



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

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

**Board of Directors Meeting Minutes**

**April 24th, 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](#), [Heather Ebnet](#).

**Members of the Public:** [Erin Tronbak](#), [Valerie Higgins](#) via zoom, [Becca Thomford](#) via zoom, [Jodi Young](#) via zoom

#### **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.*

**Approval of March 18, 2025 Meeting Minutes**

1. Approval of April 3, Special Meeting Minutes
2. Approval of April 10, special meeting minutes
3. Approval of March 2025 Financials
4. Approval of Letter of Intent
5. Recommendation to approve Nathan Schwieters as Director of Operations for 2025-2026
6. Recommendation to approve Heather Ebnet, Middle School Principal, for 2025-2026.
7. Recommendation to approve Heather Witt, 1st Grade, for 2025-2026

8. Recommendation to approve Kristy Maehren, Media, for 2025-2026
9. Recommendation to approve Jodi Young, MS Math, 2025-2026
10. Recommendation to approve Emiliano Martin, 2025-2026 Phy Ed.
11. Recommendation to approve Jonathan Lizama, EL Teacher, 2025-2026
12. Recommendation to approve Katherine Georgewell, EL Teacher, 2025-2026
13. Recommendation to approve Angie Stommes, Building Sub, 2025-2026
14. Recommendation to approve Kate Gardner, 7/8 Social Studies teacher for 2025-2026
15. Recommendation to approve Rachel Mushel, School Social Worker.
16. Recommendation to approve Amy Fautsch: Sped para
17. Recommendation to approve Lisa Loidolt Sped Para
18. Recommendation to approve Valerie Higgins, 4th Grade

19. Recommendation to approve Zoe Cave, Special Education

20. Recommendation to approve Hally Cruz, Special Education Paraprofessional

## **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.***

- Lots of expansion related work
- Connect with Paula Higgins from MDE Charter Division with questions, our goals and questions surrounding PUC's current standing.
- town.
- We were awarded the pollinator grant from Stearns County Soil and Water, it's very exciting and is all moving forward with the help of some teachers & students.
- We continue to work on the final touches around our soccer field.
- BeeProject continues to move forward, bees are in their hives and I want to thank Noah, Ashley and Chris Lichy for all their hard work.
- Gearing towards summer we are deep in transition planning for the upcoming school year with the changes ahead. Been in contact with the new Director of our authorizer PUC - Miss. Leona Diggs discussing both expansion and upcoming contract renewal.
- On Tuesday I went to the MACS Director's meeting (MN Association of Charter Schools) to connect with other Directors from the aerea especially with other PUC Directors, to see how things are going for them.
- Work Agreements are going out next week.
- Some Personnel updates; Kate Hill officially began in April. The transition has been smooth between her and Judy Theisen and we are very grateful for both of them.

- Principals have been busy planning for next year as well as busy balancing staffing programs budgets positioning ourselves for continued growth and excellence.
- We continue to work on transportation planning with possibly some changes on the schedule and running our own in collaboration with some of the other charter schools in

## **B. Leadership Reports**

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

- We've been doing lots of interviewing and hiring.
- We had a successful skate night for our PATH parents.
- Planning Kindergarten graduation.
- We had a Cribbage Championship with the Whitney Senior Center and our 4th graders.
- Student of the Month is next week. We have 1 more in May and I like to share that it has been very successful to get parents in the community.
- Coming up we will be having music and band concerts.
- Keeping kids calm and staff energized.
- Planning teacher Appreciation week the 2nd week of May.
- Planning for next year.

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

- Everything in Mrs. Lichy's list is in here too.
- Planning on the 8th grade graduation.
- Also planning the last day of school celebration.
- Lots of Field Trip coming up including one to a farm.
- Spring Fever has definitely hit here at Stride and that means more social media stuff by students with these longer breaks and that kind of helped with our behaviors in the negative way but we are battling with that.
- We have 105 students that qualify for Valley Fair Field Trip and Dr. Skanson went today to ask for some money from Granite Leadership and thank them for any donations that they were able to give to us. And they offer \$2,000.00.

## **C. Standing Committee Reports**

**Academic Excellence Committee - met on 4.14.23**

- MCAs were in full swing and how things are going with positive growth and kids are getting it seriously.
- After finishing MCAs we started with Fastbridge.

## **Governance Meeting – No Report/ No Meeting**

### **Finance Committee - met on 4.16.25**

- Revised budget is based on 571 ADM
- We are meeting all of our covenants which is good as we get closer to the end of the school year.
- Our cash balance is still healthy and up from last month.
- The budget is going to continue to be revised with all the upcoming changes.
- For more information please see the Financial report attached to this.

### **Enrollment Update 24-25 –**

- a. We are currently at 592

### **Enrollment Update 25-26-**

- b. Current registration with wait list is at roughly 660 and we are expecting it to go up again once the announcement of the expansion goes out.

