



"To Live, To Love, To Learn, To Leave a Legacy"

www.strideacademy.org

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

October 23rd, 2025

Board Conference Room#310

STRIDE Academy Middle School

3701 33rd St. S, St. Cloud, MN 56301

6:00 PM

Board Attendance:

Sara Fromm-Board Chair, Andy Lyman-Vice Chair- Absent, Tina Barak-Treasurer-via zoom, Aaron Lundblad-Director- via zoom, Carie Essig-Director-join at 6:22 via zoom, Ashlee Gibson- Director, Kelly Springer- Secretary ABSENT.

Administrative Attendance:

Eric Skanson-Executive Director, Nathan Schwieters-Director of Operations, Erin Tronbak-Director of Innovation and Academics, Heather Ebnet- Middle School Principal, Angie Lichy-Elementary Principal

Guest:

School Mission Statement: *STRIDE Academy nurtures individuals while fostering leadership and empowering students to attain their highest potential in a family-centered environment.*

I. Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance, and Roll Call

II. Conflict of Interest Declaration

No member of the board of directors, employee, officer, or agent of a charter school shall participate in selecting, awarding, or administering a contract if a conflict of interest exists.

**III. Approval of Agenda - Motion to approve made by Ms. Barak,
Seconded by Mr. Lundblad. Motion carry.**

IV. Consent Agenda - Approved

A consent agenda is a streamlined approach to handling routine matters in meetings, allowing multiple items to be approved together without extensive discussion or debate, saving time for more important topics. Board members have the option to pull specific items from the consent agenda for separate consideration by indicating their request during the meeting.

A. Approval of Meeting Minutes, September 18, 2025

B. Approval of Financial Statements, September 2025 - Move to New business

C. Approval of New Hires

1. Harren, Brooklyn-Media Integrationist
2. Harms, Tammara-Special Education Teacher

D. Acceptance of Resignation

1. Maehren, Kris-Media Specialist
2. McAllister, Darrien-Technology Assistant
3. Jacobson, Lora-Grade 2

E. Approval of Indoor Air Quality Manual

F. Approval of ABC Board Member Changes

1. Nathan Schwieters-Resignation
2. Neil Theisen-President
3. Eric Williams-Director

G. Approval of STRIDE Academy Testing Procedures and Policy

V. Public Comment - No comments

The School Board welcomes input from community members and staff.

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.

VI. Reports

A. Executive Director Report

The Executive Director, Dr. Eric Skanson, will provide updates on current programs and key events at STRIDE Academy.

- Explain part of the process he is working on in regards to the High School expansion's plan.
- I want to recognize two incredible leaders that we have; Angie Lichy & Heather Ebnet during October National Principal Appreciation Month.
- Operational updates: New Food Service vendor, Taher they are settling in. Students are getting used to the new menu and as with any change, there are a few items that they don't love. We are encouraging them to give things a try. We are still working some logistics with food transportation.
- The transportation company seems to have found its rhythm. Routs are working more smoothly. And we have been in communication with them and Math & Science about the bill and how it is being split.
- Update on Authorizer PUC, we received confirmation from MDE that Pillsbury can officially submit our affidavit for grade level expansion. PUC board will be meeting on Nov 6th to approve our request and add grades 9 through 12. Once approved, that expansion request will move to the Commission of Education. And that's also part of what you approved tonight.
- The St.Cloud zoning board of Appeals approved our Conditional Use Permit. That allows us to operate the Middle School building as a secondary site, not just as MS.
- On a sad note, many of you knew Monica Schraut and I want to acknowledge her time with us at STRIDE. She recently passed away. She gave so much of herself to STRIDE. Title teacher, Dean of students, reading intervention, School Board & ABC board member.
- We are heading into some colder months and it's time to start thinking about snow late starts and weather related cancellations. Make sure you are connected.

B. Leadership Reports

A. Elementary Principal, Angie Lichy

- The MTSS team is in week 6 or 7. I feel it is getting more solid and proactive.
- My staff is a little tight again, I'm hiring!!
- Classroom, teachers and routines, sort of management.
- We've retained so many good people, they're amazing.
- Connection meeting- I will be going in November. I like to go there because I want to recruit Student Teachers.
- I have a Legal summary coming up.

- *Planning a PD on November 26th.*

B. Middle School Principal, Heather Ebnet

- Starting Panther Time - shout out to Erin and Angela for all their support.
- We are still working on behavior management, it's being challenging. We have 2 wonderful Deans that are working very hard in the lunchroom and the hallways.
- We are using a new hall pass system to try to track movement trying to improve.
- Another thing that I'm a firm believer in is positive interventions. And one thing I learn from PBIS and want to implement are; School Jobs and Tardi Party trying to get kids to come to class on time. About 200 kids applied for about 10 job openings.
- We had our 1st House Per Rally in September and it went really well. And we'll have our next one on Oct. 31st.
- We have a new SpEd teacher joined our team and it has helped so much.

