

www.strideacademy.org
Board of Directors Meeting
May 21, 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
- ☒ Kelly Springer- Secretary ([via zoom](#))

Administrative Attendance:

- ☐ Eric Skanson-Executive Director
- ☐ Nathan Schwieters-Director of Operations
- ☒ 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.

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 Fromm. Motion carried.](#)

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, April 16, 2026

B. Approval of Financial Statements, April 2026

C. Recommend Approval of

1. Boucher, Ella, Elementary Teacher 1.0 FTE
2. Fuecher, Christopher, MS ELA 1.0 FTE
3. Montoya, Daniel, MS ELA 1.0 FTE
4. Smilovici, Rachel, SPED Teacher 1.0 FTE

D. Recommendation, Term, Leah Sutherland, Paraprofessional

E. Board Resignation, Ashlee Gibson

F.

XIII. 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.

XIV. 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 reported that the period since the last board meeting has been heavily focused on staffing, contracts, and final employment offers for the 2026–2027 school year. Appreciation was expressed for Kate Hill's leadership and support throughout the process. The district also transitioned to electronically signed work agreements, improving efficiency and workflow.
- Executive Director shared that ongoing bonding and building acquisition efforts continue to require significant administrative attention and will be discussed further later in the meeting.
- Executive Director provided an update regarding Pillsbury United Communities (PUC), including the introduction of new Co-Directors Sawsan Natsheh and Krissy Wright during the monthly directors meeting. PUC also shared initial MAPES review information and discussed ongoing organizational improvement efforts. The Executive Director will participate in a June meeting with other PUC school leaders regarding equity frameworks and collaborative work.
- Executive Director reported on the recent Spring Review meeting with PUC leadership, including Antonio, Sawsan, Krissy, and Kowsar. Feedback from the review was positive, with continued recognition of STRIDE Academy's programming, staff, leadership, and organizational progress.
- Executive Director shared that STRIDE Academy was awarded an Ethnic Studies Development grant opportunity. Additional details will be provided later in the meeting. The district is also awaiting notification regarding the submitted MTSS Grant application.
- Executive Director noted there is positive budget news to discuss later in the meeting during preliminary FY27 budget discussions.
- Executive Director concluded with a brief personal update, sharing that Jill completed her graduate program and that family activities and coaching continue to keep the Skanson family busy heading into summer.

B. Leadership Reports

1. Director of Operations, Nathan Schwieters

- Director of Operations Nathan Schwieters reported that the summer project list is being finalized, estimates are being collected, and summer staff will begin June 2 with classroom moves and clean-out. Appreciation was expressed for Brian's ongoing support in keeping both buildings operating smoothly.

- All required fire drills and containment drills have been completed at both locations. The state's upcoming expectations around Active Threat policy and procedures will be reviewed and developed over the summer as additional guidance becomes available.
- STRIDE's soccer fields have been rented for summer use by multiple programs, including St. Cloud Tech Soccer, CMSYA tournaments, and summer camps. Appreciation was shared for PAC's donation of porta potties for both fields.
- MCA testing has concluded, with preliminary Math, Science, and ACCESS scores shared with the administrative team. Post-test editing is underway and expected to be completed by June 5. Appreciation was expressed to the EL team, Technology team, and staff for supporting WIDA and MCA testing.
- Activities have concluded for the year, including Rocket Club's final launch. Planning has begun for fall activities, including boys soccer, girls soccer, and volleyball.
- Community engagement opportunities continue, including Summertime by George beginning June 17 at Lake George and running Wednesdays through August 12.

2. *Middle School Principal, Heather Ebnet*

- Middle School Principal Heather Ebnet reported that year-end academic tasks are underway, including completion of MCA and ACCESS testing, preliminary ACCESS data review, FastBridge assessments, CAPTI screening, report cards, class lists, and Panther Time planning.
- The Middle School continued its Ron Clark Academy implementation through ceiling tile projects, the Amistad House Party, and the upcoming Color Run.
- End-of-year activities included graduation preparation, Track and Field Day, and the A-Z Countdown.
- Fourth grade students visited the Middle School for tours, lunch, and leadership support from YLOT student leaders.
- The report concluded with appreciation for a strong end to the school year and excitement for the year ahead.

