www.strideacademy.org
Board of Directors Meeting
July 16, 2026
Middle School Board Room 225
6:00 PM

STRIDE Academy Board of Directors

Board Attendance:

- ☑ Stephen Schueller-Treasurer
- ☑ Andy Lyman-Vice Chair
- ☑ Tina Barak-Chair
- ☑ Pamela Holubetz -Director
- ☑ Carie Essig-Director
- ☑ Kimberly Carlson - Secretary
- ☑ Erica Louis - Director

Administrative Attendance:

- ☑ Eric Skanson-Executive Director
- ☑ Nathan Schwieters-Director of Operations
- ☑ Heather Ebnet-Middle School Principal
- ☑ Angie Lichy-Elementary Principal
- ☑ Erin Tronbak-Curriculum/SVA
- ☐ Tanner Bechtold-Technology Director
- ☐ Niki Krier-Director of Special Education
- ☑ Kate Hill- Human Resource Director

Organizational Meeting Agenda

1. Call to Order

• Call to Order

• Pledge of Allegiance

• Appointment of Secretary Pro Tempore (Carie Essig)

• Roll Call

• Establish Quorum

2. Mission Statement

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

3. Conflict of Interest Declaration

No member of the Board of Directors, employee, officer, or agent shall participate in selecting, awarding, or administering a contract if a conflict of interest exists.

4. Approval of Agenda **Motion to approve made by Mrs. Barak, seconded by Mrs. Essig. Motion carried.**

5. Seating of Newly Elected Directors

Administer the oath of office to:

- Stephen Schueller (replacing Sara Fromm)
- Pamela Holubetz (replacing Aaron Lundblad)

No motion required. Newly elected Directors are seated upon taking the oath of office.

6. Proposed Bylaw Amendment

Consider the proposed amendment to Article III, Section 11 (Vacancies).

Recommended Motion: **Motion to approve made by Mrs. Barak, seconded by Mrs. Essig. Motion carried.**

I move to amend Article III, Section 11 of the STRIDE Academy Bylaws as presented.

7. Appointment of Directors to Vacancies

7.1 Appointment to complete the unexpired term previously held by Ashlee Gibson__________.

Recommended Motion: I move to appoint **Erica Louis**.

Motion to approve made by Mrs. Barak, seconded by Mrs. Essig. Motion carried.

7.2 Appointment to complete the unexpired term previously held by Kelly Springer.

Recommended Motion: I move to appoint **Kimberly Carlson**.

8. Seating of Appointed Directors

Administer the oath of office to: **Erica Louis and Kimberly Carlson.**

No motion required. Appointed Directors are seated upon taking the oath of office.

9. Board Organization

9.1 Election of Officers

• President (Chair) - **Tina Barak**

• Vice President - **Andy Lyman**

• Secretary - **Kimberly Carlson**

• Treasurer - **Stephen Schueller**

Recommended Motion: I move to elect the officers as presented.

9.2 Establish Standing Committee Assignments

• Academic Excellence (Monthly) - **Andy Lyman**

• Governance (Monthly) - **Erica Louis**

• Finance (Monthly) - **Stephen Schueller**

• Curriculum (3 x Year) **Pamela Holubetz**

Recommended Motion: I move to approve the committee assignments as presented.

Motion to approve made by Mr. Lyman, seconded by Mrs. Essig. Motion carried.

9.3 Annual Conflict of Interest Disclosure & Governance Assurances

Recommended Motion: I move to acknowledge receipt of the annual disclosures.

9.4 Adopt the 2026–2027 Board Meeting Calendar

Recommended Motion: I move to adopt the calendar as presented.

Motion to approve made by Mrs. Essig, seconded by Mr. Lyman. Motion carried.

10. Consent Agenda - Approved

A consent agenda is a streamlined approach to handling routine matters in meetings, allowing multiple items to be approved together without discussion or debate. Any Board member may request that an item be removed from the Consent Agenda for separate consideration prior to the vote.

10.1 Approval of June 18, 2026 Board Meeting Minutes

10.2. Handbooks

10.2.a- Emergency Crisis Management Plan

10.2.b Indoor Air Quality Management Plan

10.2.c Lead in Drinking Water Plan

10.2.d Activities / Coaches Handbook

10.2.e Building Rental Policy

10.3 Personnel Recommendations

Recommended Approval of Employment

10.3.a.Jamie Conway-MTSS Coordinator

10.3.b Naima Haji-7th Grade Literacy Intervention

10.3.c Aili Swenson, 4th Grade Teacher

Resignations

10.3.c Emily Rustad-Kindergarten

10.4 Banking & Financial Authorizations

Approve the designation of the following financial institutions as the official depositories of STRIDE Academy funds:

- Choice Bank
- St. Cloud Financial Credit Union

Authorize the following individuals as approved signers on all STRIDE Academy bank accounts:

