



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

www.strideacademy.org

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

August 21st, 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, Tina Barak-Treasurer, Carie Essig-Director, Ashlee Gibson- Director, Kelly Springer - Secretary via zoom.

Administrative Attendance:

Eric Skanson-Executive Director, Heather Ebnet- Middle School Principal, Angie Lichy-Elementary Principal, Nate Schwieters - Director of Operations.

Guest Attendance:

Tanner Bechtold - IT Director

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 Carie Essig,
Seconded by Andy Lyman. Motion carried.**

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, July 17, 2025

B. Approval of Financial Statements, July 2025, June 2025

C. Accept Resignation

- 1. Linda Theisen-Paraprofessional**
- 2. Ahmed Ibrahim- Building Substitute**
- 3. Paige Knorak-ML Teacher**

D. Approval of New Hires

- 1. Hani Hashi- Paraprofessional**
- 2. Jodi Burnett-Paraprofessional**
- 3. Muslim Aden-Paraprofessional**
- 4. Krista Swenson-Paraprofessional**
- 5. Katie Randolph-Paraprofessional**
- 6. Alyssa Waters-Grade 5**
- 7. Sarah Stone-Special Education Teacher**
- 8. Makayla Makarrall-Grade K**
- 9. Sarah Neu-Grade 4**
- 10. Cheyanne Holan-Ince- Grade 2**
- 11. Kaitlyn Fox-Building Sub**
- 12. Trevor Sawyer-MS PE**

V. Public Comment

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.

- Gave appreciation message to his team; Nathan Schwieters-Getting the buildings ready for students, Erin Tronbak- Curriculum & Virtual school, Kate Hill- HR onboarding the large amount of new staff, Mara Kramer- Food Service proposal process and securing a contract, Cindy Pederson-SpEd making sure we have the right staff, Tanner Bechtold-Technology, Chris Lichy -Transportation & Enrollment, Principals Lichy & Heather for all the hard work during the summer.
- Meeting with our cabinet Administrative team on annual goals.
- We will have Ben a well known MN educated coach speaker during WorkShop
- We do not have any final word from Pillsbury on preschool or High School.
- On the finance side, we're beginning preparations for selling bonds. We are also exploring an alternative option and bank qualified bonds.
- Program funding, Title II, III, IV are confirmed and aligned with our anticipated budgets.
- Transportation-we have landed on ten buses stopping at both buildings.
- Enrollment is at 863

B. Leadership Reports

1. Elementary Principal, Angie Lichy

- We have approximately 40 new staff members
- Meeting with the Deans of students to make sure everyone is on the same page.
- Preparing for our Teacher's workshop.
- We've been messaging families about our start time is 8:15am and we are no longer going to have the building open at 7:45am.
- Breakfast is going to be grab and go.
- I want to recognize all the hard work of Mr. Lyman, Miss Gibson, Erica Louis and Miss. Malave.
- We have now: 4 sections -KG, 5- 2nd Gr, 4- 3rd gr, 5 - 4th gr, 5 - 5th gr.

2. Middle School Principal, Heather Ebnet

- We have 50 staff members right now in MS
- Readjusting the master schedule
- 369 students in MS
- All staff training in organized binder on August 5th
- Supervision's schedule is ready.
- We have a library now and the building is ready.
- Angie, Tanner and I would be working to create discipling forms so that we can streamline how teachers are accessing support for behaviors.
- We are going to implement securely "pass" systems. Is an online pass that students can request through their computers so we can track down who's in and out at any given time.
- Our first Newsletter went out last Friday.

3. Director of Operations, Nathan Schwieters

- The soccer shed field is almost done.
- Clean up of the trees by the Elementary bldg is completed. We took out 61 invasive elements
- Hvac and roof continue to be worked on at the middle school building. It's an ever ending project. UMB helped to figure out how to help pay for some of the repairs.
- Thanks to the ELKS club for the donation to get the American flag.
- The building is all ready to start the year.
- The new STRIDE sign for the building will be installed tomorrow.

