



“To Live, To Love, to Learn, To Leave a Legacy”

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www.strideacademy.org

May 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: **6pm**
2. Attendance: Roll Call: **Nathan Schwieters, Dan Thole, Tammy Biery (6:03) (left at 9:59), Monica Schraut, Kathy Jerabek, Caroline Ruegemer, Brian Weappa, Scott Dawson, Kim Galazen.**
Public: Jenny Justice, Brandon Rogers, Sue Dingmann, Todd Swing, Jacob Swing, Portia Hunstiger, Ian Hunstiger, Rodger Vix, Mandy Sadlo, Chuck Herdegen, Ron Brand, Charles Ehlen, Al Keller, Jackson Nelson.
3. Pledge of Allegiance (By Invitation)
4. Reading of STRIDE mission statement
5. Public Forum (20 Minutes)
 - a. Reading of public forum document outline process**Jenny Justice shares that in regards to the Executive Director review, she is curious as to whether ED will obtain his Administrative license.**
6. Approval of Board Agenda
Change New Business 12- There are 2 k’s, change second k to l. Add election results as M under New Business. Motion to approve agenda with changes made by Weappa, seconded by Ruegemer. Carries 9-0.
7. Approval of Previous Month’s Board Minutes and Special Board Meeting Minutes **Approval of Regular April board minutes made by Dawson, seconded by Schraut. Carries 9-0. Approve special meeting minutes with the addition of adding am to the times made by Schraut, seconded by Biery. Motion carries 9-0.**
8. Consent Agenda
 - a. Approve the resignation of Mrs. Shauna Seaman, Technology Specialist
 - b. Approve Contract of Christopher Bernard, Paraprofessional
 - c. Approve the Donation of \$3447.88 in earned credit from Scholastic Book Fairs for Spring Book Fair at North Campus
 - d. Approve of donating the labor and materials for our court and green space on our new playground from Al Keller
 - e. Approve contract of Belinda Labor, Paraprofessional South Campus
 - f. Approve Lloyd Hoelscher’s Contract revision for SPED coverage
 - g. Approve Shonda Martinson’s revised performance pay
 - h. Approve contract of Lesley Burandt Debate Coach/Advisor
 - i. Approve contract of Granite City Movers for ES Move

After discussion about the move and Al Keller donation motion made to approve consent agenda made by Jerabek, seconded by Thole. Carries 9-0.

9. Treasurers/Finance Directors Report:

- a. Finance Meeting Minutes: **Schraut gives a recap of Finance Meeting**
- b. Financial Statements
- c. Management Reports **Herdegen tells how there is a new page in report showing**

new building costs. Fechner explains how we have gotten a lot of furnishing for free from various places. He also explains how cubbies will not work in some of the rooms because of space and we will need to get lockers. Looking to add 180 lockers for kindergarten and first grade. Lockers will be an additional cost.

Motion to approve financials made by Weappa, seconded by Dawson. Carries 9-0.

10. Expenditures for Board approval

- a. Minnesota Computers for Schools: \$16,225.00 (Technology)
- b. Tri-Mark: \$25,490.01 (Kitchen Equipment)
- c. Hi-Tec Electric \$1,076.50 (Electric Service-MS)
- d. Fran Johnson \$2,800.00 (SPED Coordinator)
- e. Margaret Bailey: \$2640.00 (Psychologist)
- f. Xcel Energy: \$4,604.76 (MS Electric)
- g. Tom Fish: \$3,910.00 (Milk)
- h. New Horizon Food: \$23,800.90 (Food Service)
- i. Xcel Energy: \$1,844.85 (ES Electric)
- j. Skyward: \$14,168.70 (Dist Student/Business system)
- k. Hillyard: \$1,100.42 (ES Custodial Supplies)
- l. Spanier Bus: \$9,838.00 (Dist. & Targeted Services Trans.)
- m. TDS: \$2,054.27 (Dist. Telephone)
- n. Rupp, Anderson: \$4377.17 (Dist. Legal fees)
- o. Michelle Hahn: \$3,479.00 (Dist. Nursing/Food Service)
- p. MTN: \$1,445.00 (Dist. SR AM Bussing)
- ~~q. Houghton Mifflin Hareourt (ES Curriculum)~~

Motion to approve modify agenda by removing Q, made by Schraut, seconded by Thole. Carries 9-0.

