

MINNESOTA NORTH STAR ACADEMY
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
November 25, 2008

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

Absent: Alex Ziebot

Director: Kim Kause

Interpreter: Gina Alvarado

Note taker: Barb Boelter, Secretary

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m. by Board Vice President, Mary Zweber.

Consent Agenda

Motion No. 124: Outlaw moved to accept minutes from the meeting of October 20, 2008. Cuta seconded. Motion passed.

Director's Report (Kause)

The Director's Report was reviewed and discussed.

A policy has been drafted to address student placement issues should a student not feel safe in their home. Board members should review this policy for discussion at the December board meeting.

VOA requires that all schools that they sponsor have their board members attend Board training through the Minnesota Association of Charter Schools. We have been approached by MDS to have both boards attend board training together. Apparently MDS has already scheduled a training session with MACS for Saturday, December 6th.

MNSA can set up something for our board members separately. We will also ask that the Steering Committee try to coordinate a Board Retreat for both boards together.

Zweber will be attending the MACS workshop on Governance on December 4th.

It seems that Transportation aid will reimburse the school for door to door transportation for students from Minneapolis. MDS already provides this service. We will investigate this during the remainder of this school year.

Task Force Update (Kause and Zweber)

Recently, it appears that MNSA is being included in discussions, decisions, etc. with the lawyers and bankers on a more collaborative basis.

The leases have been separated from the merger document. We will take a calculated risk to get the money from the city of Lilydale by December 31, 2008.

The following activities need to take place prior to the next board meeting on December 15th.

MNSA and MDS both need to both sign leases.

The loan is attached to the lease, but the bank will not commit to the loan until the lease is signed.

The merger plan must be completed and approved by the memberships and boards of both schools.

The Articles of Merging must be approved by the memberships (we will have a 1 page summary for the memberships)

MDS will need to file a name change with the Secretary of State so that the surviving corporation will be Metro Deaf School/Minnesota North Star Academy.

Mikulski has already been asked to join the board of One House, Two Hands.

MNSA will manage our fund balance without input by MDS until June 30, 2009. If there are major expenditures to make in the meantime, the two directors will make those decisions together.

When the merger is complete, it is expected that the cash will be transferred to the new school entity, and it won't be dedicated to any specific use.

It is still unknown if the Department of Education will approve the GLE. we need to know if MNSA will be officially dissolved. We need to wait to find out what happens to our liquid assets at that time and if they can be transferred to the new school entity. We may be required to forfeit the hold-back funds, which is 10% of the budget.

New Business

Cordano indicated that Ziebot has submitted his letter of resignation from the Board of Directors.

Motion No. 125: Cuta moved to accept the letter of resignation from the Minnesota North Star Academy board of directors from Alex Ziebot. Outlaw seconded. Motion passed.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

The next meeting will December 15, 2008.

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