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Board Meeting Minutes
September 11, 2023

Attendees:

Brenda Robertson – Chair
Walter Martin – Vice Chair
Mark Fleming – Secretary
Steven Peters – Treasurer
Natalie Wright – Board Member
Katie Gomersall – HOS
Laura Zuber – Stride
Stacey Bryant – Stride
Tasha Parnell – Stride
Kristina Rodrigues – Stride
Kelly Shannahan – Stride
Eric Angeny – Stride
Chad Long – Stride
Scott Sides – Stride
Daniel Wakin – First Citizens Bank

Walter Martin was asked to chair the meeting for Brenda Robertson due to her laryngitis. He called the meeting to order confirming there was a quorum. Chris Farrell being the only Board Member not attending due to travel.

Walter asked for motions to adopt the agenda. Mark made the motion. Brenda seconded it. Walter called the vote – it was unanimous.

Walter called for approval of the previous board meeting minutes. Stever made the motion. Mark seconded it. Walter called for the vote – it was unanimous.

Walter read the mission statement.

Walter asked if there were any public communications to be made - none were requested and he moved on to adopt in the consent item to confirm the HS Math Interventionist, Tracey Mays. Mark made the motion. Steven seconded it. Walter called for the vote – it was unanimous.

Walter moved on to Discussion Items:

- 1) Daniel Wakin from First Citizens Bank presented the Board with options to create a ladder approach for the CD's. He recommended investing \$2 million into \$250,000.00 CD's that would be purchased to create the ability for our money to be protected by FDIC and be available for access

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without penalty once we had all of them invested one for each month of the year in 12 month CD's. This would allow us to protect our money as well as have it accessible without penalty in case of an emergency. As the CD's come due, they would be rolled over for another year and the interest would be placed into a Money Market Checking Account which is accessible to the board on demand. Daniel asked for questions and hearing none, Walter moved on the the next discussion item.

- 2) Katie Gomersall – HOS - gave a thorough update to the board:
 - a. The school reached the “C” grade which was a long awaited goal of the school. She thanked the teachers and staff for their work bringing us to a “C” school. She explained that although the grades have been posted, they are not official until the review period is complete on October 5th. She does not expect that our grade will change.
 - b. Katie spoke to the Board about next steps – maintaining and possibly growing the school to the next level. First steps will be doing a SWOT analysis of the school and support groups. She will keep us updated on her findings.
 - c. Katie spoke to the first week of school and how they on-board new students to the NCVA platform and procedures. Two days were spent in class getting familiar with the processes and platform they will be using. The remaining time was used to introduce them to the curriculum.
 - d. Katie explained that normally there are students who enroll and quickly realize that the school is not a good fit for them. During this time, students leave and every two weeks they on-board new students from the waitlist (we have a healthy wait list). Katie is confident that we will maintain a student population of 3100 students which is maximum capacity for us.
 - e. The school finished 3rd grade BOG testing
 - f. The Bear logo is in place and being introduced to the students. There will be a naming competition as well as a “Flat Bear” program that shows where the Flat Bear is traveling around NC (based on Flat Stanley)
 - g. The only question asked of Katie was when is the 100 day enrollment date. Laura Zuber let the Board know it is January 24, 2024.
- 3) Chad Long – finance – was next on the discussion list:
 - a. Chad presented the August bill to the Board explaining there are no major changes to it
 - b. Chad did explain to the Board that the audit correction had been filed with the state. This was an error by the auditor. It was corrected and resubmitted.
 - c. Chad presented two contracts for consideration:
 - i. ECAT contract to track 504 documents through the state. This is a \$21,000.00 contract over 3 years and was recommended by the Finance Committee.
 - ii. Varsity Tutoring Contract. This is to continue our student tutoring services with Varsity Tutoring. Katie was able to negotiate an additional reduction in cost bringing the new total to \$280,000.00. This was recommended by the Finance Committee.
- 4) There were no Chairman comments
- 5) Sara Struhs – Executive Director – spoke to several items:
 - a. Sara started by congratulating the Stride leadership team as well as the teachers and staff for the great work they did getting our school to a “C” grade. She also thanked the Board for their leadership, vision and support that helped get us to the next level.

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- b. Sara reinforced with the Board to select their preferred times for Committee meetings as there is much work to be done. She confirmed that the Academic Committee will be meeting on 9/21/23 at noon by zoom
- c. Sara gave a legislative update on the different bills that were passed and how they are affecting our school.
- d. Sara reminded the Board that the Academic meeting will be Nov.4 at the Durham office. We will have a dinner the night before and will have our Board meeting Saturday 11/4 prior to the academic meeting.

Walter next moved on to the Action Items:

- 1) Walter called for a motion to approve the August bill. Mark made the motion. Steve seconded it. Walt called for a vote – it was unanimous.
- 2) Walter called for a vote to approve the ECAT contract. Mark made the motion. Brenda seconded it. Walter called for a vote – it was unanimous.
- 3) Walter called for a motion to approve the Varsity Tutoring Contract. Natalie made the motion. Steve seconded it. Walter called for a vote – it was unanimous.

Having concluded business, Walter called for a motion to adjourn. Mark made the motion. Steven seconded it. Walter called for a vote – it was unanimous. The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 pm.