

February 2015 School Board Minutes

School Mission Statement: STRIDE Academy will provide educational experiences for all children, promoting a strong foundation in all core academic areas. Using researched based curriculum, students will excel academically through real-life educational experiences in a challenging, caring, and student-centered environment. By meeting each student's unique educational, emotional and social needs, students will be empowered to become responsible life-long learners and leaders

1. Call to Order (6:00pm)
2. Attendance: Roll Call (Monica Schraut, Nathan Schwieters, Daniel Thole, Kim Galazen, Jenny Justice, Scott Dawson, Christi Walsh, Tammy Biery, Kathy Jerabek 6:04)
Miscellaneous attendees: Donna Nordstrom, Jamie Goebel, Mandy Sadlo, Katie Gruber, Katie Koester, Michelle Kockler
3. Pledge of Allegiance (By Invitation)
4. Reading of STRIDE mission statement
5. Approval of Board Agenda (Move Consent Agenda I to New Business)
Motion to approve revised agenda made by Walsh, seconded by Biery. Motion carries 9-0)
6. Approval of January Board Minutes and January 29 Board Retreat Minutes (Documents J, K) Motion to approve January Board minutes made by Thole, Seconded by Biery. Motion carries 9-0. Motion to approve January 29 Retreat Minutes made by Schraut, seconded by Jerabek. Motion carries 9-0
7. Consent Agenda
 - a. Approve HR Job Description and posting (Document A)
 - b. Approve Organizational Chart (Documents B, C, D, E) (Galazen notes that Psychologist is listed twice. There is some question as to why Title and Speech is only listed under one principal and not both.)
 - c. Approve Activities Contracts for Michelle Leske (Science Club South), Sarah Salmela (Science Club North), Brianna Larison (Science Club North), Marie Meland (Art Club). (Documents N)
 - d. Approve position of a second Art Club instructor at the North Campus for \$125 stipend.

- e. Approval of the donation of a Multimedia TV system for South Campus for Electronic bulletin board use for Activities and other school needs by PAC. \$850.
 - f. Approve Contract of Margaret Buttweiler – Paraprofessional (Document H)
 - g. Approve Contract of Melissa Koester – Paraprofessional (Document I)
 - h. Approve donation of \$670 in Supplies from Office Max (Document M)
 - ~~i. Resignation of Jon Lientz SPED Teacher~~
 - j. Approve the Contract of Sally Hipp – Paraprofessional (Document Q)
- Motion to approve the consent agenda made by Dawson, seconded by Schraut. Carries 9-0**

6. Treasurers/Finance Directors Report:

a. Finance Meeting Minutes (Document G) **(Schraut reports the 2 missing debit items have been accounted for. Galazen questions when the adopted budget will reflect the actual student count, Schraut says late in the year. Thole questions the enrollment numbers and if we are truly full in the grades that are reported to be full. Fechner says we have some students in day treatment programs that are expected to come back and they may account for the discrepancy.)**

b. Financial Statements (Document P) **(Justice questions whether it was verified that the board approved the addition to the enrollment for next year, Schraut verifies it was. Schraut says that we may adjust enrollment for one grade if there is a deficit in one grade to make up the student in another grade.**

c. Management Reports (Document F) **(Motion to approve the Treasurers report made by Schwieters, seconded by Justice. Motion carries 9-0.**

Motion made to adjust agenda to move the insurance presentations from 10c to 7. Seconded by Biery. Motion carries 9-0

7. Mahowald Insurance Presentation (Moved from 10c)

Apollo Insurance Presentation (Moved from 10c)

MMC Insurance Presentation (Moved from 10c)

Discussion by Board about the presentations made by the different groups. Motion to choose Apollo Insurance for our insurance carrier made by Justice, seconded by Dawson. Motion carries 9-0.