Motion to approve expenditures made by Dawson, seconded by Ruegemer. Carries 9-0.

11. Old Business:

1. Board Correspondence

- a. Candid survey of teachers at South Campus regarding student behaviors -

Monica Schraut: Schraut interviewed some teachers to investigate claims about behaviors. She says there is some perception that Erin Brown has too much on his plate. That there should be more in school suspensions as opposed to out of school. Biery asks what is being done about rooms with poor classroom management to help those teachers. Schraut says that we should use teachers to mentor teachers. Ruegemer asks if she interview paras. Schraut did not, but said the concerns were about teacher disrespect.

b. North and South Campus visit Report-Brian Weappa: Weappa said he saw a lot of disrespect of the paras by the students. He noticed a lack of resources among the kids, and he feels that we should get more resources to curb sharing. He commends the teachers for a job well done.

12. New Business:

- a. Approval of 2015-2016 STRIDE Academy pay scale: **Fechner and Herdegen explain with just lane and step changes it would cost the school approx. \$36,000 a year.**

Fechner explains he will forgo his increase for next year. The principals will also stay flat. Herdegen explains the rationale behind the updates pay scales. Ruegemer wants to know, bottom line, what the increase is. Fechner says some will get 2% and some will get less, but it will average 2% for the group.

- b. **Approval of Venture Bank Line of Credit: Herdegen explains there is a projected need for this line of credit in July because of a change in state payment. With the threat of a state shutdown, he feels we need this in case a state aid payment isn't made. Motion to approve loan made by Ruegemer, seconded by Biery. Carries 9-0.**
- c. **Approval of 2015-2016 Caterer agreement: Ray Hermanson from New Horizon Foods explains the new school food contract. Motion to approve made by Schraut, seconded by Weappa. Carries 9-0.**
- d. **FY2016 MACS Membership: Fechner explains how MACS has helped with policies and bylaws along with training opportunities. He thinks it is a worthwhile endeavor. Schraut attended training and thought it was excellent. Galazen called and emailed them over the year for guidance and an objective opinion. Fechner says they are also working closely with authorizers and how Charter Schools evaluate Executive Directors. Thole questions the cost. Galazen believes it is a valueable tool, but says it needs to be utilized.-Motion made by Dawson, seconded by Biery. Carries 7-2 (Nay: Thole, Schwieters)**
- e. **Attendance Incentive Policy 304 with revisions, first reading : Ruegemer asks to have administration eliminated from the new policy. She also suggests that it state 5 days or less. Galazen and Thole agree. Thole proposes a scale that 0 days off you would get \$1000 bonus, 1 day off would get \$900 bonus and so forth. Galazen asks if it should be tabled until next year. Fechner believes that change would have a significant impact on the budget. He recommends the changes earlier discussed be made, and that further discussion happen at a later date. Biery asks if an incentive could be made to not take a day off in the first 60 days. Fechner suggests to add also last 60 days of school. He says it could be presented in June.**
- f. **Removal of Policy 402 HSA – Fechner is removing this because it is now in the 401 policy. Motion to remove policy 402 made by Dawson, seconded by Jerabek. Carries 9-0.**
- g. **Employee Paid Time Off policy 409, first reading: Schraut says the language was cleaned up and more family friendly. Ruegemer asks if it is 5 total or 5 total that need subs. He said everyone is important and that it is 5 staff total. Galazen thinks the phrase “In Extreme Circumstances” reads aggressive. It is changed to “In special/emergency circumstances”.**
- h. **Identify Official with Authority Setup and Recertification Approval - Mr. Fechner Herdegen says MDE is going to an electronic system and every school will need to Identify this official. Needs to be approved for changes for the state. Motion made to certify Brett Fechner as the IOWA for STRIDE Academy made by Schraut, Seconded by Ruegemer. Carries 9-0.**
- i. **BKDA Contract: Fechner says the contract is the same besides term, fee and HR. He recommends the board move forward with accepting the contract. Galazen asks about costs. Fechner adds that it is not a 3 year binding contract, just need a 90 day notice of termination of the contract. Motion to approve BKDA contract made by Schwieters, seconded by Thole. Carries 9-0.**
- j. **Al Keller Building Update: Al Keller says that the front road is happening and will increase safety bus busses being able to leave the property that way instead of turning around. There will also be more lighting. He is also putting in water and**

