

MINNESOTA NORTH STAR ACADEMY
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
February 18, 2009

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

Director: Kim Kause

Interpreter: Gina Alvarado

Guest: Katie Piehl

Note taker: Barb Boelter, Secretary

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:37 p.m. by Board President Cordano.

Cordano reported on a meeting with Volunteers of America (VOA). Discussion included the possibility of setting up a research center at North Star focusing on Visual Learning and Bilingual education.

There is a possibility that VOA's Communication staff would be willing to help with publicity surrounding the merger and opening of the new building next fall.

Piehl talked about the possibility of setting up a new organization that would be an alternative to MACS.

Consent Agenda

Motion No. 137: Amis moved to approve the minutes from the meeting of January 21, 2009, as amended. Damrow seconded. Motion passed.

Director's Report (Kause)

The Director's Report was reviewed and discussed.

The students who will be representing North Star at the RIT Science Fair are not students who will be going to France, so there should not be any conflict, as the events overlap.

An in-service for curriculum was held with the high school and middle school staff from North Star and MDS. Outlaw will be chairing that committee. It was a good brainstorming session. A meeting will be held with the elementary teachers soon.

The letter was sent to Gustavus Adolphus Church regarding extending the lease for July and August.

The Board of Teachers is reviewing the licensure requirements for teachers. Kause has been asked to participate on a committee reviewing Deaf/Hard of Hearing licensure.

The website needs to be updated on a regular basis.

Policies

Policy No. 214: Out of State Travel by School Board Members was reviewed and discussed.

Motion No. 138: Boelter moved to approve Policy No. 214: Out of State Travel by School Board Members. Zweber seconded. Motion passed.

Merger Update (Kause and Zweber)

The Steering Committee is meeting weekly and is working well.

Joint Finance, Personnel, Facilities and Curriculum committees have been set up. We have HR help on reviewing Policies.

Zweber has been reviewing and comparing the two sets of By-Laws. Suzanne Pearl will draft a new set of By-Laws.

There will be a Board Retreat of both boards on March 13th.

We will need joint board meetings until July because we need to approve certain operational needs such as a new calendar, a new budget and new By-Laws.

Joint Finance Committee (Mikulski). The committee discussed what the involvement of the JFC should be during the

construction process. All committee chairs have been asked to submit budgets.

Facilities Committee (Amis). District 10 (the neighborhood) sent a good supportive letter to the City of St. Paul.

Discussed the possibility of having a ground breaking ceremony?

Personnel Committee (Outlaw). Outlaw and Boelter are the committee members from MNSA. Priorities were set. Benefits is the first priority. We will put out bids to Medica and Blue Cross for the new staff group. Policies will be reviewed for consistency and then we will review the handbooks (Procedures).

Curriculum Committee (Outlaw). Sherwood, Kause and Outlaw are the committee members and then there are working groups by classes and departments.

Kause asked for interest in a Marketing Committee. Boelter is interested.

Committee Reports

Personnel Committee – there really is no outstanding business. Lange is still developing the form for evaluation for Kause.

Finance Committee The budget needs to be approved. Some merger costs are not reimbursable. We should be able to recoup most of those through billing to the districts.

Motion No. 139: Moved by Mikulski to approve the January, 2009 revised budget with an expenditure total of \$1,340,833.36. Zweber seconded. Motion passed.

The Board wants to thank Jo Gascoigne for her work and expertise in preparing this budget.

The committee is investigating switching the accounting/finance systems. We can't get a finance award because our software isn't one of their approved systems.

We want to get the lease extension at Gustavus Adolphus so that we don't need to move equipment over to MDS during construction with all the dust and mobility issues.

We will now be billing monthly for Wisconsin students.

New Business

Elections will be needed in May. We have committed to having 7 members on the new board. Zweber and Amis's terms are expiring.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30.

The next meeting will be Monday, March 16, 2009.