

**MINNESOTA NORTH STAR ACADEMY**  
**BOARD MEETING MINUTES**  
January 23, 2008

**Board members present:** Bobbi Cordano, Susan Outlaw, Matt Mikulski, Mary Zweber, Alan Amis, Kristin Cuta

**Board members absent:** Heidi Ernst, Ronda Jo Miller, Cheri Piemeisl

**Director:** Kim Kause (absent)

**Notetaker:** Kristin Cuta

**Guests:** Volunteers of America (VOA) sponsors Justin Testerman and Mary Ek

**Interpreters:** Gina Alvarado and Amy Amundsen

**Call to Order:**

The meeting was called to order at 6:34pm by President Bobbi Cordano.

Cordano welcomed guests Mary Ek and Justin Testerman, VOA sponsors, to the meeting.

**Consent Agenda:**

Minutes from December 17<sup>th</sup>, 2007 were approved at the end of that meeting by the board members. This is noted in prior minutes.

**Update on Board Waiver to Minnesota Department of Education:**

Cordano has been following up on the waiver to MDE. No signatures as of 1/23/08. To be in compliance, the current board consists of 5 out of 6 teachers from Minnesota North Star Academy. As soon as Cordano knows, she will email the board with information. Elections on February 12th are contingent on waiver approval.

## **Committee Reports:**

Director's report (written by Kause, given by Cordano):

Cordano summarized information included in the director's report. Fundraising was discussed, as an upcoming pancake breakfast fundraiser will take place on Sunday, February 3<sup>rd</sup> at Gustavus Adolphus Church. Cordano discussed other fundraising ideas and having the board provide support to students when needed.

Enrollment update: student who planned to transfer to MSAD is no longer planning the transfer. The possibility of gaining more students from other programs was discussed. It was agreed that a meeting between Anthony Ritz (Due process Coordinator at MNSA), Kause, parents from Minneapolis, and Special Education Directors of other schools needs to take place within the month. Data from Cheryl Lange's report will be used to compel families for recruiting purposes, to be written in an article by Kause and Outlaw.

Space concerns were discussed and how a contingency plan needs to be in place if MNSA gains students, and need to revisit classroom analysis.

Finance Report: The board looked at the revised budget for approval. Discussed transportation costs found on lines 51 and 52. Need to look at changes on line 51 and line 81. Concern was arisen about allocation of funds for interpreters at IEP meetings for students.

Protocol for approval: cannot be done over email. Matt will email a PDF form to be signed for approval of this revised budget, and this must be faxed to Matt by January 31<sup>st</sup>. Any questions or concerns should be emailed to Matt by this Friday.

Personnel: For the April/May budget approval, looked at proposing new staff for next year: Language arts/English teacher,

Social worker/transition person since it is reimbursable, and the possibility of sharing a technology teacher with Metro Deaf School (MDS).

Insurance: Board needs to look at more options for next month for the best insurance plan. Current insurance plan is best for single providers, but family coverage is expensive. Also need to look at best coverage plan for domestic partners. The Board discussed looking over the salary schedule change for teachers at a later meeting.

Facilities: Alan summarized his report discussing new furniture that will be in the student lounge in February, concerns about space in classrooms, and a meeting set up for the task force next week. This meeting is to take place on Tuesday, January 29<sup>th</sup> from 6-9pm. Mary, leading the task force, stated the need to have a meeting between the MNSA and MDS board to discuss co-location in the future. Mary passed out email printouts based on contact done so far and information on the collaboration between MDS and MNSA. This collaboration project is slowly proceeding. It was noted that it would benefit both schools to share services financially.

### **Policies:**

Board Travel Policy—issue placed on hold until next month to look at the issue of in-state travel.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:34pm.

**The next Board Meeting will take place on Wednesday, February 20<sup>th</sup>, 2008, due to the President's Day holiday on Monday.**

Submitted by Kristin Cuta—board member