8. Expenditures for Board approval

- a. Xcel Energy: \$3,113.43
- b. Margaret Bailey: \$3,480.00
- d. Michelle Hahn: \$1,445.50

- e. Matt Mimbach: \$3,305.00
- f. TDS: \$2,033.34
- g. Tom Fish: \$6,200.96
- h. New Horizon: \$17,738.72
- i. MTN: \$1,445.00
- j. Xcel Energy: \$2,850.99
- k. Spanier Bus: \$8,214.00
- l. Hillyard: \$1,018.13
- m. CmERDC: \$1,719.03
- n. Matt Mimbach: \$2,268.75
- o. TDS: \$4,109.16
- p. Michelle Hahn: \$2,842.00
- q. Fran Johnson: \$2,062.50

Motion to approve expenditures made by Schraut, seconded by Thole. Motion carries 9-0

9. ~~8.~~ Public Forum: (10 Minutes) **None**

10. ~~9.~~ Old Business:

a. Second Reading of Policy 616-Monica Schraut (Document R)

Motion to approve Policy 616 by Justice, seconded by Jerabek.

Motion carries 9-0

b. Executive Director Goals-Kim Galazen

Survey has been completed, but not yet reviewed. Motion to approve the STRIDE Administrative goal process made by Schwieters, seconded by Justice. Motion carries 9-0

c. Review of FY14-990 tax form-Brett Fechner (Document L)

Fechner says form has been submitted. No action required.

11. ~~10.~~ New Business:

a. Reading Program approval – Monica Schraut (Document O)

Schraut explains the committee members and process undertaken to determine the reading program choices and ultimately choose the finalists for our new reading program, which included presentations for both teachers and parents. The recommendation of the group in to choose Journeys. There is a question about how it related to core knowledge, and it is conveyed that it doesn't. Fechner adds that finding Core Knowledge curriculum is getting more and more difficult. Schwieters is concerned with the fact that in our charter it is listed that we are a Reading Mastery School. Galazen doesn't think it will be. Galazen asks how much it budgeted. Fechner explains financial details. Justice explains that she is not comfortable with approving anything until the team meets with Beth. Fechner explains that FOE is just

there for oversight, and while her guidance is important, the Board makes the decision. Galazen also doesn't feel comfortable spending the school's entire contingency on curriculum when the building isn't finished being built yet. Fechner says that the contingency was set aside for curriculum. Dawson feels that maybe we should hold off and see if we can negotiate a better price. Schraut says they are already giving us a lot of complementary items in this order. Dawson asks how the other prices compare, and Schraut says they are comparable. Schwieters asks if we will have the money to make the 2 payments, one in FY14, and one in FY15. Schraut says that Larry Peterson established the contingency fund for curriculum. Peterson created the curriculum cycle. Fechner suggests that the issue is tabled until the next meeting for he and Schraut to gather more information. Schwieters explains that all curricula are in the neighborhood of \$100,000.

b. New SPED reading curriculum - Nelson, Kockler, Johnson presenting Fechner explains that SPED teacher Michelle Kockler recently observed a teacher in Sartell using the curriculum that is being suggested. Fechner explains that there is no net cost for this curriculum to STRIDE because it would be reimbursed from SPED funds for the cost of \$4,663.47. Kockler explains that she just pieces things together now for these students, some of which that cannot recognize the letters in their names. Kockler says this program as seen the most success. It is called PCI Education. Motion to approve the purchase of PCI Education reading material for the SPED department made by Walsh, seconded by Biery. Motion carries 9-0.

~~c. Insurance Presentations – Mahowald 6:30, Apollo 7:00, MMC 7:30~~

d. Dedication of Space (Art, Spanish, Sped, etc.)-Jenny Justice

Justice says she has been approached by teachers who are concerned about having classroom space, especially for Title, Spanish, Art, and SPED. Schwieters comments that the ED, Principals, and Facilities manager should get together and work out a plan and bring it to the board. Fechner is aware of the issue, and will take Schwieters recommendation. It is agreed and it will be addressed at the April Board meeting.

e. STRIDE Community – Tammy Biery

Biery feels that the community's perception of STRIDE has gone down, and is concerned about retention and expulsion rates. Behavioral issues are also a concern, and she is interested in hearing from a lot of parents to hear what their thoughts are. Wants STRIDE to once again be regarded with honor. Dawson feels that part of it is a community misconception coming from the leaders from St. Cloud and Sartell that STRIDE doesn't follow the same testing standard, which is false. Jerabek feels that because we are becoming a bigger school, we are losing some of that small school feel. Fechner also explains his thoughts on the subject. Justice says the middle school is harder with behaviors because they are children that are trying to find themselves

and push boundaries. Biery says she hears the number of fights are out of control, and Justice says that some of that is true. Schraut thinks that our move together will help the situations over at the middle school because there will be more opportunities for those Middle Schoolers to be leaders to the younger students. Biery feels there is a disconnect between the parents and the Middle School. Schraut asks that the marketing committee should look into public perception. Thole's concern is retention, and he said that 4th grade has 19 new students.