C. Director of Operations, Nathan Schwieters

- Talk about a document from the MN Dept of Health that is supposed to be approved every year. We haven't approved it since 2016 when I wrote the last one. So then expect this every year, now that I'm here.
- Test policies and procedures that are supposed to be approved every year by the board but it hasn't since 2022. It will be coming to the board.

D. Director of Innovation and Academics, Erin Tronbak

- Things have slow down a lot with online. We have a few kids that just joined us.
- Busy supporting Panther Time
- Minnesota ReadAct - it supports the signs of reading.
- New this year all Paraprofessionals have to have a literacy training.
- Another core requirement is that we have universal screeners. Those have to be MDE approved. We use Fastbridge.
- Mrs. Tronbak explains details about the curriculum being currently used.
-

C. Standing Committee Reports

1. Academic Excellence Committee - **Did not meet**

2. **Governance Meeting-10.21.2025**

- We talked about what was happening in federal
- Watching between SpEd and Title III which is English language learners.
- Requirements to meet or not meet anymore.
- Quick look at the policies that are included for your first reading tonight.

3. **Finance Committee-10.22..2025**

- We are still looking good for cash funds.
- No issues on Audit.

- More information can be found in the report attached.
- Enrollment is about 809

VII. Unfinished Business

A. Expansion Update - We are hoping to meet with the bondholders at the middle school building soon just to bring them up to speed. We want to look at different programs.

VIII. New Business

- A. Mn Read Act Updates-Academic Team
- B. Approval of Review and Comment Submission Regarding Expansion - **Motion to approve made by Mr. Lundblad, Seconded by Ms. Gibson. Motions carry.**
- C. Policy Updates: 1st Reading
 - 1. **101- Legal Status of the Charter School**
 - a. Posting and distribution requirements
 - 2. **213-Charter School Board Committees**
 - a. Finance Committee requirements
 - 3. **414-Mandated Reporting of Child Neglect or Physical or Sexual Abuse**
 - a. Threatened injury
 - 4. **418-Drug-Free Workplace/Drug-Free School**
 - a. Registry program participant protection
 - 5. **421-Gifts to Employees and Charter School Board Members**
 - a. Affected charter school individuals

6. 501-School Weapons Policy

- a. Active shooter incidents

7. 503-Student Attendance - This will come back on November's meeting

- a. Excused absence process updated - Mrs. Essig sent an email to Dr. Skanson with some questions regarding the numbers.

8. 506-STUDENT DISCIPLINE This will come back on November's meeting







- a. STRIDE Review




















Announcements

- A. November 20th 2025 Board Meeting at the Middle School bldg.

Adjourn: 7:01pm

Public Attachments:

-  [Indoor Air Quality Manual - 2025.pdf](#)
-  [Stride September 2025 Supplemental Information.pdf](#)
-  [Stride September 2025 Financial Report.pdf](#)
-  [STRIDE District Test Security Procedure 2025-2026.pdf](#)
-  [DRAFT - STRIDE Academy Review and Comment 10-20-25- KR notes.docx](#)
-  [Tammara Harms.docx.pdf](#)

-  [Brooklyn.docx.pdf](#)
-  [9 18 2025 - Board Meeting minute.pdf](#)
-  [Colby Distad Staff Recommendation .docx.pdf](#)
-  [503 Charter Redline 061625.docx](#)
-  [503 Charter 061625.docx](#)
-  [501 Charter Redline 061625.docx](#)
-  [501 Charter 061625.docx](#)
-  [421 Charter Redline 061625.docx](#)
-  [421 Charter 061625.docx](#)
-  [414 Charter Redline 061625.docx](#)
-  [414 Charter 061625.docx](#)
-  [213 Charter Redline 061625.docx](#)
-  [213 Charter 061625.docx](#)
-  [101 Charter Redline 061625.docx](#)
-  [STRIDE Academy Review and Comment FINAL - 10-22-25.docx](#)
-  [Attachment 2 - 3701 33rd St. S. STRIDE Academy Full Floor Plan \(1\).pdf](#)
-  [Attachment 3 - Stride LT Budget-10.21.25- 5 year budget- updated \(2\).pdf](#)
-  [Attachment 4 - STRIDE Academy Debt Service Schedule.pdf](#)
-  [SABP 506.docx \(1\).pdf](#)