3. *Elementary Principal, Angie Lichy*

- Elementary Principal Mrs. Lichy reported strong academic growth across the elementary program, including completion of FastBridge, CAPTI, and MCA assessments, with positive student growth trends in both reading and math.
- Climate and culture initiatives continued through Ron Clark Academy house activities, including House Party celebrations, Earth Day projects, Wish Tree activities, and final house meetings. Amistad was recognized and celebrated throughout the elementary building community.
- Community engagement and student enrichment opportunities included Student of the Month recognition, Drama Club performances, ML Family Night, the K-4 Spring Concert, Skate Night, Girl Scouts, the Cribbage Tournament with Whitney Center, and the Baby Chicks life cycle project.
- Fourth Grade Explore Day provided students with transition opportunities and exposure to middle school experiences.
- Upcoming end-of-year events include the Color Run, Kindergarten Graduation, Field Day, and the final student day on May 29.

- Elementary administration expressed appreciation to staff, students, and families for a successful and rewarding 2025–2026 school year.
- 4. *Director of Academics, Erin Tronbak*
 - Director of Curriculum and Instruction Erin Tronbak reported ongoing work related to curriculum ordering, professional learning planning, and preparation for implementation of new Minnesota academic standards.
 - Literacy support efforts included CAPTI ReadBasix implementation, onboarding new testing staff, READ Act compliance work, and expansion of Learning Ally resources to support student access to more than 80,000 human-read audiobook texts aligned to ELA curriculum.
 - Family support and registration efforts included planning and hosting a Family Technology Support & Registration event to assist families with ParentSquare, Skyward, Clever access, student registration, summer reading support, and Learning Ally access.
 - Reporting and application work included ADSIS STRIDES for Reading reporting, completion of the Local Literacy Report, and submission work related to the Federal Title Application.
 - Erin Tronbak also reported on curriculum planning efforts connected to Ethnic Studies grant work for grades 7–8, K–8 standards alignment, mental health instruction planning, and summer curriculum development activities.

C. Standing Committee Reports

1. Academic Excellence Committee
 - **Fastbridge report, will be sent to Board, growth shown**
2. Governance Meeting- **No Meeting**
3. Finance Committee- 5.20.26
 - **Just meeting bond covenants**
 - **Revenues and expenditures on target/on budget**
 - **Budget to be finalized as soon as compensatory stuff is finalized**
 - **Compensatory allocation is looking positive for next year, legislature approved allocation. Eric would like to use additional revenue to make salary increases for staff.**
4. AdHoc -Authorizer Exploration
 - **NONE. This is on pause at this time. No need for this committee right now. Will stay with PUC for now.**

XV. Unfinished Business

A. Bonding/Facility Updates

1. **Purchase Agreement Extension option to 7/10/26 or beyond as necessary - Motion to approve made by Fromm, Seconded by Lyman. Motion carried.**

B. STRIDE Board Bylaw Needed Changes 2026

1. **Final Draft - Motion to approve made by Fromm, Seconded by Lyman. Motion carried.**

C. Strategic Planning/Work Session

1. **Mission - Updated wording - Motion to approve made by Fromm, Seconded by Lyman. Motion carried.**

2. Vision - **no change** - 6 Stride Keys to roll out to staff this coming year.
3. Profiles
 - a) Educator
 - b) Student
4. STRIDE Soccer Development Updates - **See Schwieters report. Central Minnesota Youth Soccer declined to partner with Stride. Eric to meet with another soccer group soon to seek other partnerships. Seeking possible partnership with a team for the blind. Just at the exploratory stage. This was initially an enrollment tool, but with updated compensatory allocations, less important.**

XVI. **New Business**

- A. Board Evaluation - Skews neutral to positive. Focus on onboarding new members better. **Motion to receive report made by Fromm, Seconded by Lyman. Motion carried.**
- B. Preliminary FY 27 Budget Models - **See finance report attached**
- C. **Organizational Support Position Conversation**
A need for support for ED and other directors and all other administrative positions to keep operations and big picture projects going. Likely part time, remote, and inconsistent need. This position would pass rote clerical work is done, and allow staff to work on more important details/work. Will consider once the budget is proposed.

Announcements

- C. June 18, 2026 Board Meeting

Adjourn: 7:36pm



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.

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

Mission Statement of STRIDE Academy

XVIII. 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.