



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

www.strideacademy.org

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

March 20th, 2025

Board Conference Room#111

6:00 PM

Board Attendance: Sara Fromm, Andy Lyman, Tina Barak, Aaron Lundblad (via zoom), Abdi Ismail (absent), Carie Essig.

Administrative Attendance: Eric Skanson, Nathan Schwieters, Angie Lichy

Members of the Public: Erin Tronbak

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. 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 to approve made by Tina Barak, Seconded by Carrie 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 February 20, 2025 Meeting Minutes
2. Approval of February 2025 Financials
3. Recommendation to approve Kate Hill, Employee Services Coordinator. 1.0 FTE
4. Recommendation to approve Rebecca Thomford, $\frac{7}{8}$ ELA, 1.0 FTE
5. Approval of Working Budget 3.20.25

VI. 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.

VII. Reports

A. Executive Director Report

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

- **Preparing for work agreements to have ready by the end of April**
- **I've been meeting with Principals for adjustments with staffing**
- **We hired Kate Hill who is a replacement for Judy Theisen, who is retiring.**
- **Work on some PUC documents including the whistle blower policy , financial report, personal performance and our goals is to ensure that everything is in place.**

- Met with Cory and Schwieters to look through summer projects and discussed feasibility and the timelines. Our parking lot is going to probably be the biggest thing that is going to be happening and the most visible piece.
- We launched Stride Virtual Academy with the registrations this last Monday.
- Radio advertisements started this week and will be running for 8 weeks together with some digital billboards around town.
- RCA leadership team met after school today to think about what next year means with great questions about if we do expand and have two sites.
- Been working on some budget planning for next year and doing some rework of this year's budget. Kelly has been helping me create multiple versions of a budget for next year to try to take into account a lot of scenarios and zero in on what it would look like to move into Athlos building.
- We are actively exploring the feasibility of acquiring that building which would allow us to expand programming. Doing our due diligence and after exploring several options leasing seems to be the best way to go.

B. Leadership Reports

1. *Elementary Principal Angie Lichy will report and provide updates on K-4 programming.*
 - Working with classroom teachers and thinking about about next year
 - Interviewing staff members
 - Dealing with behavioral issues for this time of year using escalation techniques and communication with parents
 - Professional development is next week.
 - I am very excited about everything that is going on at the moment.
2. *Middle School Principal Nathan Schwieters will report and update on 5-8 programming.*
 - Our Beehives have been built right now by Mr. Cote and some students. Bees should be here in April.
 - Planting of natural grasses and flowers will be happening as well.
 - MCA test prep has been happening in all of our grade levels.
 - We did a lot of shuffling around with our 7th & 8th grade students at the end of last trimester to help support literacy and bring the student instruction at the level that they are at. So we are hoping to see a big improvement.
 - We started some scheduling for next year but are put on pause due to everything that is happening.
 - Lastly we are at that time of year and we have started the graduation planning.
 - We also did some interviewing with lots of good candidates.

C. Standing Committee Reports

1. Academic Excellence Committee

- Met on Monday
- Talked about MCA's testing- touch base on what grades are doing to fill gaps that they're seeing with their students. Also seeing how challenging those students are who are performing basic skills. UFLI, IXL, individual and small group instructions are few examples used.
- We got to see an example of Spark studio in IXL, it has a lot of different games students can use like Jeopardy are being used for supplementation.

2. Governance Meeting –

- We met on Tuesday
- Talked about three different items, whistleblower policy, the update of 610 and enrollment strategy.

3. Finance Committee

- We met on Wednesday
- The budget is still looking good.
- Budget was based on 571 and February enrollment was at 593 so we are healthy.
- Cash balance is healthy, just a little bit lower than it was last month
- Revenues, at the end of the reporting period were 66 so right on target with the year and expenditures are about 60.
- With our ADM going up is keeping everything healthy and on track.
- See attachment for more detailed information.

a. Enrollment Update –

VIII. Unfinished Business

1. SABP 610 - 2nd reading - Field Trips Motion to approve made by Lyman, Seconded by Barak. Motion carries.
2. Enrollment Strategy Discussion/ Policy 715 - Motion to approve made by Lyman, Seconded by Barak. Motion carries.
3. Response to ML Advisory Committee - Address multiple points, budgeting for teachers and hiring highly qualified teachers, ML teachers. Summer School for newcomers.
4. Add 428

IX. New Business






A. Pillsbury contract - Tabled










X. Announcements

- April 3, 2025 Work Session
- Next meeting: April 24, 2025 – Board Meeting
- Central Minnesota Youth Soccer contacted us because they are looking for a home with a full size soccer field closer and less expensive than where they currently are.

XI. Adjourn: 6:55pm

Public Attachments:

-  [Kate Hill Board Rec.docx.pdf](#)
-  [21 June_30 STRIDE Contract_FINAL_3.12.25.pdf](#)
-  [Stride February 2025 Financial Report.pdf](#)
-  [Stride February 2025 Supplemental Information.pdf](#)
-  [Rebecca Tomford Stride Academy Staff Recommendation.docx.pdf](#)

-  [STRIDE Expansion Lease PSF.pdf](#)
-  [STRIDE Expansion- Min Enrollment Projection.pdf](#)
-  [SABP 428-Whistleblower \(2\).pdf](#)
-  [715 Enrollment and Admissions Draft \(2\).pdf](#)
-  [Policy 715 Enrollment and Admissions Expansion Draft \(2\).pdf](#)
-  [SABP 428-Whistleblower \(2\) \(1\).pdf](#)
-  [SABP Policy 715Expansion Draft \(\).pdf](#)
-  [610 100322 CHARTER.docx.pdf](#)
-  [2 20 2025 Board meeting minute.pdf](#)