STRIDE Academy Board of Directors

Board Attendance:

Stephen Schueller; Treasurer

Tina Barak; Chair
Pamela Holubetz; Director

Kimberly Carlson; Secretary
Erica Louis; Director

Administrative Attendance:

Eric Skanson; Executive Director
Nathan Schwieters; Director of Operations
Angie Lichy; Elementary Principal
Erin Tronbak; Curriculum/SVA

Niki Krier; Director of Special Education
Kate Hill; Human Resources Director

Organizational Meeting Agenda

Call to Order

Call to Order
Pledge of Allegiance

Mission Statement

STRIDE Academy nurtures individuals while fostering leadership and empowering students to attain their highest potential in a community-centered environment.

Conflict of Interest Declaration

No member of the Board of Directors, employee, officer, or agent shall participate in selecting, awarding, or administering a contract if a conflict of interest exists.

Approval of Agenda

Consent Agenda

A consent agenda is a streamlined approach to handling routine matters in meetings, allowing multiple items to be approved together without discussion or debate. Any Board member may request that an item be removed from the Consent Agenda for separate consideration prior to the vote.

Moved: Erica Louis

Second: Kim Carlson

Approval of September 17, 2026 Board Meeting Minutes

Personnel Recommendations

Recommended Approval of Employment

9/24: Fathi Mohamed; Elementary SPED Para

10/6: Faduma Warsame; Middle School SPED Para

10/8: Khader Ogle; Middle School SPED Para

10/19: Deb Jokela, SPED Coordinator

10/14 Nick Wells. Behavior Paraprofessional

Recommended Acceptance of Resignations

10/1: Stephanie Gonzales; ML Para

10/2: Mohamed Ahmed; SPED Para

10/12: Rachel Smilovici; SPED Teacher

10/13: Jaweriya Abdi; SPED Para

Recommendation Involuntary Reductions

10/14: Holly Schultz; 8th Grade Social Studies Teacher

10/14: Trevor Sawyer; MS Physical Education Teacher

10/14: Sarah Behrend; Building Substitute Teacher

10/14: Val Dahl; 1st Grade Teacher

10/14: Chris Lichy; Transportation Coordinator

Recommend removal of Sarah Fromm as Bank Signatory
Choice Bank
Financials

September Financial Report
September Supplemental Information

Public Comment

Each person addressing the council shall give their name for the record. Each person making a public comment is limited to three minutes. Comments should be kept courteous and professional and directed to the board. After the speaker makes their statement, they will be seated without further comment, dialogue, or debate.

Reports

Executive Director

Executive Director's Report: Dr. Skanson provided an update on enrollment, staffing and budget adjustments since September 17, acknowledging the difficult transition and thanking staff for their flexibility. He noted his attendance at the MASA Fall Conference, ongoing PUC goal reporting and annual report preparation, and increased time at the elementary school. Preliminary health insurance renewal estimates indicate a 5–6% increase, compared with the 10% budget assumption. Final audit materials were received from Abdo. STRIDE also received a $1,000 grant for House Pride on Wheels. Dr. Skanson recognized staff contributions to reporting, grant coordination, financial review and cardiac emergency response planning, which remains in progress.

- The rollerskating grant was passed for $1,000. This will involve the middle school students.

Cabinet Reports

Director of Operations: Nathan Schwieters

- Transportation worked through for bathrooms.
- Sports involvement is a little low, but that is something that is being noted across the board in different school districts.
- Minnesota Department of Health training for healthy and clean building experience.

Director of Academics, Erin Tronbak

- Strengthening Teaching & Learning: We are looking at how our standards align so our curriculum mapping can go smoothly.
- We are using DIBELS and FastBridge screeners to guide our instructional decisions. We are using biweekly progress monitoring.
- We have literacy support paraprofessionals.
- We are blessed to have many opportunities of targeted reading support for our students. We have secured five reading corps teachers, ML teachers, Title teachers, Strides for Reading small groups, and Panther Time available for our students.
- We have been working on having consistent tracking for interventions and progress needed in EduClimber.

Standing Committee Reports

Academic Excellence; 10/22/26

We met to discuss our achievements and success this year thus far. We have a very dedicated staff that is dedicated to helping our students grow. We have positive experiences happening for our students during WIN time at the middle school. Teachers are implementing the new DIBELS interventions into their classrooms for their small groups. Mastery Learning Grid is what the teachers will be working towards when they complete their curriculum map.

Governance; 10/20/26

We did move different policies out that we are hoping to move forward during this meeting. We would like to look at the cardiac plan to get items moving forward. Updates from state and federal. Governance will now be held in the first week of the month.

Finance; 10/21/26

Kelly helped figure out ways to bring our budget down to help us support the students that we currently have at school. Our budget is currently on track due to the latest adjustments that were made.

