be involved in the process.			
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4. Committee:

	Purpose (vote, discuss, FYI)	Presenter	Time:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● PTO Update ● SAC Update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Planning to meet twice a semester ○ Hoping to increase membership. Next meeting will be in March on Zoom during the day. ○ All Banning families are invited to attend ● Athletic Boosters Club Update 	FYI FYI FYI	Presented in Board Reports	7:41

5. Communication/Other:

	Purpose (vote, discuss, FYI)	Presenter	Time:
Board Member Election Process Three seats available at the end of the school year- 2 elected and 1 appointed. February meeting- approve Board communication and identify any necessary skill sets Applications due after Spring Break Interviews end of April/ early May Election then appointment after the two elected seats are filled Newly appointed members take their seats at the July Board meeting Next Steps: Send notification to community Update forms with correct dates	Discuss	Chris Thompson	7:46

Closing Items:

	Purpose (vote, discuss, FYI)	Presenter	Time:
Board Communication <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Upcoming election 2. Statement on Curriculum 3. SAC Invitation 4. Exceptional staff 5. Approved school calendars in December 	FYI	Board	7:50

Board Work Session February 4 th at 1700	FYI	Chris Thompson	7:56
Next Board Meeting February 18 th at 1800			
Adjourn Meeting	FYI	Chris Thompson	7:59