

Board meeting minutes
August 7, 2023

ATTENDEES:

Brenda Robertson – Chair
Walter Martin – Vice Chair
Steven Peters – Treasurer
Mark Fleming – Secretary
Chris Farrell – Board Member
Natalie Wright – Board Member
Katie Gomersall – Head of School
Laura Zuber – Stride-Administration
Chad Long – Stride - Finance
Kelly Shanahan – Stride Elementary Principal
Stacey Bryant – Stride – Administration
Lea King – Stride – Administration
Tasha Parnell – Stride – HS Principal
Eric Angeny – Stride – Finance
John Kramer – Stride – Finance
Sara Struh – Executive Director

Brenda Robertson called the meeting to order, and a quorum was present.

Brenda asked for a motion to adopt the agenda and approve the minutes from the July 17th meeting. The motion was made by Chris Farrell and Mark Fleming seconded it. The vote was unanimously in favor of approval.

Sara Struhs read the mission statement.

There was one consent item: approval of MeMee Winston as a HS CTE teacher. Brenda called for a motion to approve. Mark made the motion. Walt seconded the motion. Brenda called for the vote – it was unanimous.

Brenda asked Katie Gomersall to give the Head of School Report.
Katie spoke to the following items:

- 1) Student Enrollment: We currently have a few over the 3100-student cap but expect as we get closer to our start date that there will be a few who drop from the rosters. We expect to begin the year at our current cap of 3100 students.
- 2) Teachers: We are fully staffed except for one HS interventionist. Katie is currently in the process of looking to hire someone for this position.
- 3) School starts the 14th of August. To that end, teachers were in Professional Development this week preparing for the new year. They met for a day and half in Raleigh, and it was very successful. There was feedback from the teachers that they were feeling excited for the coming year and that they are feeling appreciated for the work they are doing. They were happy that the health insurance representatives were there to answer questions.
- 4) Monday students will start WOW (Week of Welcome). This is a week of acclamation. BOG tests will be administered, other diagnostic testing for older students will be given to ensure they are enrolled in the appropriate grade.
- 5) The lease on the office space in Durham has been updated and is ready to sign. We are happy that we have been cleared to test up to 5 students in the building at a time. This will allow us to hold make up tests and AP tests for a small number of students without renting space in a hotel or other venue. The staff is pleased that we will remain in the same space as well.
- 6) Katie updated the Board regarding Gaylor and High School CTE course. The new course will include someone from Gaylor presenting to the class about what work as an electrician is like and how to prepare for such a profession, however, the course will reach beyond just Gaylor. It will be a Business class and Stride will provide career support for coaching students how to work in business (resume writing, how to present yourself in an interview, interviewing skills, etc).
- 7) Brenda asked about the number of teachers on staff. Katie responded that there are currently a total of 207 teachers – 167 of whom are Board employees and 40 are Stride employees. Katie also explained that we will have 4 subs to cover maternity leave for 4 teachers this year.
- 8) Katie ended by asking that the Student Handbook be approved. It was not sent out to the board members and so the board asked that we have a vote to confirm it barring anyone having questions/changes/recommendations prior to Thursday. Katie agreed to send the handbook to Sara Struhs who will then forward it to the Board members. Chris Farrell asked Katie what

the school policy is regarding AI. She explained that Stride is working on a more thorough AI policy; however, in the meantime, there is a statement that will be added under the plagiarism policy. Chris also asked that the policy on bullying be clarified to include an opening line states that bullying of any kind is not allowed. He also asked if we have a policy about cyber bullying. Katie assured him that we do and explained that any cyberbullying during school hours is met with strong repercussions by the school.

Brenda asked that Chad Long to present the July bill and close out statements for the school year 2022-23. Chad explained our end of year financials and we are in a sound place for the start of the coming school year. We ended the school year with a surplus and are starting the new school year in a good place. He moved on to explaining the bill for July and was pleased to report that he is already coming in below budget.

Brenda did not have anything to present to the board from the Chairman position except to say that she is looking forward to the new school year.

Brenda asked Sara Struhs to give the Executive Director's report. Sara spoke to the following items:

- 1) Sara gave an update on the CD's and the conversations she had recently with Daniel Wakin. She will follow up with him to have him present a full plan for the September meeting.
- 2) The Letter of Intent to Renew our charter has been submitted to the Office of Charter Schools. We expect that we will begin the process in earnest once the Legislature has completed the budget and established the new rules for the coming year.
- 3) Sara explained that Brenda and she had worked on committee assignments and asked that Board members be prepared to serve on two committees. Meetings times will be set up in the coming weeks. The committee assignments are as follows:
 - a. Finance: Steven Peters (chair), Chris Farrell and Walter Martin
 - b. Academic: Brenda Robertson (chair), Natalie Wright, Mark Fleming and Walter Martin
 - c. Governance: Mark Fleming, Brenda Robertson, Chris Farrell and Steven Peters – chair to be determined

- d. Executive: Brenda Robertson (chair), Walter Martin, Steven Peters, and Mark Fleming.
- 4) Sara noted that there will be an Academic meeting on November 4, 2023 in Durham at the offices. The Board will meet for dinner the night before and any board member in need of a hotel room for the night should let her know as soon as possible.

Brenda asked for a motion on the July bill and the student handbook. Chris asked that the votes be separate. Brenda asked for a motion on the July bill. Chris made the motion, Mark seconded it. The vote was unanimously to approve.

Brenda asked for a motion on the Student Handbook. There was discussion as to what they would be voting on. Mark Fleming suggested that we vote conditional approval of the student handbook provided the majority of the board agreed with that approval after they had been able to read through it. Chris Farrell agreed and suggested that the vote be conditional approval until Wed.at midnight – all votes would be sent to Sara by midnight so that she may tally them and if there is consensus, the vote to approve will stand. If there is no consensus, then Sara will call an emergency Board meeting for Thursday at noon. Chris made a motion to this effect, Mark seconded it. The vote was unanimously to approve.

Brenda called for the Adjournment of the meeting. The motion and second were made and the vote was unanimous to adjourn.