



Banning Lewis Academy

Board Meeting

Date and Time: April 15th, 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 – Leigh Bolton, Guin Leeder, Tiffany Blagmon, Kevin Clark, Chris Thompson attending. Roland ainey resigned his position due to his new position as a City Council member.	FYI	Chris Thompson	1 min (6:01)
Call the Meeting to Order	FYI	Chris Thompson	1 min
Approve Minutes Chris motioned to approve the March minutes, Leigh seconds. All approve	Vote	Chris Thompson	2 min
Amendments to Agenda <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Move BLRA math presentation to appear after amendments. 2. Move all committee updates to after the math (SAC, Booster). 3. Add an Executive session after math curriculum presentation Chris motioned to approve amendments, Guin second. All approve	Discuss/Vote	Chris Thompson	2 min
Good News <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Chris hailed Dr Peariso as the new BLPA principal, and the great teamwork to evaluate candidates. 	FYI	Board	2 min

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Leigh highlighted staff efforts to conduct standardized testing. 3. Guin mentioned the BLPA theater presentation as another strong arts work at the Prep. 			
<p>Public Comment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 15 people spoke in favor of a staff member and coach: - A. Hernandez and his dad described the huge impact on community and athletes - Student I. Gomez described him as a mentor who build connections - D. Todd said he models “every student. Every day.” - N. Ollie says he’s always there for him and others - M. Pacheco said he is an essential part of what makes Banning special and sets the example for how to treat people. - J. Buckland said he inspires students and treats them with respect - S. Pacheco said he makes students do the right thing - A. Moore said he’s been the most influential person in her son’s life, inspired him to take risks, try new things - B. Pacheco said he is incredible to be around and you learn something every time - H. Ambrose recognized the great number of people here to speak out on his behalf - C. Torres called him a competitive advantage - J. Pacheco said he fully supports the student-athletes - J. Pacheco said every athlete needs a person like him in their life - D. Peterson said he embodies the vision statement, makes positive impacts in student lives - C. Fulcher recognized the people who spoke out <p>Board President Chris responded to remarks: We respect everyone for standing up tonight and are thankful for your voice. Personnel matters are handled by Accel and we cannot say more because it is a personnel matter.</p>	FYI	Public	5 min
<p>Presentation of Math Pilot and Recommendation (Ranch and Prep)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Math curriculum committee presented 2-year process to select new math curriculum. 	FYI	Math Pilot Committee	15 min

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - For the Ranch, the group consisted of 1-2 teachers from each grade, with services reps and administration members. Looked at existing Bridges curriculum and 8 others, all vetted by CDE to meet CO standards. Important criteria: implementation, differentiation, and mastery. Narrowed down to either IntoMath or Eureka2, and teachers conducted pilot demos. 92% of teachers chose Eureka2 in a survey. Hopeful we will see an improvement with this new curriculum (implementation of Bridges did not produce a significant change). Students will need to adapt to some new models or tables. Students with IEPs should benefit from Eureka’s use of multiple strategies. All curriculum evaluation was done at BLA, and was teacher-driven. - For the Prep: two teachers piloted Carnegie for the past two months. Carnegie offers differentiation, rigorous curriculum, excellent teacher resources with supporting materials. It has parent support, student resources, and engagement. Staff will work to dovetail BLRA’s Eureka2 into BLPA’s Carnegie. Preventions are in place to prevent cheating by using AI and tools like PhotoMath. - BLRA will implement Eureka2 and Prep will implement Carnegie. 			
<p><u>Executive Session.</u> 24-6-4024f of CRS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Chris moved to adjourn meeting and reconvene in executive session. Leigh second. Invited Andy Franko to executive session. - Entered Executive Session at 7:36 pm. Exited at 8:31, Chris, Leigh, Kevin, Tiffany, Guin, Andy all returned. - Coming out of session, Chris directed RVP to review the decision around the personnel matter and the reporting alignment of personnel and report back to the Board. 	Discuss	Chris Thompson	45 min