## **VIII. Unfinished Business**

### **Expansion Update and Discussion**

- Agreed upon letter of intent, the proposed soft agreement. This is what our lease is being built off between both the bondholders lawyer and our Council Craig Kepler. We were able to resolve some of the outstanding issues that are at the Athlos building, including the roof and some rooftop units. We also learned that there are some other things that will also need to be fixed. We are doing our due diligence prior to that execution so we are moving ahead. I've got one quote aimed for a building condition assessment. We are waiting for another company to give us that final second quote so that we can move ahead with Building in Property assessment. The next step is for this to get translated into a formal lease. I expect this to be done sometime this week.
- The Principals have been doing an exceptional job of interviewing and sorting through staffing.

- On the lease agreement, I did send a message off with our posting to EMMA, which is a public disclosure that has to go up and then be working with them to get some communications out tomorrow to Athlo's families.
- We are sorting through all the items in the Athlo's building and doing an inventory making sure everything is done correctly while discussing it with the bondholders as well.

Academic Calendar 25-26 - Motion to approve made by Lyman, seconded by Lundblad. Motion carries.

- There are some potential transportation pieces that we are considering and being careful not to offset our budget. To get our own transportation and no longer deal with 742, we would need to coordinate with two other charter schools to create a common calendar.
- As of right now, you will see that this is the calendar that matches District 742

## **IX. New Business**

Reimbursement Resolution

**Motion to approve made by Lyman, seconded by Lundblad. Motion carries.**

- This is just a resolution that says that the money will go back and forth between ABC and STRIDE and that anything will be reimbursed that has been from one to the other and it's tax-exempt.

Transportation 25-26

**The motion to approve the withdrawal from 742 was made by Esig and seconded by Lundblad. Motion carries.**

**A motion to approve moving forward was made by Lyman and seconded by Lundblad. Motion carries.**

- Our initial meeting with 742 to have us in what they are calling a Tier 3 run. It starts at 9:45 and ends with a 4:30 pm end. Thinking through that, we feel that it does not work well for our school and our students, especially when we get into January, when the kids will be getting dropped off at 5 o'clock at night. After a second meeting with them and no new ideas, we decided to start looking at some different options. We started a conversation about what if we could just do our own transportation run. Although it could be very easily done, according to one of the contractors, from a financial aspect, it is something that we would not be able to do alone. We began conversations with Math & Science and Success Academy and all 3 are interested. We could end up relatively in the same current schedule and with a lot less buses, especially at the end of the day. It will only be our students, and no transferring kids to other schools and buses.

- We will need a letter of release from 742, change a marris number -technical thing with the state that triggers the transportation Aid. And last, we will need a letter from the board of support.

## **X. Announcements**

### **May 15, 2025 – Board Meeting**






















- June meeting is changing to June 12th at 6 pm

#### **Board Elections/Filing**

- It will be open tomorrow for anyone to file. 2 seats are expiring: Mr. Lyman and Ms. Barak

## **XI. Adjourn - 7:01pm**

### **Public Attachments:**

-  [Rachel Mushel Social Worker.docx.pdf](#)
-  [Kris Maehren.docx.pdf](#)
-  [Kate Gardner Stride Academy Staff Recommendation.docx.pdf](#)
-  [Johnathan Lizama \(Franklin\)Stride Academy Staff Recommendation.docx.pdf](#)
-  [Jodi Young Stride Academy Staff Recommendation.docx.pdf](#)
-  [Heather Witt Grade One.docx.pdf](#)
-  [Emiliano Martin Stride Academy Staff Recommendation.docx.pdf](#)
-  [Catherine Georgewill .docx.pdf](#)
-  [Amy Fautsch.docx.pdf](#)
-  [Angela Stommes Building Substitute .docx.pdf](#)
-  [Consolidated LOI - Stride lease and acquisition of Athlos - 2025-04-02 \(v4\) \(2\).pdf](#)
-  [Stride BC FY25 Supplemental Information- Q3-3.31.25.pdf](#)
-  [Stride March 2025 Financial Report.pdf](#)
-  [Stride March 2025 Supplemental Information.pdf](#)
-  [STRIDE Adopted Calendar - 25-26.pdf](#)
-  [Lisa Loidolt Sped Para.docx.pdf](#)
-  [STRIDE School Reimbursement Resolution \(2025\)\(7656325.1\).doc](#)
-  [Zoe Cave 2025-2026.docx.pdf](#)
-  [Valerie Higgins.docx.pdf](#)
-  [April 10 Special Board Meeting Minutes.pdf](#)
-  [EMMA Notice - Aquisition of Athlos Building \(v1\)\(8656287.3\).docx](#)



 [3\\_20\\_25 - Board Meeting minutes.pdf](#)

 [4.3.25 Special Meeting Minutes.pdf](#)

 [Hally Cruz Sped Para 25-26.docx.pdf](#)