

MINNESOTA NORTH STAR ACADEMY
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
January 21, 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

Note taker: Barb Boelter, Secretary

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:37 p.m. by Board Vice President, Mary Zweber.

Accountability Report (Lange)

The Accountability plan was last updated in 2007. Cheryl Lange presented the highlights of the recent Accountability Plan. She will be meeting with Dyan Sherwood and Kause next week to discuss the future of the accountability plan for the new merged school.

Lange discussed the North Star's successes, which include awards earned by school and individual students, the percent of students scoring at or above the mean grade level, and the high graduation rate. North Star has met the attendance goal.

Challenges include improving the progress in reading and math for all students. Strategies have been put in place to address these issues. Also, programming options must be expanded and staff will work on developing social and academic ASL assessments.

Consent Agenda

Motion No. 132: Damrow moved to approve the minutes from the meeting of December 15, 2008, as amended. Outlaw seconded. Motion passed.

Director's Report (Kause)

The Director's Report was reviewed and discussed.

Volunteers of America representatives will be observing at the school for an entire day and also will be observing the Board meeting.

Kause questioned whether the Board needs to review policies when the Minnesota School Board Association makes minor changes to policies or statute cites. Kause should make a determination whether the policy can be held until its normal review date. If a change materially affects the policy, then she can decide whether to bring it to the board.

On February 10th, both the American History and World History classes will be going to the Charter School day at the Capitol.

Policies

Policies No. 413, Harassment and Violence and No. 400M, Student Residential Conditions, were reviewed and discussed. Policy No. 400M has been discussed with staff.

Motion No. 133: Amis moved to approve Policy No. 413, Harassment and Violence, as amended. Outlaw seconded. Motion passed.

Motion No. 134: Boelter moved to approve Policy No. 400M, Student Residential Conditions. Zweber seconded. Motion passed.

Committees

Finance Committee (Mikulski)

The Finance Committee report was reviewed and discussed.

It was decided that the Auditor will not come to a board meeting to describe the audit report, as it is not required.

MNSA will designate MSDLAF for Depository funds, in addition to Wells Fargo.

Motion 136: Boelter moved to approve the transfer of \$1685.00 from the school's Operating account to the Food Service fund. Outlaw Seconded. Motion passed.

The Auditor has issued a non-qualified opinion, which is good.

Merger Update (Kause and Zweber)

The Steering Committee has been meeting frequently. The Curriculum committee is starting to meet.

Discussions have begun regarding which systems will be used in the new school. New committees are being formed. There is the possibility of keeping the District name with the District number, and then having the two separate schools, with each name, under that district.

Mikulski reported that the finance committees from both schools will have transparency regarding sharing notes and other information. The Joint Finance Committee has met and established meeting schedule.

The Facilities Committee needs to have a protocol for who has authority to speak for the committee and what financial decisions need to be cleared through the Finance Committee.

Kause, Sherwood, Gascoigne, and Zweber will be meeting with Senator Saltzman on January 28, 2009, to discuss upcoming charter school legislation.

We would prefer not to provide our parent directory to MACS for contact regarding legislative issues.

Board members were encouraged to attend the Financial Seminar put on the School Business Solutions on February 4th. Volunteers of America is requiring that Board members attend a charter school financial workshop.

The Board viewed the DVD, "How to Serve Deaf Customers", that was made by students as part of the training materials for TGIF Restaurants.

The board reviewed a letter to Gustavus Adolphus Church regarding the possibility of leasing space until the new construction is complete at the new school.

A discussion was held regarding the need for a Fundraising Committee for the new school.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

The next meeting will Wednesday, February 18, 2009, due to the school holiday on Monday, February 16, 2009

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