



## Committee Minutes

**Committee Name: Academic Excellence**

**Date/time of meeting: Wednesday, January 10 at 3:30pm**

**Members invited:** Natalie Ringsmuth, Sheena Schraut, Eric Williams, Diane Moeller, Steph Leedhal, Amanda Voight, Sylvester Lamin

**Members Present:** Natalie Ringsmuth, Sheena Schraut, Eric Williams, Diane Moeller, Steph Leedhal, Amanda Voight, Sylvester Lamin

**Others Present:** Katy Westlund, Michelle Kockler

### Discussion Items:

- 1. Review policies 601 & 604 and bring any changes to Cortney Ryan & Governance Committee by 1/12 (Can review prior to Wednesday's meeting and bring suggested changes. See email attachments.)**
  - a. 601
    - i. Second page, IV - A-1 - should this still say the No Child Left Behind Act or be changed to the title of the new Act?
  - b. 604
    - i. After discussion, nothing to add or take away because:
      1. These are K-12 policies, so some of the application will not happen here at STRIDE. These are model policies put in by MSBA as a benchmark.
  - c. Social Studies Curriculum
    - i. Will we continue with Core Knowledge in the future or get new curriculum?
      1. This will be part of the Strategic Planning discussion.
- 2. Winter MAP test**
  - a. Almost all testing is now complete.
  - b. Diane's report: In looking at our growth, we are doing very well! We are proud of our kids and staff. We have EL kids who are making 20-30 point gains from Fall to Winter - this is unheard of! Some student have already met their Spring goals - the staff and students are so proud.
- 3. Class Measures**
  - a. Class Measure visit will happen this week. This, plus test scores, is what Friends of Education are going to report to Pillsbury United Communities as our potential new authorizer.

### Mission

*The Academic Achievement Committee is charged with ensuring high academic standards at the Academy, true to Stride Academy's mission.*

# STRIDE

## ACADEMY

#### 4. Katy Westlund, Stride parent

- a. Katy is a 1st and 4th grade parent. She is here to share her concerns.
- b. 7 Habits - Will this continue to be a focus?
  - i. Eric - Some teachers are trained, new ones are not - this was an intentional decision. We are going to go through our Strategic Planning process starting next month and this is where programming will be decided. Community meetings and Staff meetings will happen in the next couple of months as we begin to tackle the vision of our school. We do need to have a leadership component embedded into our daily life at STRIDE - this is in our mission.
- c. Year Round school - is this up for discussion for next year?
  - i. Eric and Natalie - The board approves the calendar. This can be an item of discussion during our strategic planning sessions if anyone needs to bring it up.
- d. Is STRIDE special?
  - i. Katy - Could we do a parent survey to find out what parents like and want to see change?
    1. Eric - Yes - survey will go online next week. It will also be available during conferences.
  - ii. Katy - The arts and technology are really important - I would like to see more focus on this.
    1. Eric - this will be a great discussion to bring up during the Strategic Planning process
- e. World language offering
  - i. Are we going to offer a language again as we have offered Spanish in past years?
    1. We are discussing this as part of the Strategic Plan as well.
- f. Uniforms/School Supplies
  - i. Katy is concerned that, because of the varying income level, not having only uniforms worn at the school concerts singles kids out. Eric will think more about this for the next round of concerts.
  - ii. Could we have PATHS help us bring back the school supplies flat cost of the past where all school supplies were provided by the school? Reason being: all school supplies are then uniform. Parents could pay STRIDE, PATHS could cover families not able to pay. Parents that have the ability to pay more could donate to STRIDE.
  - iii. Could we have different uniforms for lower grades vs. upper grades?
    1. Eric has seen this done at other schools.

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# STRIDE ACADEMY

- g. Bullying
  - i. This has gotten better over the year, but it seems that it can get bad in the hallways.
    - 1. Eric - our pressure points are on the bus and the playground. However, We are pleased that our office referrals have been reduced significantly for last year.
- h. School Colors and Mascot - Are we keeping them the same?
- i. STRIDE Wall of Fame
  - i. Where are STRIDE kids now? This could show current kids what past STRIDE kids are up to, majoring in, where they are working, what their achievements are.
- j. Testing
  - i. Katie - “I am not concerned about how my kids test, I want them to be functional, capable, and successful.”
    - 1. Eric - Our new authorizer we plan to have next school year is very focused on character development so, while we are still going to focus on rigorous academics, character development will still be a main focus at STRIDE

**Adjourn Time:** 4:40pm

**Date/time of next meeting: Wednesday, February 14 at 3:30pm**

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