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Board of Directors Meeting
Mar. 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

Administrative Attendance:

- Eric Skanson-Executive Director
- Nathan Schwieters-Director of Operations
- Heather Ebnert-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 Essig, seconded by Lyman. 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, February 15, 2026
- B. Approval of Financial Statements, February 2026
- C. Accept Resignation, Urielys Prieto Barbara, Paraprofessional, 2/13/26

D.

- **Public Comment - No comments**

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.

- No big updates except for what is on agenda tonight. Been working with Kate on matters about contracts. Working with Kelly on financial/budget issues. Making sure we meet bond covenants. Working on NED grant details, with Aaron Eickhoff. Met with **MAPES Review Committee** regarding PUC, many concerns were expressed about PUC and charter schools in general.

- B. Leadership Reports**

- 1. *Director of Operations, Nathan Schwieters*

- Building rental is going well, including outdoor fields. MCA testing starts next week. Summer project list in process and repairs to girls' bathroom. Finally, drama club starts next week. Lego and K2 soccer registration ongoing. Afterschool bee program. Still working on soccer partnership, no major updates.

- 2. *Elementary Principal, Angie Lichy*

- Fastbridge testing ongoing. Capti done for 4th grade. Ufli is being used and going well. Progress monitoring is going well. Math is continuing with Stemsopes and "teac tuesday." RCA is going well, there has been an assembly and rock paper scissors activity. Incorporating building jobs with the RCA teams. Student of the month, middle school buddies, cribbage, costco buddies. Prayers for Eid have been allowed on Fridays.
 - Kindergarten graduation is coming soon. Working on a K-3 girl scouts grant.

- 3. *Middle school Principal, Heather Ebnet*

- WIDA Access testing is complete. MCA begins in 2 weeks, with fastbridge spring to follow. Some capti will be done again. Panther time

may be redone again for some kids. Looking at data for classes and discussing with teachers.

- RCA is on hold during testing, last meeting in May, and color run coming. Kids get to do morning announcements. Some kids are acting as peer tutors on Fridays to help with house meetings at elementary. YLOT leaders are doing great things with hallway behaviors.
- Tardy party 4/6/26. End of year grade level celebrations to come invite only. 8th grade graduation is in May.

4. *SVA, Erin Tronbak*

- SVA is busy. Lots of students were added to the program. Those kids will be invited to end of year events. Good interaction with SVA kids. Working on curriculum for next year, meetings ongoing. ML coordinators meeting, parent engagement night coming up May 6.
- Universal screener-conversations about what to do with kids that don't need standards. K-2 Dibls, not sure on 4-8 yet.
- Fastbridge results from winter discussed. Early literacy and math are showing strong gains, but there is a need for focus on upper grades.

C. Standing Committee Reports

1. Academic Excellence Committee

- Strategies of the month are being pursued. March is stand and speak. Testing complete. Stemscores fully implemented for math 3Q. PD-Carryall is done/science of reading. Paras have done literacy training. Focus on implementation of literacy in the classroom next year.

2. Governance Meeting- 3.17.26

- Working on second readings being considered tonight. Continuing to work on PTO donation program. Stride bylaw updated needed, which will be discussed tonight. Major change to be discussed is term limits for board members and board officers.

3. Finance Committee-3.18.26

- Working with a revised budget of 829ADM (we are at 828). Cash on hand is 53 days, but bond covenant is 60 days, need to tighten expenditures and re-coding/edits to budget. Debt service is 1.23, barely meets covenants. ABC will be paying back stride for some improvements, which will help with budget issues.

4. AdHoc -Authorizer Exploration

- Update on PUC: checked in with Antonio, things are more stable than they feared. PUC board has decided to focus on authorizing activities to make them better. MAPES interview occurred with MDE and it went well.
 - Other authorizers are struggling with MDE, staffing in the charter department there is maybe one person.
 - The committee recommends that it continue to explore other authorizers for due diligence, but it may be best to stay with PUC as long as possible with the current situation/MDE challenges. The committee will put together a timeline of elections, MDE, MAPES and our goals alongside how long it would take to change authorizers if desired.
- **Unfinished Business**
 - A. **Bonding/Facility Updates**
 - Not much. Still waiting on MDE feedback on our review and comment (finances/bonding). Everything on hold pending that. PUC status is important as it affects the HS expansion project, this is delayed at this time.
 - B. **Policy Updates: 2nd Reading**
 1. 616 Motion to approve made by Ms.Gibson, Seconded by Ms. Essig. Motion carries.
 2. 701 Motion to approve made by Mr.Lyman, Seconded by Ms. Essig. Motion carries.
 - C. PTO Handbook Update Governance recommends to slow this down because it is not as urgent as thought, and with contracts coming up, it would be irresponsible to do this quickly. Will keep working on this for a handbook update. Donations would not be able to start until the end of next school year. Staff still qualifies for rollover for this year.
 - D. **26-27 Draft Calendar** Two options discussed C and D.
 1. Motion to approve to start before labor day made by Ms. Essig, Seconded by Mr. Lyman. Motion carries.
 2. Calendar C: Motion to approve Calendar C made by Ms. Gibson, Seconded by Mr. Lyman. Motion carries.

- **New Business**

- C. **Contracts and Compensation Discussion:**

Contract season is upon us. Contracts are individual, not collective. There is not a set pathway for increases. We try to stay away from salary schedules, Eric is evaluating other salary models.

Recommend a Board work session to discuss procedures with the idea that there is a standard cost of living increase every year in comparison with the increase we get from the State. Salaries are 80% of our budget. Apply increases across the board for everyone, with some flexibility for other adjustments.

Ideas:

- Professional mastery grids (optional, incentivized with salary or stipends)
- Graduate credits still apply for salary upgrades.
- RCA
- Responsibility centered discipline

Avoid mere compliance, want it to be meaningful PD.

Adding clarity to the compensation process.

D. STRIDE Board Bylaw Needed Changes 2026

Most are straightforward as included in the notes, recommendations of ED are generally supported by Board, EXCEPT:

Term limits for Board Members: 3 years, 3 terms,

Term limits for Board officers: 2 years, one extra year if you hold an officer position in year 9.

Announcements Board elections in April/May and next board meeting; **April 16, 2026.**

Adjourn: 7:25pm