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**Board of Directors Meeting**

**Feb. 19th, 2026**

**Board Conference Room#111**

**6:00 PM**

### **Board Attendance:**

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

### **Administrative Attendance:**

- Eric Skanson-Executive Director
- Nathan Schwieters-Director of Operations **via phone**
- Heather Ebnet-Middle School Principal
- Angie Lichy-Elementary Principal
- Erin Tronbak-Curriculum/SVA

### **School Mission Statement:**

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

- **Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance, and Roll Call**

### **Mission Statement of STRIDE Academy**

- **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.*

- **Approval of Agenda - Motion to approve made by Springer, seconded by Essig. Motion carried.**

- **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, January 15, 2026
- B. Approval of Financial Statements, January 2026
- C. Approval of New Hires
  - A. Shannon O'Brian - Paraprofessional
  - B. Safia Ali - Paraprofessional

- **Public Comment No 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.*

- **Reports**

- A. **Executive Director Report**

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

- **The Executive Director opened with reflection on an eventful month, noting both challenges and progress across multiple areas.**
- **Non-Exclusionary Discipline (NED) Grant**

**Received full award of \$200,000 over two years.**

**Funds already being allocated toward materials and implementation support.**

**Aaron Eickhoff serving as RCD Coach; already providing coaching support using the Responsibility Centered Discipline model.**

**Initial rollout includes training/retraining of core Behavior Response Team:**

- 1. Principals**
- 2. Deans**
- 3. Special Education Behavior Paraprofessionals**

**Additional implementation details forthcoming.**

- **Bond Update**

**No new developments.**

**Awaiting final determination from MDE on K-8 Revised Review and Comment.**

- **K-12 Expansion Request**

Final response received from MDE and the Commissioner: request denied.

The Executive Director expressed concerns regarding the complexity of the review process.

Communication to Commissioner being prepared outlining concerns.

The school will continue evaluating long-term growth options.

- **Authorizer / PUC Update**
  - A. No new updates regarding corrective action from Pillsbury United Communities.
  - B. Administration exploring alternative authorizer partnerships.
  - C. Kelly Ripilia gathering feedback from colleagues regarding potential authorizer options.
- **Compensatory Revenue Update**
  - A. Preliminary state numbers released.
  - B. FRP percentage dropped from 81% to 61% due to shift from direct certification to community enrollment calculation.
  - C. Estimated revenue impact: approximately \$800,000 reduction from anticipated projections.
  - D. Administration to begin preliminary FY27 budget development.
  - E. Budget planning will inform contract discussions and potential increases.
- **Current Year Budget**
  - A. Positive trend due to Food Service O2 Fund performance.
  - B. Lower costs and improved count accuracy resulted in approximately \$100,000 positive swing.
- **Building Updates**
  - A. Principals and directors to provide additional updates on building-level initiatives and student-centered successes.

#### **B. Leadership Reports**

##### *1. Director of Operations, Nathan Schwieters*

- The fire at Elementary School is still under investigation by the Mechanical adjuster. Demo work on the walls and bathroom are complete, waiting for the investigation of the fan to finish before a demo on the ceiling can be done.
- Boys Basketball wrapping up next week. Yearbook, Lego, ArtClub, Pokemon Club up and running. Drama to begin at both buildings in April. Mr. Lyman to get K-5 Volleyball, Soccer and Basketball up and running in the Spring.
- Building rental is going strong, starting to rent out the turf field for Spring and Summer. CMYSA will be hosting a State Tournament at the field on July 9-13 which will bring a lot of people to the school. PAC looking to sell possible concessions at it.
- MCA testing to begin March 30. Staff are finishing up training. Access testing is being done in both buildings and going well.
- The summer project schedule is being put together a lot of smaller projects this year.

##### *2. Elementary Principal, Angie Lichy*

- -Fastbridge and CAPTI testing are done
- -Family fun literacy night was last week and there were hundreds of families
- -Cribbage with 4th graders went at the Whitney Center

- -Costco reading buddies going well
- -Preparing for MCA testing
- -Working on plans for next year

3. *Middle School Principal, Heather Ebnet*

- -Monthly goal: Give me 5, gaining engagement and classroom participation
- -Evaluating how staff are working to meet student needs
- -Access testing is ongoing
- -Panther time: students have been shifted based on CAPTI and Fastbridge
- -IXL leaderboards ongoing
- -Drop in conferences next week, focused conferences next month
- -Ron Clark meetings ongoing, moved to wednesdays
- -Working on RCD, attendance, behavior. Tardy Party seems to be a good incentive for kids to be on time. Working on in school suspensions. Behavior issues are lessening from the fall.

- *Erin Tronback - Curriculum & SVA*

- -SVA is starting a new semester with new kids, all others returned.
- -Most kids are CAPTI screened in 4-8. Lots have been learned, kids are being over screened. State mandates that kids that don't meet required access scores cannot take fastbridge. There are no alternatives for 4-8 kids. The team will have to make decisions about eval going forward. For some grades, at least 50% of kids need alternate screening.
- -CAPTI is showing where gaps are for students, which can be addressed. This is more useful than fastbridge. Staff will be trained on this.
- -STEM scopes have been completely rolled out across all grades.

C. **Standing Committee Reports**

1. Academic Excellence Committee

- -End of winter screenings
- -STEM Scopes implemented
- -More math right now, less IXL right now

2. Governance Meeting- 2.17.26

- -Working on MSBA update list, some were already complete

- -Discussed PTO bank policy, goal for contract time
3. Finance Committee-2.18.26
- -Things look good for now, we are close to bond covenant minimums.
  - -Cash on hand 60 days, debt service 1.23
  - -Working on new bond matters
  - -Cash balance still healthy, expenditures on target
  - -Reclaimed about 100K from food service. Food counts are accurate lately.
- **Unfinished Business**
    - A. Grade Level Expansion - Denied for now. This will be revisited at a later date.
    - B. Bonding/Facility Updates -Waiting for review and comment on K-8 model. We will then move forward quickly. Lease extended to give us more time for bonding.
    - C. Policy Updates: 1st
      - 1. PTO Bank Policy Revisit. Ongoing. Goal for passage by April 2026. One director inquired whether this should be a procedure whether than a policy unless there is a staff desire for board approval. As a procedure, there is more flexibility for administration (no need for approval). Administration directed to proceed in that fashion.
- **New Business**
    - A. Authorizer Updates
      - Sara has evaluated and created a list, possible IQS, St. Thomas, and the Guild are possible best options. The guild has a lot more requirements to be “teacher powered.” Sara suggests a board committee to evaluate this and make recommendations to the board. Motion and Second to create an ad hoc committee for this approved.
    - B. 26-27 Draft Calendar
      - Option A and B discussed. Some staff object to Option A. Option B preferred by the leadership team. Objection to PD on 12th. A lot of staff support for two weeks off at Christmas. Asks for an extra day at the end of each quarter for grading. Staff objected to early conferences, they found those not useful.

## Announcements

- A. March 19, 2025 Board Meeting  
**Adjourn - 7:26pm**