Unfinished Business

Policy Updates – Second Reading

Policy 709 – Student Transportation Safety

Updates school bus definitions and first-aid kit requirements for Type III vehicles. STRIDE-specific terminology and dates must be added.

Policy 721 – Procurement Policy

Updates state and federal purchasing requirements and adds employee purchasing limits, emergency purchasing authority, subrecipient monitoring, and conflict-of-interest requirements. STRIDE must designate authorized positions and spending limits.

Policy 722 – Public Data and Data Subject Requests

Adds protections for participants in Minnesota's Safe at Home program. STRIDE must identify accepted payment methods and designate its responsible data-practices officials.

Moved: Kim Carlson

Second: Erica Louis

New Business

Policy Updates – First Reading-No Updates

Approval of HVAC Controls Upgrades and Yale <u>*Mechanical Proposals*</u>

Administration requests board approval to accept

Yale Mechanical's proposals and proceed with HVAC controls upgrades at the elementary and middle school buildings, totaling $330,713.72. The project includes replacing 52 middle school rooftop unit controllers and upgrading the elementary building automation system, with centralized web-based monitoring and control. These improvements are intended to address temperature, humidity, and ventilation concerns while improving energy efficiency and system reliability.
(These are dedicated bond funds that were already planned for technical issues like this.)
Moved: Pam Holubetz
Second: Kim Carlson
Cardiac Response Plan
Jenny will begin her work on the drafts for both schools. We are going to table and come back with questions, comments, or concerns at the next board meeting. Certain people will have to have specific training (CPR, etc).

Review STRIDE Academy's elementary and middle school Cardiac Emergency Response Plans, developed using MDE's model to address Minnesota's requirements beginning in the 2026–27 school year. The plans outline staff response roles, AED access and maintenance, emergency communication, training, and annual practice drills.

10.1.3
Discussion of Revenue Opportunities for the Upcoming School Year
Discuss potential opportunities to increase revenue for the upcoming school year through enrollment strategies, facility rentals, programs, events, and fundraising. This discussion is intended to build awareness and gather initial feedback to guide further exploration. No action is requested.

- *Ideas for more revenue opportunities: Facility rentals, child care, hosting events (community showcase or art fair), adult education, etc.*

- *Fundraising opportunities (Gala, silent auction, etc.)*
- *Preliminary work may need to be done in the future for the child care opportunities that could become available in the future at STRIDE.*

10.1.4 MDE Annual Assurances

The Annual Assurances document outlines the school's commitments to meeting applicable requirements and fulfilling its responsibilities for the coming year. A recommendation for Board approval is requested so the assurances can be finalized and submitted by October 30, 2026.

Moved: Pam Holubetz
Second: Stephen Schueller

Announcements

Next Board Meeting 11/19/26

Adjournment at 6:53 pm

Public Attachments:

- 26-27 School Board Staffing Recommendation Form - Jokela, Deb.pdf
- 26-27 School Board Staffing Recommendation Form - Mohamed, Fathi.pdf
- 26-27 School Board Staffing Recommendation Form - Ogle, Khader.pdf
- 26-27 School Board Staffing Recommendation Form - Warsame, Faduma.pdf
- 52 RTU & WEB Proposal MS - Stride Academy (old Athlos) 5-11-26.pdf
- 709 Charter 061526.docx
- 709 Charter Redline 061526.docx
- 721 Charter 061526.docx
- 721 Charter Redline 061526.docx
- 722 Charter 061526.docx
- 722 Charter Redline 061526.docx
- 2025-26 Charter School Assurances Form.pdf
- 2026-2027 Board Agenda - 9_17_2026.docx.pdf
- 498503 Stride Elem BAS Controls Proposal RMP.pdf
- Attachment C STRIDE Academy - Conceptual Floor Plan 20260415.pdf
- MS Controls Requirements.docx

- STRIDE Academy Capital Improvements Sources and Uses.xlsx
- STRIDE_2026-27_Annual_Assurances_Unsigned.docx
- STRIDE_Board_Data_Practices_Handout.pdf
- 26-27 School Board Staffing Recommendation Form - Wells, Nick.pdf
- Stride September 2026 Supplemental Information (1).pdf
- Stride September 2026 Financial Report (1).pdf
- marss15_local_district_adm_served (1) (1).pdf
- Middle School Cardiac Emergency Response Plan.pdf
- Elementary Cardiac Emergency Response Plan.pdf
- STRIDE_2026-27_Annual_Assurances_Unsigned.pdf
- October 2026 Curriculum Board Update.pdf
- SABP 709 (1).pdf
- SABP 721 (3).pdf
- SABP 722.pdf