



March 24, 2016 School Board Minutes

School Mission Statement: STRIDE Academy nurtures individuals while fostering leadership and empowering students to attain their highest potential in a family-centered environment.

1. Call to Order: 6:01pm
2. Attendance: Roll Call: **Juanita Hechtel, Brian Weappa, Monica Schraut, Melissa Medford, James Morrighan, Natalie Ringsmuth, Nathan Schwieters,**
Absent: **Dan Thole, Tammy Biery**
Members of the public: **Brandon Rodgers, Sue Dingmann, Mandy Sadlo, Jamie Goebel**
3. Pledge of Allegiance (By Invitation)
4. Reading of STRIDE mission statement.
5. Approval of Board Agenda: **Add NB G: Discussion on St. Cloud City Council Meeting. Motion made by Morrighan, Seconded by Schraut. Passes 7-0.**
6. Approval of February Board Meeting, Special Meeting, and Strategic Meeting Minutes: (Documents A1-A3) **Change contacts to contracts in Feb Minutes. Motion made by Medford, Seconded by Schraut**
7. Consent Agenda
 - a. Offer for Sara Swanson: Paraprofessional (**Document C**)
 - b. Resignation of Brandon Rogers, Custodian/Security (**Document D**)
 - c. Offer for Lori Brix: Lunchroom Monitor (**Document E**)
 - d. Offer for Chad Salmela: Facilities Manager (**Document F**)
 - e. Offer for Amy Opatz: Paraprofessional (**Document G**)
- Pull B to New Business H**
8. Treasurers/Finance Report:
 - a. Finance Meeting Minutes (**Document B1**)

b. Financial Statements (**Document B2**) Ringmuth question on page 7, wonders what purchased services is. Schwieters explains it is from activities and intersession. Fechner adds that he and Chuck are reviewing the budget on an ongoing basis and they build in consistent trends. Line 899, building contingency is now at 0.

c. Management Reports (**Document B3**)

Motion to approve financials made by Schwieters, seconded by Ringsmuth. Carries 7-0.

9. Public Forum: (10 Minutes) Brandon Rogers, parent and employee speaks: Cites medical and family reasons for his resignation.

10. Committee Reports:

a. Facilities Committee – Nathan Schwieters: Did not meet.

b. Election committee- Juanita Hechtel: Met yesterday, election on March 31. There are 7 applicants for 5 spots.

c. Missions committee-Natalie Ringsmuth: Did not meet. Says she hasn't been able to devote the time to this committee as she would have liked. Fechner asks if the mission and vision committee are doing the same work and could be combined.

d. Communications committee- Melissa Medford:

1. Request for marketing budget

Asks about Signage at the front of the building to be updated, Concerns about student attrition with the new charter school. Dist 742 elementaries are losing students to the school. Medford asks for funds for marketing through October. She wants to get a stride tshirt for every student and staff member. She wants us signed up for 7 parades. Some events and social media campaigns, direct mail, things to hand out at parades. She feels we need to stay on top of this to stay competitive. Medford asks for \$30,000 for these marketing expenses. Schraut agrees that marketing is important. Schwieters asks what the anticipated number of students on waiting list would be for the marketing campaign. Schraut says retention is also important. Fechner recommends that the board approves \$12,000 now and then come back at the April meeting. An on staff marketing person is discussed. Motion made by Schwieters to use \$12,000 for Marketing for this school year, seconded by Schraut. Carries 7-0. Morrighan

f. Vision committee-James Morrighan: Working on doing a survey, and is open to combining with Mission. Committees will meet together once and report back to the board in April.

g. Policy committee-Monica Schraut: Policy committee meeting twice a month now.

h. By-Laws committee-James Morrighan: Looking to update the by-laws. Looking to make changes to the portion of the by-laws that pertain to the different roles of board members, i.e. if a member moves from parent to community member it is not allowed for them to stay on the board. We have followed our agreement with our authorizer in regards to by-law changes and have been met with no response.

i. Executive Director/ Administrative Review -Brian Weappa: Discussed salary and contract length, and cell phone reimbursement. Also discussed replacing survey with Val Ed or other similar survey. Wants the board to review and respond to him in a week. Katie Gruber is working on a contract for Fechner for next year, and it will be brought to the board next year-meeting. Schwieters asks that the contract be reviewed by the board before the meeting for revisions.

