

MINNESOTA NORTH STAR ACADEMY
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
December 17, 2007

Board Members Present: Barb Boelter, Bobbi Cordano, Kristin Cuta, Matt Mikulski, Susan Outlaw, Mary Zweber

Absent: Allan Amis, Alex Zeibot

Director: Kim Kause

Teachers: Cheri Piemeisl, Ronda Jo Miller, Heidi Ernst

Interpreters: Amy Amundsen, Gina Alvarado

Notetaker: Barb Boelter

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:40 p.m. by Board chair Bobbi Cordano.

Waiver Request

Cordano explained the areas of concern expressed by the State Department of Education in its letter of November 13, 2007, sent in response to North Star's application for a waiver from the teacher majority requirement for charter schools' boards of directors. She outlined the steps that North Star must follow in order for the State to consider our request for waiver from the requirement that the majority of the board members be teachers employed at the school.

Motion No. 06-85: Mikulski moved to accept the resignations of board members Barb Boelter and Alex Ziebot. Outlaw seconded. Motion passed.

Motion No. 06-86: Cuta moved to elect Ronda Jo Miller to fulfill the remainder of Boelter's term on the board, Heidi Ernst to fulfill the remainder of Ziebot's term on the board and Cheri Piemeisl as a new director for a term expiring June 30, 2010. Zweber seconded. Motion passed.

Motion No. 06-87: Zweber moved to elect Kristin Cuta to the office of Secretary of the Board of Directors. Outlaw seconded. Motion passed.

Consent Agenda

The November 19, 2007, minutes were reviewed and discussed.

Motion No. 06-88: Outlaw moved to approve the November 19, 2007, minutes as submitted. Cuta seconded. Motion passed, with Miller, Piemeisl and Ernst abstaining.

By-Law Amendments

Discussion was had regarding amendments to the By-Laws.

Motion No. 06-89: Ernst moved to amend Sections 2.1, 3.2, 5.2 and 6.2 of the By-Laws as shown in the attached copy. The amendments include membership in the Board of Directors, provision for special elections, election of officers and committee structure. Cuta seconded. Motion passed

Motion No. 06-90: Outlaw moved to submit a Request for a Waiver to the State Department of Education, allowing for a non-teacher majority on the North Star Board of Directors. The Resolution requesting such waiver is attached to these minutes.

Policies

Policy No. 102, Equal Educational Opportunity, Policy No. 413, Harassment and Violence, and Policy No. 504 Student Dress and Appearance were reviewed and discussed.

Motion No. 06-91: Mikulski moved to approve Policy No. 102, Equal Educational Opportunity, Policy No. 413, Harassment and Violence, and Policy No. 504 Student Dress and Appearance. Zweber seconded. Motion passed.

Director's Report (Kause)

The Director's report was reviewed and discussed.

Committee Reports

Personnel Committee: (Cordano) The committee did not meet this month. Investigation is ongoing regarding different benefits offered at other schools and what options we may want to consider for staff in the future.

Finance Committee: (Mikulski): The committee report was reviewed and discussed. The Management letter from the auditors was reviewed and several questions will be referred back to the auditors for clarification.

Motion No. 06-92: Cordano moved to approve a transfer of \$675.00 from the general fund to the food service fund. Outlaw seconded. Motion passed.

Facilities Committee: Kause spoke with the pastor of Gustavus Adolphus Church, and they are willing to allow North Star to amend the lease to include improvements to the lounge area to allow it to be used as additional space. North Star will also be able to use the front part of room 130 as an office for the Business Manager. Once the expected formal approval is received from the church building committee, a lease amendment will be prepared for these additional costs.

Motion No. 06-93: Mikulski moved to approve the minutes from tonight's meeting as proposed. The minutes will be sent Tuesday, December 18, 2007, to all Board members for final approval. Ernst seconded. Motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:34 p.m.

The next meeting will be Wednesday, January 23, 2008.

Attachments to Minutes: Red-lined copy of approved By-Law amendments and Resolution of the Board requesting Waiver from the teacher majority requirement for directors.