

MINNESOTA NORTH STAR ACADEMY
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
October 20, 2008

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

Absent: Alex Ziebot

Director: Kim Kause

Guests: Nan Martin and Mary Burnes

Interpreters: Gina Alvarado

Note taker: Barb Boelter, Secretary

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:37 p.m. by Board President, Bobbi Cordano. Condolences were given to Amis' on the passing of his father.

Consent Agenda

Motion No. 120: Mikulski moved to accept the minutes from the September 15, 2008, meeting as amended. Cuta seconded. Motion passed. Zweber abstained.

Director's Report (Kause)

The Director's Report was reviewed and discussed. Cordano asked about the availability of the DVD prepared by the students for TGIF Restaurants.

Kause expanded on her meeting with a lawyer to discuss MNSA's policy regarding family referrals for short term lodging for students. Kause met with Seamus O'Meara on this topic. He's very familiar with schools and risk procedures.

Damrow asked for clarification regarding an e-folio. It is a tool for students available through Pepnet and it is an online folder. Employers use it. It will line up with the Individual Graduation Plan (IGP). The students can do interest inventories, transition information and planning, and any reports they get or have completed. All

students will begin as freshmen to set up their own e-folio account. We want all information that we have on paper for the IGP put in an electronic folio.

We have received Cheryl Lange's report and she will be coming to our December Board Meeting.

A Press Release will be sent to our community regarding Ronda Jo Miller's induction into Gallaudet's Hall of Fame.

Policies

Policy No. 406, Public and Private Personnel Data and Policy No. 525, Violence Presentation (Applicable to Students and Staff), were reviewed and discussed.

Motion No. 121: Boelter moved that MNSA approve Policy No. 406, Public and Private Personnel Data. Zweber seconded. Motion passed.

Motion No. 122: Damrow moved that MNSA approve Policy No. 525, Violence Presentation (Applicable to Students and Staff). Outlaw seconded. Motion passed.

Committee Reports

Personnel Committee: (Cordano): The health insurance coverage has been changed so that we can offer single coverage plus one. Employees are very satisfied and it is more cost effective. It was approved by the Finance Committee.

Our attorney will help us review Human Resources procedures. This process should be completed by the next meeting.

Finance Committee: (Mikulski): The committee report was reviewed and discussed. We are now showing positive revenue.

We discussed whether there were any procedures MNSA could implement so that we could get more timely information from the State. This is why the fund balance is so important, so that we can cover cash flow situations.

MCDHH (Minnesota Commission serving Deaf and Hard of Hearing) plans to meet with the author of the bill that requires that staff responsible for transporting students pass a physical that requires a hearing test. They will meet with appropriate staff and try to get this provision changed immediately when the Legislature reconvenes in January. In the interim, we are hiring buses to transport students.

We will want to do something to recognize the good relationship with Gustavus Adolphus church. The merged entity will need to negotiate something with Gustavus Adolphus to stay in the church until moving to the new site.

Motion No. 123: Zweber moved to approve the budget reflecting revised revenue figures. Cuta seconded. Motion passed.

Governance: (Zweber) Queen from MDS and Zweber discussed a shared training for both Boards through MACS.

Task Force Update (Kause and Zweber)

Zweber and Kause presented a power point summarizing the merger progress to date and the upcoming tasks and responsibilities. A copy of the power point is attached to the minutes. We will need a working meeting of the Board to discuss upcoming responsibilities.

It is important to find ways to get more parents involved in this process, even parents of graduates.

New Business

Kause passed out Cheryl Lange's report for the Board to review prior to Cheryl Lange's presentation at the December meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 pm.

The next meeting will be Monday, November 25, 2008.