11. Old Business:

a. Policy 514: Bullying-Second Reading Ringsmuth asks about the possible units of instruction at the bottom, and what we are currently using. Schwieters answers that we currently use Second Step and also The Leader in Me. Tech people address cyberbullying. Fechner says this policy is the guidance document from the state with just a couple of tweaks. Motion to approve Policy 514 made by Morrighan, seconded by Ringsmuth. Carries 7-0.

b. Policy 540: Restrictive Procedures-Second Reading Special Ed director worked with MDE with this policy. Will continue to tweak it and will come back with any changes, but asks it be approved in its current form as a starting point. Motion to approve Policy 540 made by Ringsmuth, Seconded by Hechtel. Carries 7-0.

12. New Business:

a. First Reading of Policy 522: Student Sex Nondiscrimination: Morrighan comments: under III, paragraphs A and B refer to separate buildings, and superintendent.

b. First Reading of Policy 101: Employment Process Policy:

7. Should say Executive Director. Weappa suggests probationary period until board approval. Fechner adds that it is messaged that all positions are contingent on Board approval.

c. Behavioral Data: Jamie Goebel: Fechner praises Goebel on his diligence on this report. Goebel explains the behavioral data to the board. Saturday school is also covered, and has been a positive alternative to suspension. Ringsmuth asks if we can break offenses down by race, and if we can ask teachers about their behavioral experiences. Fechner said they are looking at staffing and at trainings.

d. Board Committee minutes template: Mandy suggests the template to the board.

e. Review of:

1. MACS Board of Directors Assessment and Growth Tool- Brett
2. MACS Director's Individual Self Evaluation- Brett

Fechner goes through Board self-evaluation tool.

f. Compensation Committee Report- Brett Group agreed that it wants to be competitive and fair. Ringsmuth asks why we are competitive for paras but not competitive for teachers. Schwieters adds that it is very important to teachers to have qualified paras in their classrooms. Proposing 5% increase for teachers next school year, then 2% the year after. Goal is to bring all information to the next meeting

g. St Cloud City Council Meeting: Council didn't realize STRIDE would be applying for property tax exemption, so we agreed to pay a one-time fee of \$200,000 to ensure that we get the public bonds. Our property taxes would be \$100,000 a year, so this payment will end up saving the school money in the long run. Looking to close on the building on April 14, 2016.

h. Resignation of Brandon Rogers: **Moved to closed meeting at 8:43pm. Meeting reopened at 8:51pm.**

13. Executive Director's Report:

- a. Enrollment: March 24: 665
- b. Achievement: None
- c. Solutions: None

14. Board Communication:

1. 5k Sponsorships
2. Board Election 6:30am to 7:15pm
3. Positives of Saturday School
4. Positive trend on behaviors
5. Pre-K night
6. Family Fun Night
7. Silent Auction
8. Closing on our Building

Motion to close meeting made by Ringsmuth, seconded by Schraut.
Meeting closed at 9:07pm.

STRIDE Academy Board Standing Sub Committees: (Bold denotes Chairperson)

1. Facility/Security/Emergency: **Nathan Schwieters**, Scott Dawson, Chad Salmela, Brett Fechner, Rodger Vix, Brandon Rogers, Jamie Goebel, Donna Nordstrom
2. Finance: **Monica Schraut**, Mary Swanson, Chuck Herdegen, Brian Weappa, Rodger Vix
4. Elections: **Juanita Hechtel**, Angela Schmitz, Caroline Ruegemer, Michelle Kockler
5. Vision: **James Morrighan**, Valerie Weyer, Laura Maiers,
6. Administration Review/Hiring: **Brian Weappa**, Dan Thole, Caroline Ruegemer, Mary Swanson, Beth McLean
7. STRIDE By-Laws: **James Morrighan, Caroline Ruegemer**
8. STRIDE Policy: **Monica Schraut, Brett Fechner, Katie Gruber, Doug Millaway**
9. Communication: **Melissa Medford**, Rachel Lolmasteymaugh, Melissa Ritter, Dawn Zimmerman, Brett Fechner, Tim Johnson, Valerie Weyer, Mandy Sadlo

10. Mission: **Tammy Biery & Natalie Ringsmuth**, Jamie Goebel, Stacy Abraham, Rebecca Hull, Callie Nolden, David Pritt