- **Board President: __Tina Barak_______________**

- **Board Treasurer:** ____Stephen Schueller_________

- **Executive Director:** Dr. Eric Skanson

- **Business Manager:** Kelly Rimpila

- **Accounts Payable:** Mara Kramer

Authorize the following individuals to initiate and process electronic funds transfers in accordance with Board policy and established internal controls:

- Board President

- Board Treasurer

- Dr. Eric Skanson, Executive Director

- Kelly Rimpila, Business Manager, or her designee

10.5 Annual Organizational Designations

Approve the following annual designations:

- **Official Newspaper:** St. Cloud Times

- **School Attorney:** Craig Kepler, Best & Flanagan

- **Authorization for the Board President or Executive Director to consult legal counsel on behalf of STRIDE Academy, as needed.**

10.6 Minnesota Department of Education Designations

Approve the following statutory designations:

- **Identified Official with Authority (IOWA):** Dr. Eric Skanson

- **Title Grant Programs Authorized Representative:** Erin Tronbak

- **Special Education Director:** Nichole Krier

- **District Assessment Coordinator:** Nathan Schwieters

10.7 Annual Administrative Authorizations

Authorize:

- The Administrative Assistant to perform duties assigned to the Secretary, as appropriate.

- The use of facsimile and electronic signatures as permitted by Board policy.

- Kelly Rimpila, Business Manager, to serve as the Treasurer's designee for routine financial transactions.
- Reimbursement of employee mileage at the current IRS Standard Mileage Rate.

10.8 ABC Building Company Board Appointments

Confirm the following appointments to the **ABC Building Company Board of Directors**:

- **Neil Theisen** – Chair
- **Eric Williams** – Secretary
- **Cory Heinen** – Director

Recommended Motion: I move to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

11. Public Comment - no comments

Three-minute limit per speaker. Comments shall be courteous and directed to the Board. No dialogue or debate.

12. Reports

12.1 Executive Director

- **Welcome to all new members**
- **Bond offerings officially went to market last Thursday and the majority were purchased.**

- **$180k was transferred to escrow as a down payment for the purchase of the MS building.**
- **PUC Professional Development last week**
- **Yesterday we held our 1st official L10 meeting of the 26-27 year.**
- **Today I spent considerable time onboarding and meeting with our expanded leadership adjacent team, 2 new assistant Principals at the MS, one new Assistant Principal to Elementary, and an MTSS multi tiered service Coordinator.**
- **Internally new changes: Chris Lichy has transitioned into FT transportation Coordinator. We are no longer partnering with Math & Science. It will be easier operationally and a significant cost savings.**
- **Kristina Velazquez has moved to Enrollment taking over for Mr. Lichy.**
- **Next Wednesday - Chad Otowski will be meeting with the Teach Better Team**

12.2 Director of Operations

- **Welcome all new elected new members.**
- **New sidewalks at both buildings**
- **Installed some new gutters, some work with the HVAC system and many other things throughout the elementary building. Fresh coat of paints, carpet cleaning.**
- **Explain about the rental part of the building.**
- **Also talked about Activities, new logo, uniforms and have most of the Fall game schedule done.**

13. Standing Committee Reports

13.1 Academic Excellence- **Did not meet**

13.2 Governance-7.13.26

- **We took a look at the first reading. The committee is recommending first reading and passage tonight. We follow MSBA recommendations. We also took a look at the handbooks.**

13.3 Finance- **Did not meet**

14. Unfinished Business

14.1 Bond Financing Update

15. New Business

15.1 Childcare Opportunity at STRIDE - All day childcare for 3 to 5 year olds, around 25 children at the moment possibility transplanting the program at STRIDE. Potentially it could bring some good revenue. Timing is not the best. They will donate some of their materials. They run 2 rooms with 4 staff members. I recognize that we have 4 new board members and that's a lot to take on. I'm really just entertaining the discussion around it to take a look at it.

Motion to approve to pursue the idea made by Mrs. Essig, seconded by Mr. Lyman. Motion carried.

15.2 Policy Updates and Recommendations **Motion to approve made by Mr. Lyman, seconded by Mrs. Essig. Motion carried.**

a. **Policy 425 – Staff Development Type of Update: Technical**

Summary of Change:

- **Updates Article VI.D. to reflect revisions to Minnesota Statute 122A.70.**
- **No substantive change to staff development requirements or district practices.**
- **Purpose is to ensure the policy references the current statute.**

b. **Policy 624 – Online Learning Type of Update: Technical**

Summary of Change:

- **Corrects a statutory citation in Article IV.**
- **No change to district procedures or student rights.**
- **Ensures legal references are accurate and current.**

c. Policy 806 – Crisis Management Policy Type of Update: Technical

Summary of Change:

- **Updates references to the Cardiac Emergency Response Plan.**
- **Adds the Minnesota Department of Education Cardiac Emergency Response Plan to the policy's Resources section.**
- **Does not alter emergency response requirements; simply updates supporting references and resources.**

16. Announcements

Next meeting - Thursday, August 20, 2026 Board Meeting

17. Adjournment - 7:40pm