4. *Director of Technology, Tanner Bechtold*

- Gave info of all the new technology and devices purchased for new staff and students for Virtual Academy.
- Move copiers service from cmERDC to marco.
- Using Marco to MS staff phones.
- New internet circuit in the Middle School building.

C. Standing Committee Reports

1. Academic Excellence Committee - Did not meet

2. Governance Meeting -

- We talked about the two of my items that are coming forward, both policies and the update to the procurement purchasing and contracting process.

3. Finance Committee - See report attached for all detailed information.

VII. Unfinished Business

VIII. New Business

A. Handbooks

1. **Student Parent** Motion to approve made by Lyman, seconded by Essig. Motion carried.
2. **Staff** Kelly Springer asked about the benefits section where it talked about the PTO and other things. She noticed that it didn't involve anything about the paid family act. Dr. Skanson replied: Met with North Risk insurance broker and we do have it accounted for in our budget through employee contribution but it is still being worked on and it won't be implemented until next January. Motion to approve made by Lyman, seconded by Essig. Motion carried.
3. **Activities** Motion to approve made by Lyman, seconded by Essig. Motion carried.
4. **Code of Conduct** Motion to approve made by Lyman, seconded by Tina B. Motion carried.
5. **SVA** Motion to approve made by Tina B, seconded by Carie Essig. Motion carried.

- B. Procurement Policy Update 702.1** - Motion to approve this addition to the enrollment and admissions policy made by Lyman, seconded by Ashley Gibson. Motion carried.

- C. Admission and Enrollment 715** Motion to approve made by Ashley Gibson, seconded by Tina Barak. Motion carried.

- D. Food Service Contract** Motion to approve made by Ashley Gibson, seconded by Lyman. Motion carried.



















- E. School Psych Contact [Motion to approve made by Ashley Gibson, seconded by Tina Barak. Motion carried.](#)
- F. Special Education Director Contract [Motion to approve made by Tina B, seconded by Carie Essig. Motion carried.](#)
- G. Special Education Coordinator Contract [Motion to approve made by Kelly Springer, seconded by Carie Essig. Motion carried.](#)








Announcements

A. September 18, 2025 Board Meeting

Adjourn: [7:00pm](#)

Public Attachments:

-  [Policy 715 Enrollment and Admissions Expansion \(1\).pdf](#)
-  [SABP 702.1 Procurement and Purchasing.docx.pdf](#)
-  [Sarah Neu Gr. 4 Teacher.docx.pdf](#)
-  [Sarah Stone.docx.pdf](#)
-  [Krista Swenson Sped Para.docx.pdf](#)
-  [Alyssa Waters.docx.pdf](#)
-  [Muslim Aden Para.docx.pdf](#)
-  [Ana Preto Board Recommendation.pdf](#)
-  [Hani Hashi Baord Rec.docx.pdf](#)
-  [Jodi Burnett Board Rec.docx.pdf](#)
-  [Tenley Quesnell Board Rec.docx.pdf](#)
-  [Knorek STRIDE Resignation Notice 08-07-2025.pdf](#)
-  [Jkrier_StrideAcademy_FY25_FY26.docx](#)
-  [Stride July 2025 Supplemental Information.pdf](#)
-  [Stride July 2025 Financial Report.pdf](#)
-  [25-26 STRIDE Code of Conduct FINAL.pdf](#)
-  [25-26 Staff Handbook.pdf](#)
-  [Kaitlyn Fox Board Recommendation.docx.pdf](#)

-  **STRIDE Q Comp Program Update, '25-26.docx**
-  **Family and Student Handbook 25-26 (1).pdf**
-  **Trevor Sawyer Board Recommendation.docx.pdf**
-  **Taher Contract.pdf**
-  **Stride Preliminary June 2025 Financial Report- 8.7.25.pdf**
-  **Stride June 2025 Supplemental Information.pdf**
-  **STRIDE Virtual Academy 2025–2026 Family & Student Handbook (K–8) (1).pdf**

Groups audience:

School Board