

**MINNESOTA NORTH STAR ACADEMY**  
**BOARD MEETING MINUTES**  
November 19, 2007

**Board Members Present:** Allan Amis, Barb Boelter, Bobbi Cordano, Matt Mikulski, Susan Outlaw, Alex Zeibot

**Absent:** Mary Zweber

**Director:** Kim Kause

**Guests:** Kristin Cuta, Cheryl Lange (arrived at 7:00 p.m., left at 7:40 p.m.), Phil Lange (arrived at 7:00 p.m., left at 7:40 p.m.)

**Interpreters:** Amy Amundsen, Gina Alvarado

**Notetaker:** June Damrow

<b>Call to Order</b>
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The meeting was called to order at 6:36 p.m. by Board treasurer Matt Mikulski.

<b>Consent Agenda</b>
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October 15 minutes were reviewed and discussed.

**Motion No. 06-82:** Boelter moved to accept the October 15 minutes as submitted. Outlaw seconded. Motion passed.

There was no Financial Report for the month.

The Board recognized John Lee Clark's resignation (via e-mail communication to Chair Cordano).

**Motion No. 06-83:** Boelter moved to elect Kristin Cuta to fulfill the term vacated by John Lee Clark (until June 20, 2010). Mikulski seconded. Motion passed.

Outlaw briefed the Board on the "Fast Forward" program, which allows students to take high school technology courses and receive credit at NTID. Courses would be taught at North Star by North Star instructors. Instructors receive training at NTID during the summer. If North Star participates, it would be the only Midwest school to do so. Outlaw has contacted the head of the program for more information.

<b>Director's Report (Kause)</b>
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- The Academic Bowl was held today at North Star. North Star took first place.
- New teachers have been hired.
- The open house went well. The next one will be in the spring.
- 8th grade MDS families have come to observe classes.
- Board training: MDS has decided to postpone that.

- AYP test score publication: If parents object, they should contact the Star Tribune rather than MDE.

### **Accountability Report**

Cheryl Lange distributed a summary of talking points on the Accountability Report and reviewed them with the Board.

Cordano would like this story published. Kause, Outlaw and Lange will find out the cost of publication and relay it to Cordano.

Lange suggested the school make a DVD.

Cordano thanked Lange for her work over the years with North Star Academy and Metro Deaf School.

### **Web Site (Kause)**

Information on the Academic Bowl and the Accountability Report will be put on the web site. A new site is in progress and is expected to take two to three months. Zeibot offered to help with the process.

### **By-laws Amendment**

Article 2, section 2.1, on Numbers was discussed: "At all times, a majority number of board members will be persons who are deaf, hard of hearing, or members of the signing community."

Discussion was held on the percentage of deaf/hard of hearing members and on the definition of "signing community."

It was proposed that the By-laws be changed to say that 51 percent must be members of the signing community, and three members of that 51 percent must be deaf or hard of hearing. Cordano will craft new wording and forward it to Board members before the December meeting in preparation for voting at that meeting.

### **Committee Reports**

**Personnel Committee:** Committee did not meet this month. The next meeting is December 5.

**Finance Committee (Mikulski):** A correction on the report: "MSA" should read "NSA." The school is doing well financially. A letter from MDE was received detailing monies the school will be receiving.

**Facilities Committee (Amis):** The committee met this week with the church pastor and superintendent, who were amenable to requests. Kause is waiting for an estimate on the value of the furniture, and then the committee will formulate an offer to be reviewed and approved by the Finance Committee before it is presented to the church.

### **Task Force Update**

A task force meeting has not been set up yet with MDS. John from MDS will be contacting North Star.

### **Policies**

Policy No. 417, Chemical Use and Abuse, was reviewed and discussed. (This was a revision of the policy submitted last month.)

**Motion No. 06-84:** Mikulski moved to approve Policy No. 417, Chemical Use and Abuse. Zeibot seconded. Motion passed.

Cordano asked the Board to think about creating a culture of safety in the school. This might include having regular dialogues about different aspects of threatening behavior. She reminded the Board that school personnel are role models and can have influence on where deaf and hard of hearing students get their incidental information.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

The next meeting will be Monday, December 17, 2007.

The January meeting was moved from Monday, January 21 (MLK Day), to Wednesday, January 23.