



STRIDE CAMPUS • 3241 OAKHAM LANE, ST. CLOUD, MN 56301 • PHONE 320.230.5340 • FAX 320.217.6318 • STRIDEACADEMY.ORG

SARA FROMM, MS, NCC, SCHOOL BOARD CHAIR

TO: STRIDE Academy Board of Directors
FROM: Sara Fromm, Board Chair
DATE: May 15, 2025
RE: April 3, 2025 STRIDE Board Retreat Summary

Purpose of the Retreat

On April 3, 2025, the STRIDE Academy Board of Directors came together for a full-day strategic retreat. The purpose of this retreat was to reflect on our progress, clarify our long-term vision, and align our leadership around STRIDE's core identity and direction for the future.

Key Outcomes

1. 10-Year Target (Headline for 2035)

A new model for doing school: STRIDE's approach is changing learning.

This headline captures our bold aspiration to lead transformation in education. Our aim is not only to improve outcomes at STRIDE but to create a replicable model that influences the broader educational landscape.

2. Core Values

The board affirmed STRIDE Academy's five foundational values as essential to our culture and identity:

- Community Led – We listen to, partner with, and are shaped by the voices of our families and communities.
- Whole Child – We educate with attention to each child's academic, social, emotional, and physical development.
- Academic Excellence – We hold high expectations and use effective practices to support every student's growth.
- Fiscal Responsibility – We steward our resources with transparency and discipline.
- Lifelong Learners – We model and nurture curiosity, continuous improvement, and growth for students and staff alike.

3. Mission Statement

We reaffirmed the STRIDE mission as our guiding purpose:

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

4. Our Niche

STRIDE's unique strengths and community commitments define our niche in the educational landscape:

- We provide a responsive, relationship-based public education that integrates rigorous academics with whole-child development, rooted in deep partnership with families.

This focus allows us to meet the needs of students who may not thrive in traditional models and to demonstrate what's possible when schools prioritize both excellence and belonging.

5. Key Questions to Guide Next Steps

Throughout the day, the board surfaced essential questions to guide future planning and decisions. These included:

How do we balance innovation and sustainability?

What systems do we need to ensure academic excellence for all students?

How can we deepen our commitment to community partnership in governance and operations?

What infrastructure (human, financial, physical) must we grow to support our long-term vision?

Next Steps

The insights from this retreat will inform our strategic planning and board development efforts in the coming year. Staff and board leadership will identify immediate action items and determine how best to structure ongoing board engagement around long-term goals.

