



**“To Live, To Love, To Learn, To Leave a Legacy”**

[www.strideacademy.org](http://www.strideacademy.org)

**Board of Directors Meeting Minutes**

**Feb 20th, 2025**

**Board Conference Room#111**

**6:00 PM**

**Board Attendance:**

Sara Fromm

Andy Lyman

Tina Barak

Aaron Lundblad

Abdi Ismail

Carie Essig

**Administrative Attendance:**

Eric Skanson

Nathan Schwieters

Angie Lichy

**Public Attendance:**

Mulki Habab

Erin Tronbak

Chris Lichy

**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 6:00pm**

**II. Mission Statement of STRIDE Academy**

**III. 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.*

#### **IV. Approval of Agenda [Motion by:Tina Barak](#), [Second by: Carie Essig](#) [Motion carries.](#)**

#### **V. 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.*

1. **Approval of January 16, 2025 Meeting Minutes**
2. **Approval of February 2025 Financials**
3. **Recommend Acceptance of Resignation of Judy Theisen, HR Assistant, Effective 6.4.2025**
4. **Recommend Acceptance of Resignation of Heather Peterson, Media Paraprofessional Effective 3/14/2025**
5. **Recommend Acceptance of Resignation of Judi Larsen, Special Education Speech Effective 6.2.2025**
6. **Recommend Acceptance of Resignation of Taylor Zitur, 1st Grade Teacher, effective 2/28/2025**
7. **Recommend Acceptance of Resignation of Anna Bard, Special Education Paraprofessional, effective 2/24/2025**

8. Approval, Rachel Carlson, Special Education Paraprofessional 1.0.

## **VI. Public Comment - Mulki Habab, community member and a parent shared a letter of the Stride ML committee - writing to advocate for the needs in our ML program.**

*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.*

## **VII. Reports**

### **A. Executive Director Report**

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

- Student growth - talk about data, literacy, language acquisition.
- Recognition parent partnership
- Middle School - Discussed how the students are not taking seriously the importance of FastBridge and MCS tests.
- Staff training has continued and how that will translate into next year.
- We just finished the 1st part of the Paras evaluation, self evaluation. Next it will be the peer evaluation then continue to Admin evaluation.
- Communication - shared a video with one of the house leaders. Hamza from Isibindi.
- Update on the food service, we uncovered some possibilities and alternatives for future options.
- Soccer Field update - We missed the opportunity to gain Bernick's grant yet they encouraged us to apply next year.
- We purchased a Side by Side to help us with the groundskeeping and maintenance.
- Community Engagement Highlights - Costco Reading Buddy, Salvation Army, Environmental, Quarry Park and Pollinator Project among others.
- We received a Grant for Bees - BeeCause Project. It's a great educational piece.
- Progressive Planning Pieces - parking lot resurfacing and switching lights.
- Media Center - Having conversations after Heather leaves how to get it working and discussing functionality making sure it is useful.

- We turned one of the restrooms into a nursing room for Mothers nursing.
- We had to cancel the RCA trip due to weather.

## B. Leadership Reports

### 1. *Elementary Principal Angie Lichy will report and provide updates on K-4 programming.*

- Conferences, had to reschedule due to the weather
- Student of the month is coming up next week
- Observations #2 data is currently going
- Have some 4th graders participating in some activities with Seniors from the Whitney Center.
- Working already on staff for next year.
- Being mindful of Ramadan and making sure everyone is aware of some changes during that time.

### 2. *Middle School Principal Nathan Schwieters will report and update on 5-8 programming.*

- Everything that Mrs. Lichy said is also happening at the MS
- HS registration night is happening tomorrow.
- My Staff if working very hard with UFLI
- 7th & 8th Conferences feb 27 from 3:30 - 7:30pm
- End of trimester is Feb. 28th
- Followed by Spring Break March 3rd to 7th, 2025.
- Basketball - played tonight and we have 2 games left.
- June 4th we will be going to Valley Fair with the students that have no write off or 1 or less. So far we have 95 that qualify.

## C. Standing Committee Reports

### Academic Excellence Committee

- AEC Notes 2-10-25 Early Reading - Celebrated growth in K and 1st grade.....if this can continue, will trickle forward.
- aReading - Interesting mix of rises and drops
- \*UFLI training to help, including observations for new teachers to see teachers who are already doing this in action.  
\*Brainstorming of ideas for how to help our students grow continues \*Basic phonics needs to be a part of everyday learning
- Early Math - Slight drop in K, rise in 1st
- aMath - General rise in lower grades, higher grades average of slight rises/drops \*Need to look into having “rushers” retake these. Perhaps set a minimum time limit for completion? \*Nice to see general, slight rises in middle school! \*Basic fact

fluency is an issue, even in middle school. How to build in practice for this?

**1. Governance Meeting –**

- We were off, but there are no new policies for 1st reading.

**2. Finance Committee**

- See report attached for detailed information
- The working budget was updated this month to reflect the latest information from MDE increasing the state aids funds by \$13,995.00.

