

Meeting Minutes
Board Meeting
August 31, 2026
5-6pm

ATTENDEES:

Walter Marting – Chair
Chris Farrell – Vice Chair
Steve Moody – Treasurer
Natalie Wright – Secretary
Marcia Simmons – Board Member
Mark Fleming – Board Member
Kristina Rodrigues – HOS
Tasha Parnell – Director of Accountability and Curriculum
Katie Mabe Royal – HS AA
Marcella Nytz – MS AA
Kelly Shanahan – EL AA
Chad Long – Stride finance
Scott Sides – Stride

Sara called a quorum and opened the meeting by reading the NCVA mission statement.

Walter asked for a vote to accept the changes made to the agenda for the meeting. Steve made the motion and Marcia seconded it. Walter called for the vote; it was unanimous.

Walter asked for the HOS update.

Kristina presented a recap of the opening of school professional development. All staff with 60+ new members. There were 300 people there in total. It was a two-day event: opening day with big picture topics and then break outs into the different schools on the second day. The theme for this year is Welcome to the Den.

School started on the 17th. There were a few hiccups, but each week is getting better and people are settling in.

Our enrollment is high, however we know there will be some attrition. We expect we will soon be reduced to our goal for enrollment.

We are down to the last few positions needed and are working to fill them.

The primary goal for this year is to get to the C grade. We will be concentrating on Math and ELA. We need to have proficiency in Math and ELA in Elementary. We are focused on increasing proficiency across the board to raise our grade to a C.

Intensive remediation groupings are being formed, and we are expecting to see the benefits of this program. Our Elementary school is the largest it has ever been and we are working to ensure that all students receive the foundational skills they need to build towards success in all levels. And,

finally, the counselors and social workers now will have one Lead to make this group more cohesive.

Kristina presented the BYO data. Mark asked Kristina if she has reached out to anyone regarding the inability to know exactly how growth is being calculated and she said that she has, but they will not disclose the process.

Mark believes we should write a formal letter asking for the explanation on how they calculate growth so that we can better understand the expectations.

Walter thanked Kristina for her report and asked Chad for the finance report.

Chad introduced Angie Chen, a finance manager, who is being trained to take over our school account.

Chad presented the invoice and financial review.

Chad then presented a proposed project for changing our payment processes. They are currently antiquated. He would like to update and move to a faster, easier company that will be able to generate the reports for the state that are required, and better software that will make payments easier (ACH) and faster. Same for expense reports, payroll, etc. there will be an increase in the cost of this system, but Chad believes this will be a significant improvement for the school. His goal is to institute this new system the first of the year if the board approves it.

After discussion, the board decided to table this until the next meeting so that they may gather more information about the system.

Walter asked Sara for her presentation.

Sara said we need to get committees back and working. There are several issues to be discussed in the Academic, Search, Governance committees.

The summit is 10/6-10/7 is the Stride Summit.

Office renovations are nearly finished. We had a fire inspection that did not pass because of the lack of synchronization of the flashing lights was not synchronous. That is being addressed and we expect it will be corrected and we will have the fire inspection repeated within 7-10 days.

Sara gave CD update.

Sara said the size of the elementary school is more than double what most elementary school sizes are and because of this a recommendation has been made to add an additional AA to the elementary school.

The board asked that there be more discussion around the changes to the elementary school and bring it back at the next board meeting.

Walter moved to the action items:

Walter asked for a motion to pay the bill. Chris made the motion and Steve seconded it. Walter called for the vote; it was unanimous.

Walter asked for a motion to approve an additional AA for elementary school. The board asked that there be more discussion around the changes to the elementary school and bring it back at the next board meeting. Walter asked for a motion to table the motion until next meeting. Steve made the motion and Chris seconded it. Walter called the vote: it was unanimous.

Walter asked for a motion to table the motion to approve the new finance payment system. Steve made the motion and Chris seconded it. Walter called the vote: it was unanimous.

Walter asked for a motion to adjourn. Mark made the motion and Marcia seconded it. Walter called the vote: it was unanimous.