f. Resignation of Jon Lientz

Thole says that he has some questions and he would like to close the meeting to discuss the issues, however Schwieters says there is a process that has to be gone through, and those steps have not been followed tonight. Justice says he technically was invited to the meeting because Justice told him that it would be on the agenda. Thole is very concerned about the circumstances surrounding his resignation. Fechner relays that Lientz resigned without being asked. Fechner verbally received the resignation, but has yet to receive it in writing. Thole asks if Lientz should be invited to the meeting to discuss the resignation and Fechner explains the issue is up to him. Galazen and Justice wonder if a written resignation is even legally required.

12. ~~11~~. Executive Directors Report:

- a. Enrollment/Lottery update **As of 2/19, 551 students**
- b. Bussing for 2015-2016 **Submitted form to state to ask local district for bussing, but will keep reviewing information for getting our own bussing.**
- c. Subs and Subs Shortage: **Still facing a shortage, and Sartell District is offering a bonus to substitutes and other schools are paying more.**
- d. Update on Advertising/Chamber of Commerce **Fechner explains that he took out an ad in a woman's magazine, and has joined the Chamber of Commerce**
- e. Update on Non-Profit loan **Fechner says there is a loan being put together for \$250,000. Chuck has been involved. Goes to their committee on March 12th. Walsh is still concerned about us taking out a loan of that value and having the restraint to not spend it. She wants a definite plan.**
- f. Update on STRIDE Alive Letters **Letters have ~~went out~~ been mailed. They will be mailed again in 2 weeks.**

13. ~~12~~. Board Communication: **Paraprofessionals hired, joined Chamber of Commerce, commendations, continued to add clubs, SPED reading curriculum, lottery held, which grades have openings**

Meeting adjourned at 9:55pm.

STRIDE Academy Board Standing Sub Committees:

1. Curriculum and Instruction: Monica Schraut, Mary Swanson, Donna Nordstrom
Micki Blenkush, Beth Cox, Brett Fechner
2. Facility/Security/Emergency: Scott Dawson, Rodger Vix, Brett Fechner,
Nathan Schweiters, Brandon Rogers, Jamie Goebel, Donna Nordstrom
3. Finance: Monica Schraut, Rebecca Hull, Chuck Herdegen, Mary Swanson,
Rodger Vix, Bethany Schwartz, Brian Weappa, Brett Fechner, Jamie Goebel
4. Elections: Christi Walsh, Angela Schmitz, Caroline Ruegemer, Katie Gruber,
Michelle Kockler
5. Futures: Kim Galazen, Tammy Biery, Jon Halter, Julie Gromberg,
Brett Fechner, Rodger Vix, Jodi Rajkowski, Beth Cox, Tamara Abers,
6. Administration Review/Hiring: Kim Galazen, Caroline Ruegemer, Dan Thole
Mary Swanson
7. STRIDE By-Laws: Jenny Justice, Monica Schraut, Jamie Goebel
8. STRIDE Policy: Jenny Justice, Monica Schraut, Brian Weappa,
Jodi Rajkowski, Tamara Abers, Brett Fechner
9. Grants/Fundraising: Tammy Biery, Nathan Schwieters, Mandy Sadlo,
Jamie Goebel
10. Technology: Kathy Jerabek, Adam Diskerud, Rodger Vix, Brian Weappa,
Nathan Schwieters, Laura Maiers, Shawna Seaman, Steve
Swenson
11. World's Best Workforce: Tammy Biery, Brett Fechner, Shauna Seaman,
Monica Schraut, Donna Nordstrom
12. Marketing: Kim Galazen, Christi Walsh, Melissa Ritter, Melissa Medford,
Rachel Lolmasteymaugh, Caroline Ruegemer, Brett Fechner,
Donna Nordstrom