2. Finance Review:

		Presenter	Time:
--	--	-----------	-------

<p>Financial Updates</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Review Financial Package - March financial results, then forecast for the rest of the year. Estimated surplus of 200K for end of year. Cash at 9.8M EOY. Ahead of last year for expenses but will still end with surplus. Per Pupil Revenue will be around 11K next year. Need to have pupil count at minimum of 1650 to balance the budget. D49 has to make their adjustments so we don't know exact rate yet, and we will use the CDE 2.3% increase for planning. Expect a 21.7M budget for next year (~400K less). We expect the overall decrease in revenue due to MLO not having equalizer funds, and fewer students. We m use fund balance for a project if needed. Planned about 800K increase for salaries. Will do a tech refresh this year on current budget. Planning for same costs as FY25, including Accel 8% management fee. - Athletic fees have been increasing, and will increase another 5% next year. Parents pay extra fees for athletics, which covers officials and referees' fees. - Board will review checks over \$10,000. - Board should review check registry every month, and this needs to be added back into monthly Financial packages. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Finance Committee Meeting Update 	FYI	Finance Committee/ ACCEL	10 min
--	-----	-----------------------------	--------

3. School Updates:

	Purpose (vote, discuss, FYI)	Presenter	Time:
<p>Principal Reports</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Course Catalog and Handbook - Guin motioned to approve the BLRA Student Handbook, Leigh seconds, all approve. - Guin motioned to approve the BLPA Student Handbook without the uniform/dress code edits. Leigh second, all approve. <p>Principals will notify the community of changes (e.g., DoorDash), increased student fees and self-cover IT insurance.</p>	FYI/Vote	Principals	5 min

<p>Head of School Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dr Peariso has been engaged in some meetings, getting up to speed. Discussed org changes, tasking within teams, new role assignments. RVP will bring a reorg presentation soon. - D49 announced they are sunsetting the iConnect Zone, which BLA was assigned to. Board should look into funding changes (zone was funded through a fee paid by each charter school). There has not been a reconciliation of the administrative fee for last 2 years. D49 should identify which positions support charter schools. Title II funding supports proDev, retained by the district, and charter schools can participate in PD at district level. RVP to investigate how these affect the school. - Insurance update not ready, awaiting premium quotes for accident insurance. - The full-time HR position is posted, we have an internal candidate. 	FYI	Administration	10 min
Banning Lewis Prep Facility Expansion Update	FYI	Principals	10 min
<p>School Management Committee</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Guin and Chris met with Accel regarding their willingness to evolve the relationship with BLA to more of a support relationship. We owe a list of tasks to Accel, - Preparing the Request for Proposal (RFP) with intent to send it out this week, ask for proposals back May 19th. 	Discuss	Chris Thompson	10 min

4. Committee:

	Purpose (vote, discuss, FYI)	Presenter	Time:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● PTO Update – needs volunteers ● SAC Update – no update ● Athletic Boosters Club Update - President spoke, will follow up with board members about facility issues, They will hold elections at the May 12 meeting. Snack Shack has been professionally cleaned, but has issues with hygiene and lack of running water which causes team to do dishes at 	FYI FYI FYI	Presented in Board Reports	5 min

homes. Today was supposed to be the first coach's appreciation dinner banquet and was cancelled due to the personnel matter that brought members to the Board.			
--	--	--	--

5. Communication/Other:

	Purpose (vote, discuss, FYI)	Presenter	Time:
Board Member Election Process <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Received 5 applications, Mon-Wed interviews, with a summary to the Board. Election May 1-2, and will count votes at the May board meeting. - Committee will meet with registrar to validate ballots are from enrolled students. 	Discuss	Chris Thompson	5 min

Closing Items:

	Purpose (vote, discuss, FYI)	Presenter	Time:
Board Communication <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - election, graduation on May 21st 	FYI	Board	5 min
Board Work Session <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - March 28 Board training 4-8 pm, BLRA Next Board Meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - May 20, 6-8 pm at BLRA library 	FYI	Chris Thompson	3 min
Adjourn Meeting	FYI	Chris Thompson	1 min