



www.strideacademy.org
Board of Directors Meeting
April 16th, 2026
Board Conference Room#111
6:00 PM

Board Attendance:

- Sara Fromm-Board Chair
- Andy Lyman-Vice Chair
- Tina Barak-Treasurer
- Aaron Lundblad-Director **absent**
- Carie Essig-Director
- Ashlee Gibson- Director **via zoom**
- Kelly Springer- Secretary **absent**

Administrative Attendance:

- Eric Skanson-Executive Director
 - Nathan Schwieters-Director of Operations
 - Heather Ebnet-Middle School Principal (**via zoom**)
 - Angie Lichy-Elementary Principal
 - Erin Tronbak-Curriculum/SVA
- Guest: **Kate Hill - HR and PUC representative.**

School Mission Statement:

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

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

Mission Statement of STRIDE Academy

X. 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.

XI. Approval of Agenda - Motion to approve made by Lyman, seconded by Essig. Motion carries.

XII. 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, March 19, 2026
- B. Approval of Financial Statements, March 2026
- C. Recommend Approval of
 - 1. Laurie Langerud- Reading Intervention, ADSIS
 - 2. Kali Preisinger - Middle School Assistant Principal
 - 3. Claire Idzerda - Grade 4

XIII. Public Comment - No comments

XIV.

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.

XV. Reports

A. Executive Director Report

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

- **Appreciate our leadership for all their hard work.**
- **We are feeling some end of the year fatigue and it's showing with students behavior. We are taking it seriously, and looking closely at what we can improve for next year so that we are stronger, more proactive, and more consistent and how we support our students and staff.**
- **Working with Kate-H/R, refining our hiring protocols, onboarding systems, and contracts moving to electronic with digital signatures. This will allow us to be more efficient, better track who opened and completed their contracts.**
- **Financial standpoint there's nothing overly dramatic in this round to this state. Increase came in at 2.69 %, incredibly low, considering all the other inflation that's happening.**
- **We've been active on the grant front, applied for multiple large grants and are now awaiting some responses. Including an MTSS grant for \$25K over 2 years. And ethnic studies Grant through MDE for \$50K, and a 1st draft on a gender neutral bathroom grant for \$75K. In addition Denise is working on tons of little ones that are smaller to support literacy and programs and supplies and all sorts of things that take plenty of time.**

- We're actively working through staffing positions, space planning, and budget development. Our goal each year is simply to be better than the year before.
- Regarding bonding, I'm going to speak more in detail about that around that particular agenda item but I want to note that we are continuing to make strong forward progress and things are beginning to move more quickly.
- On a personal note trying to keep up with my family schedule, and all of the season crossovers we have. Dance recitals and soccer games, soccer coaching, baseball and basketball camp. First communion confirmation. Jill's graduating from grad school, middle varsity track meets. Everything I think that could possibly be happening, is happening. It serves as a good reminder of just how much life people are balancing at this time of year.

B. Leadership Reports

1. Director of Operations, Nathan Schwieters

- mca's are wrapping up next week for math and reading and science will be the following week.
- The summer project list is growing every day.
- We had a small sprinkler leak at the Elementary boys bathroom last night. It was caught quickly and got fixed so we could have school today.
- The Drama Club performed "The Toy Store" and did an absolutely wonderful job. I want to thank Dyaton and Sam for all the work they put into bringing Drama back to STRID.

2. Middle School Principal, Heather Ebnet

- We will be working on Fastbridge testing and getting that final benchmark done.
- Quarter 3 report cards went home
- ML Night is coming up as well and it will be at the Middle School.
- Ms. Essig is working on 8th grade Graduation details. - May 28th at 11:30am.
- This is my 1st year at Stride but I've been a Principal for a while and A to Z countdown is something that I've done the last few years. It's a dress up day every day with the letter of the alphabet and an activity to go with it.
- We will be having our Color Run for Ron Clark, Quarter 4 Incentive Party for those who earned it to encourage students.
- Attendance was the highest rate in the school year in the month of March for the MS with 93%.
- Behavior continues to be a struggle here, but the levels and suspensions have been reduced. Having an AP next year will be critical and will give me more time being in classrooms more,

3. Elementary Principal, Angie Lichy

- Getting into Classrooms, academics, observations, climate culture.
- Appreciate our AMAZING teachers.
- MCA testing for 3rd & 4th grade-they are trying really hard.
- Getting ready for Fastbridge and looking forward to the goal.
- Informal observations are happening, being able to give immediate feedback and support to the teachers.
- Amazing things are happening at the elementary school. We have about 35 Girl Scouts learning about friendship, we had our Skate Night and Pizza Fundraiser.

- We had Connect Four March Madness for our staff and they won prizes.
- Student of the Month
- RCA sorting and house meetings, our leaders are amazing.
- Since Skanson ask us to give back to the community, I'm working a lot this year with St.Ben's and St John's helping the student teachers interview and hire working on their Advisory Board.

4. *Director of Academics, Erin Tronbak*

- We have been very busy with Fastbridge screening at the elementary school at the end of April through mid May. Then at the MS in early May.
- Capti ReadBasix for those students that did not take the winter screening in grades 4 to 8.
- Curriculum Planning, reviewing usage, meeting with Teachers, filling gaps.
- READ Act - we are doing a fantastic job. Compliance is a huge piece. We are getting ready for reporting, it opens on May 1st.
- ML Family Night - Coordinators have done an awesome job.

C. **Standing Committee Reports**

1. Academic Excellence Committee
 - Observations are almost complete; Principals and Q-Comp observations.
 - No new strategy of the month was added for April.
 - MCAs are rolling and hopefully we'll be done soon.
 - STEM scope, planning for moving forward, surveys have been sent out to gather more data and feedback.
2. Governance Meeting- **No Meeting**
3. Finance Committee-
 - We met on 4.15.16 - Currently working on 832 enrollments based on our 820 revised budget.
 - Our projected cash on hand is 60 days.
 - We are meeting all of our Bond components.
 - We were able to submit a report for the Compensatory funding. Waiting to hear back from them before we could bring next year's budget for approval.
4. AdHoc -Authorizer Exploration
 - I'm trying to support the relationship that we have going with our current authorizer. The Charter authorizer world has shrunk quite a bit, from 46 to a much smaller amount. About 17 schools are looking for a new authorizer so I am recommending to stay put for the moment.

XVI. Unfinished Business

A. **Bonding/Facility Updates**

- The state did come back with a positive review. That put a lot of things in place for ABC to purchase the Middle School with a possible closing either in June or July.

B. **STRIDE Board Bylaw Needed Changes 2026**

1. Redline Draft -

- Need to look at the section of term limits and try to think through the office term limits vs. the consecutive terms

of board members. Everything else was fairly straightforward.

- Also, the section on who is responsible for covering the training's cost.

XVII. **New Business**

C. **Bonding/Facility Updates**

1. Review and Comment-Action
 - **Motion to approve made by Ms. Essig, seconded by Ms. Fromm. Motion carries.**
2. Gender Neutral Bathrooms Plan-Action

- **Motion to approve made by Mr. Lyman, seconded by Ms. Essig. Motion carries**

D. **STRIDE/CMYSA Soccer Development Updates**

- **Motion to approve made by Ms.Barak, seconded by Mr. Lyman. Motion carries**

Announcements

B. May 21, 2026 Board Meeting

Adjourn: 7:47pm