

MEETING MINUTES

February 15, 2025

9:00-10:00 AM

ATTENDEES:

Brenda Robertson- Chair
Walter Martin – Vice Chair
Mark Fleming – Secretary
Chris Farrell
Natalie Wright
Steven Moody
Marcia Simmons
Kristina Rodrigues – HOS
Chad Long – K12
John Kramer – K12
Tasha Parnell – Administrator HS
Kelly Shanahan – Administrator EL
Stacey Bryant – Administrator EC
Lea King – Administrator
Sara Struhs – Executive Director

Brenda Robertson called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM. She asked Sara Struhs to conduct the meeting.

Sara opened the meeting by reading the mission statement.

Steve Moody made the motion to accept the agenda and the meeting minutes from January's meeting. Mark Fleming seconded the motion. Sara called for the vote: it was unanimous.

Sara asked Kristina Rodrigues for the Head of School report.

Kristina said there is a total enrollment of 3416. She went on to talk about the accomplishments at the school:

- Congratulations to Aurora Rojano for receiving 1st place in the Elementary Clean Energy North Carolina Coloring Contest
- Congratulations to Silas G. for winning the Middle School National Game on Coding Challenge with his game "Spark Your Memory".
- Using grant money all middle schoolers were able to attend a Virtual Field trip to Jeanette's Pier to learn more about marine science. They participated in dissection of a squid on February 7 during their science classes. It was a big success!
- Two of the NCVA Beta Club members were able to attend the NC Beta Convention 1/30-2/2 with advisors Mrs. Davenport and Mrs. Easton
- NCVA was nominated for the Tell Us Something Good Award by Rob L. His entry sang the praises of NCVA, and the exceptional services provided to all students and especially students with learning challenges.
- And there is a new look coming to our website! Parents, teachers and staff have been working with the Stride Marketing team as they gather footage and

testimonials from students and families. Keep an eye out for our new look coming soon!

- Kristina went on to talk about the changes being made to the CTE requirements by the State and explained we will growth in this department next year as we build out and develop CTE pathways. There will be an advisory board, and Kristina will be looking for 2 board members to join this board. More to come in the next few months.

Kristina said the ACT will be administered 3/11-3/14. The second check in just finished – we are waiting on the results. And the school lottery will take place on April 11th this year.

Next Kristina presented the calendar for next year and asked that the board vote to approve it. There were several questions about why we are starting so early, and she explained that to complete the testing for the first semester, we need to begin on 8/18.

Sara thanked Kristina for her update and asked Chad to please present the current bill and any updates he had.

Chad said there were no major changes to the bill from last month. We currently have 20 additional FTE's over our original budget but 17 of them are still not filled. He is projecting a \$3.7m surplus this year. Our current invoice is \$1.4m.

Sara thanked him for the update and asked board member, Chris Farrell, to please speak to the administrative withdrawals before the board. He said there were 5 administrative withdrawals requested, and the Governance Committee spent time carefully examining all of them. The committee is recommending that three of them be upheld and two of them be granted a 30-day extension with the requirement that they must attend all classes and make progress on assignments.

Sara thanked Chris for the update and then moved on to present the Executive Director's update. Sara said there is no clear definition around how our data is compared for school grading. She reached out to OCS explaining that according to our charter, we are to be compared to the LEA in which we have our office – which is Durham, but that it appears the State has been comparing us to the state data. OCS was not able to give a clear answer saying that during our renewal, we need to show success. The board asked that she continue to work with OCS for clarification.

Sara then reported that Charlotte Mecklenburg LEA sent us a check for approximately \$15,500.00 to make up for an error in their accounting of the amount owed to us last year.

And lastly, Sara explained that Steven Peters has resigned from the board, and it is important that we choose a new Treasurer – if possible, during this meeting. Steve Moody said he would be happy to serve as the Treasurer. Sara asked if anyone else would be interested – all agreed Steve will make a good Treasurer.

Sara then moved on to the votes:

She asked for a motion to approve the monthly bill; Marcia made the motion; Steve seconded it. Sara called for the vote: it was unanimously approved.

She asked for a motion to approve the 3 administrative withdrawals and extend the other 2 requests for 30 days; Walter made the motion; seconded it. Sara called for the vote: it was unanimously approved.

Sara asked for a motion to approve Steve Moody as the new Treasure. She asked for a motion to approve the monthly bill; Marcia made the motion; Steve seconded it. Sara called for the vote: it was unanimously approved.

Sara asked for a motion to approve the calendar for 2025-26 school year; Steve made the motion; Mark seconded it. Sara called for the vote: there were 6 yays and 1 nay. Chris Farrell dissented citing his disapproval of starting school so early. Marcia and Kristina said it was primarily due to wanting the students to complete all the testing prior to the winter break and because it would push testing out in the second half of the year which would mean students would not graduate until mid-June and students would not be able to have all of June for summer school.

She asked for a motion to adjourn; Steve made the motion; Marcia first asked for the celebrations to be included in the share drive and said she would also be happy to serve as a reference for the staff as they prepare for the renewal of the charter – and then she seconded it. Sara called for the vote: it was unanimously approved.

The board adjourned at 10:11