**3. Enrollment Update –**

a. 591

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**VIII. Unfinished Business**

**A. Policy Updates: Second Reading** Motion to approve made by: Tina Barak,  
Second by: Carie Essig Motion carries.

1. SABP 601 – School Curriculum and Instructional Goals
2. SABP 602 – Organization of School Calendar and School Day
3. SABP 603 – Curriculum Development
  
4. SABP 609 – Religion

5. SABP 614 – School Testing Plan and Procedure
  6. SABP 615 – Testing Accommodations
  7. SABP 616 – School District System Accountability
  8. SABP 619 – Staff Development for Standards
  9. SABP 620 – Credit for Learning
  10. SABP 624 – Online Learning
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## **IX. New Business**

### **A. Enrollment Strategy Discussion *Motion to approve made by: Andy Lyman, Second by: Carie Essig. Motion carries.***

*Analyze current trends, marketing efforts, and retention strategies to ensure sustainable student growth and alignment with STRIDE Academy's long-term enrollment goals.*

#### *Sections*

*Review and adjust grade-level sections based on projected enrollment, staffing capacity, and resource allocation to maintain balanced class sizes and instructional effectiveness.*

#### *Class Size*

*Assess optimal student-to-teacher ratios to enhance learning outcomes, support differentiated instruction, and ensure compliance with STRIDE Academy's educational standards and space capacity.*

### **B. Admissions and Enrollment Policy 715/ Early Admission to Kindergarten**

#### **715a *Motion to approve made by: Absi Ismail, Second by: Andy Lyman. Motion carries.***

*Review and refine policy to ensure equitable access, clear guidelines, and alignment with STRIDE Academy's mission, supporting sustainable enrollment growth. Also, consistent language should be aligned between 715 and 715A. Recommend change based on discussion from item A in 715, also recommend Policy Repeal of 715a after discussion with administration/PUC.*

## **C. Food Service Update**

*Provide an overview of program performance, menu enhancements, and operational adjustments to improve student nutrition, efficiency, and overall meal experience after meeting with New Horizon.*

## **D. Stride Virtual Academy Motion to approve made by: Andy Lyman, Second by: Tina Barak. Motion carries.**

*Discuss program development, curriculum design, and implementation strategies for an online learning option to expand accessibility and educational opportunities. Recommend approval to move forward, as this initiative enhances flexibility for students and broadens STRIDE Academy's reach.*

## **E. Preschool Expansion 2026-2027 This doesn't need board approval.**

*Evaluate feasibility, funding, and logistics for growing preschool offerings to enhance early childhood education and increase STRIDE Academy's future enrollment pipeline. Recommend approval to move forward, as this expansion supports long-term enrollment stability and strengthens foundational learning.*

## **F. New Positions:**

### **a. Literacy Intervention/ Coach Motion to approve made by Tina Barak, Second by: Andy Lyman. Motion carries.**

*Review the need for specialized literacy support roles to improve student achievement, provide targeted interventions, and strengthen instructional coaching for educators. Funded by ADSIS grant. Recommend approval to move forward, as these positions will directly enhance literacy outcomes and instructional quality.*

- b. **Employee Services Coordinator (Job Reclassification) Motion to approve made by: Andy Lyman, Second by: Carie Essig. Motion carries.**

*Review the reclassification of the HR Assistant position to Employee Services Coordinator to reflect expanded duties. Added responsibilities include substitute coordination and operational ordering, in addition to payroll, benefits, and employee services. Approval is recommended to align the role with organizational needs and improve operational efficiency.*

### **G. 2025-2026 Calendar Discussion**






















*The board will review and discuss the proposed 2025-2026 academic calendar, considering instructional days, breaks, professional development, and alignment with district priorities.*

## **X. Announcements**

- **Board Retreat - April 3rd from 6:00 to 9:00**
- **Next meeting is on March 20, 2025 – Board Meeting**

## **XI. Adjourn 7:31pm**

### **Public Attachments:**

-  [Literacy Intervention Teacher\\_Coach.pdf](#)
-  [Employee Services Coordinator \(1\).pdf](#)
-  [SVA Logo.pdf](#)
-  [Stride January 2025 Supplemental Information.pdf](#)
-  [Stride January 2025 Financial Report.pdf](#)
-  [715-A Early Admission.docx \(2\) \(1\).pdf](#)
-  [SABP 602 .docx](#)
-  [SABP 603 .docx](#)
-  [SABP 609.docx](#)
-  [SABP 615 .docx](#)
-  [SABP 616 .docx](#)
-  [SABP 619 .docx](#)
-  [SABP 620 .docx](#)
-  [SABP 624.docx](#)
-  [Pollinator Project.pdf](#)
-  [AEC Notes 2-10-25.pdf](#)
-  [Larsen, Judi resignation letter 6.2.2025.pdf](#)
-  [Theisen, Judy Retirement Letter.pdf](#)
-  [Peterson, Heather resignation letter 3.14.2025.pdf](#)
-  [Enrollment Notes.pdf](#)
-  [Bard, Anna resignation 2.24.2025.pdf](#)



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Groups audience:

School Board