

MINNESOTA NORTH STAR ACADEMY
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
March 16, 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 7.38 p.m. by Board President, Cordano. The meeting was convened after a joint meeting with the MDS Board.

Motion No. 140. Damrow moved to approve the Calendar for the 2009-2010 school year. Boelter seconded. Motion passed.

During a joint discussion with the MDS board, it was agreed that it is necessary to switch the fiscal accounting program to the TIES software. This is sanctioned by the Department of Education. MDS will be paying the \$15,000 cost.

It is the joint understanding of both boards that the previously agreed to salary schedule for Licensed staff will be followed for the 2009-2010 school year.

Consent Agenda

Motion No. 141: Zweber moved to approve the minutes from the meeting of February 19, 2009. Damrow seconded. Motion passed.

Director's Report (Kause)

The Director's Report was reviewed and discussed.

The Board discussed providing shirts for the Academic Bowl team when they go to Washington, DC.

Policies

Policy #522 Student Sex Nondiscrimination and Policy #524 Internet Acceptable Use and Safety were reviewed and discussed.

Motion No. 142: Mikulski moved to approve Policy #522 Student Sex Nondiscrimination and Policy #524 Internet Acceptable Use and Safety. Cuta seconded. Motion passed.

Committee Reports

Finance Committee

The Joint Finance Committee is leaning towards adopting MNSA's policy of requiring dual signatures and board approvals for expenditures over \$5,000.

The bills for attorney's fees that MDS is incurring need to be reviewed. MNSA has a good process of utilizing professionals on a very cost effective basis. Policies need to be implemented as to where monitoring is necessary. We need to set up procedures for dealing with professional fees.

Legislative action may result in delays for payment or reimbursements. It is possible that there may be cutting in reimbursable amounts. We need to watch this carefully for budget purposes.

Merger Update (Kause and Zweber) Joint Committee Reports

Joint Finance Committee (Mikulski).

The budget is being prepared. The draft budget will be presented to the Board in April, and the final will be presented to the joint board in May. We are pursuing a lease extension with Gustavus Adolphus Church in order to store materials outside of the construction process. We are still waiting to hear back from the church.

Discussion is being held regarding financial separation of duties and structure is being put in place for the merger.

Facilities Committee (Amis). The meeting with the City of St. Paul went well. Demolition will start on March 28th.

Joint Personnel Committee (Anderson). Outlaw and Boelter are the committee members from MNSA. Staffing for next year has been discussed and new positions that will be open will be posted. Para reviews were discussed. We are looking at contract language for teachers and paras.

Curriculum Committee (Outlaw). All the teachers have met by teams and have discussed what they feel are the gaps and strengths in the curriculums. Larger meetings with all staff have been held. There are four departments encompassing Middle/High school (7th-12th): Math, Science and Technology; Language (spoken English, ASL); Social Studies, social sciences and transition; and student services, (social workers, Psychologists) and electives. They have written a grant to pay for training.

Character education – they don't have curriculum for this grouping. This would include universal values, fairness, truth, and honesty and includes Pre-K – high school.

The Marketing Committee will be convening after Spring Break. The first meeting is April 7th.

Election Procedures

Cordano will be resigning her board position as of June 30, 2009.

A slate of officers will be submitted next month. Next month we need to have a procedure for the May election.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40.

The next meeting will be Monday, April 20, 2009, after a joint board meeting.