sewer for a potential Pre-K building if we would chose to build one depending on the state education bill.

- k. Review of Building Budget and Expenditures:
 - a. Playground Equipment expenditure approval: **The installation will be supervised by an employee and labor will be done by volunteers. Motion to approve Midwest Playscapes made by Biery, seconded by Ruegemer. Motion carries 9-0.**
 - l. Executive Director Review: Kim Galazen: Galazen explains the review and the process. It will be submitted to FOE by her.
 - m. Election Results: 141 voters. **Melissa Medford: 91 votes, Natalie Ringsmuth: 78 votes, James P.A. Morrighan-77 votes, Barika Davis-77 votes, Jenny Justice-52 votes, Juanita Hechtel-51 Votes, Kim Galazen-47 votes, Dan Ford-46 votes.**
****Bold denotes elected****

13. Executive Directors Report:

a. Budget Model **Herdegen and Fechner discuss the budget model with the board. It is recommended to overfill 1 child per classroom as it would put us from a budget deficit to a surplus. Herdegen suggests we add 2 per classroom to hope to get 1 to stay. Fechner asks for the board's recommendation. Galazen says the FOE goal is to not have us filling empty spots throughout the year. Then a cutoff day is suggested of November 1. Fechner recaps for the board that they want to overfill by 1 student per classroom, that they want to make a policy to make a cutoff of November 1st. Fechner says that he and Herdegen will work further on this. Ruegemer asks if we should add 31 or 62 students. 62 is suggested. Biery would like to see a breakdown per grade. Fechner asks to send this proposal to Beth Topoluk at FOE. Motion to make the proposed salary increases of 2% across the board with the exception of administration and a new pay scale will be created in the next school year with the addition of new teachers for 2015-2016 made by Ruegemer, seconded by Biery. Vote by roll call: Dawson: Aye, Weappa: Aye, Ruegemer: Aye, Schraut: Aye, Biery: Aye, Thole: Aye, Schwieters: Aye, Galazen: Aye. Motion carries 9-0.**

14. Board Communication: Kim Galazen

- a. Playground
- b. Book fair
- c. Builder donation
- d. June occupancy
- e. Movers
- f. Bussing for Sauk Rapids/Sartell
- g. Policy updates
- h. Budget
- i. Executive Director Review

Motion to adjourn meeting made by Schraut, seconded by Thole.

Meeting adjourned at 10:24pm.

STRIDE Academy Board Standing Sub Committees:

1. Curriculum and Instruction: Monica Schraut, Mary Swanson, Donna Nordstrom

Brett Fechner
Executive Director
Ext: 6322

Jamie Goebel
North Campus Principal
Ext: 6324

Donna Nordstrom
South Campus Principal
Ext: 6943

Micki Blenkush, Beth Cox, Brett Fechner

2. Facility/Security/Emergency: Scott Dawson, Rodger Vix, Brett Fechner, Nathan Schwieters, 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: 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: Monica Schraut, Jamie Goebel
8. STRIDE Policy: 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, Shauna Seaman, Steve Swenson
11. World's Best Workforce: Tammy Biery, Brett Fechner, Shauna Seaman, Monica Schraut, Donna Nordstrom
12. Marketing: Kim Galazen, Melissa Ritter, Melissa Medford, Rachel Lolmasteymaugh, Caroline Ruegemer, Brett Fechner, Donna Nordstrom