

Meeting Minutes  
June 3, 2024

ATTENDEES:

Brenda Robertson – Board Chair  
Walter Martin – Board Vice Chair  
Mark Fleming – Board Secretary  
Steven Peters – Board Treasurer  
Natalie Wright – Board Member  
Chris Farrell – Board Member  
Steve Moody – candidate for board member  
Katie Gomersall – Head of School  
Tasha Parnell – HS Administrator  
Kristy Rodriguez – MS Administrator  
Chad Long – Stride  
John Kramer – Stride  
Eric Angeny – Stride  
Chelsea Spiker – teacher/lead for SIP  
Sara Struhs – Executive Director

Brenda called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm

Brenda asked for approval of the previous meeting minutes and the agenda for tonight. Chris made the motion; Walter seconded it. Brenda called for the vote – it was unanimous.

Brenda read the mission statement.

Brenda asked for approval of the consent items: 42 new hires. Chris made the motion to approve the new hires with the condition of completing all the due diligence on them. Mark seconded the motion. Brenda called for the vote: it was unanimous.

Brenda introduced Chelsea Spiker and asked for an update on the school's improvement plan.

Chelsea explained the three goals of the SIP as:

1) academic excellence in reading, math and science. Testing is still being completed and the outcomes are pending;

2) teacher retention. In the past year they have attended job fairs, offered referral bonuses if the new teacher was hired, increased support structures for teachers and ensured that all teaching staff is 100% state certified.

Throughout the year they conducted pulse checks with the teachers, had staff appreciation events, increases one on one for teachers with their administrators and end of year gifts.

3) communication: to improve the effectiveness between schools. To accomplish this they improved the school newsletter, conducted training for WOW (Week of Welcome for students returning to school) and improved communications with administrators and staff and the student body regarding truancy prevention. They did this through more improved social media, making clear the expectations set forth in the handbook, providing tips and tricks to help students with anxiety over testing and held town hall meetings with staff and parents.

Natalie asked if they will have a new plan for next year and Chelsea said they would.

Brenda thanked Chelsea for her presentation and asked Chad to present the monthly bill.

Chad explained this month's bill is slightly under due to the end of the year wrap up. He explained the annual employee charge back which is the positions that the board requires and they are employees of Stride who are charged back to the board at the end of the year. And he explained the need for the LEA transfer of funds from the LEA account to the spending account. This is to cover the operation costs through to the start of school next year.

Brenda asked if there were any questions for Chad before moving on. There were none and so she asked Katie for the Head of School update.

Katie began by presenting the contracts for next year for Varsity Tutor and for a new phone system through Zoom. She asked that the board vote to move forward with these two contracts.

Katie talked about the end of testing – which was completed and make up testing was beginning. This year we are able to do the make-up testing at the office. At this point in time, there are 70 students in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade who may be held back based on whether they pass the testing at the end of summer school (which is the end of June).

Katie explained that there were 157 Kindergarten students who graduated to the first grade, and 50 students who still need additional services.

The school enrollment now stands at 3471: 2700 are returning students, 771 new students have been approved; 287 remain on the waitlist and will be processed if there is a space available for them in their school grade. There are currently 992 applications that are still incomplete.

Katie announced that Paige Adams was elected as Administrator of the Year and Nancy Osbourne was announced Teacher of the Year. Both were celebrated with a surprise visit from NCVA staff and flowers.

Some of the highlights Katie shared with the board were ACT scores increased this year to 41.9. Also, 95% of all students are required to participate in end of year testing: this year we had 98 % participate. And we have 17 students who have been accepted to take classes at the School for Science and Math.

As we move into next year and the new department of credit recovery, we anticipate 100 students will qualify for this program and we expect it will grow in the first year.

Regarding hiring a new HR person for our school, we are hoping to make an offer now.

Katie discussed the work that McKinnon firm is doing for the school. They have been recording 30 second clips to be used by the local media: last week there was one highlighting the fundraising efforts of the school's e-gaming club.

Brenda thanked Katie for the update and asked Sara for the Executive Director report. Sara began by introducing Steve Moody to the board and gave a brief history of his experience on the board previously and his professional

background. Steve said he was pleased and honored to becoming back to the board.

She then asking the board when they would like to have the July meeting. After much discussion, the board asked that the next meeting be held on 6/28 at noon. This will allow all board members vacationing during the 4<sup>th</sup> of July weeks will have time off.

Sara reminded the board of the upcoming prom and graduation on June 12 and 13.

Sara mentioned the changes to PTO and the Parent Bill of Rights. She asked for questions and there were none.

And then Brenda asked the board to enter into close session to discuss Sara's annual review and salary. She asked for a motion to enter into close session: Walter made the motion and Mark seconded it: the vote was unanimous.

**THE BOARD ENTERED INTO CLOSE SESSION TO DISCUSS SARA'S ANNUAL REVIEW AND SALARY.**

During the session they asked Sara to leave the conversation so they could discuss compensation. They asked her to return and determined they would give her a salary increase. Walter made the motion for the raise, Mark seconded the motion. Brenda called for the vote and it was unanimous. Brenda thanked Sara for her service and told her that she would reach out to Chad by email to let him know that the raise would be effective starting with the new fiscal year in July.

Brenda asked for a motion to leave the closed session. Walter made the motion, Mark seconded it. Brenda called for the vote: it was unanimous.

Brenda then asked for votes on the other issues on the agenda:

1) payment of the monthly bill: Walter made the motion; Steve seconded it. Brenda called the vote: it was unanimous.

2) having Steve Moody join the board: Mark made the motion; Steve seconded it. Brenda called the vote: it was unanimous.

3) The phone service contract with Zoom: Chris made the motion; Walt seconded it. Brenda called the vote: it was unanimous.

4) the contract with Varsity Tutor: Walter made the motion; Chris seconded it. Brenda called the vote: it was unanimous.

Sara reminded them that she will be gone from 6/4 to 6/14. She then thanked them for their constructive conversation and generous raise. regarding her performance. Brenda then asked for a motion to adjourn: Mark made the motion; Walter seconded it. Brenda called the vote: it was unanimous.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:15 pm