

MINNESOTA NORTH STAR ACADEMY
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
September 15 2008

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

Absent: Alex Ziebot, and Mary Zweber

Director: Kim Kause

Interpreters: Gina Alvarado

Note taker: Barb Boelter, Secretary

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:40 p.m. by Board President, Bobbi Cordano.

Discussion was held regarding board member attendance and future recruitment of board members from the deaf community. Also discussed was the need for specific skill sets and experience for board members.

Consent Agenda

Motion No. 06-118: Damrow moved to approve the minutes from the Board meeting of August 18, 2008. Outlaw seconded. Motion passed.

Director's Report (Kause)

The Director's Report was reviewed and discussed.

The school trip to Eagle Bluff was discussed. Due to the cost involved, it is possible that the trip may need to be held every two years. Cordano said that Wilder Forest may be willing to work with MNSA on future retreats. We discussed possible grant opportunities for the retreat in the future.

The Personnel Committee will meet before the next board meeting and will be looking at flexible plans and other insurance options.

As a follow up to the Board Retreat, Kause indicated that we are caught up with merger tasks, but still need to be mindful of what responsibilities will be necessary as the merger moves forward.

Grant opportunities need to be explored as the merger progresses with regard to capacity grants. Boelter and Damrow will meet to discuss approaches to foundations.

Committee Reports

Finance Committee: (Mikulski): The committee report was reviewed and discussed. We now have some, but not all revenue information from the State, but need more clarity. The revenue statement was reviewed and we realize that it is based on estimates; it will be formally approved when we receive more finalized data from the State.

MNSA is doing fine and things are coming in as expected. Because the State will be changing the way revenue is received from Wisconsin, fundraising will be paramount after the merger.

That State rejected our second response to the audit. Some of it was format issues. They send out a notice to all schools regarding how schools respond to audit findings. Mikulski wants to meet with State officials to explain our financial culture and methods for controls. We want to demonstrate that we are very conscious of an vigilant in monitoring financial policies and controls.

Regarding "maintenance of effort", a school must spend the same amount as they did the previous year. The issue regarding MNSA is that we had a Director for one year who was not fully reimbursable.

Gates Funds: Kause had a meeting with the representative regarding the \$14,000 in Gates Funds that are left unspent. Kause asked if we could use the remaining funds for Bi-lingual training. We could use that instead of Federal funds. We need to present a budget for how we would use all the money except \$1000, which will be held for student requests for projects.

The DVD regarding working with Deaf customers was completed and we should request a meeting with the Carlson Foundation.

Task Force Update: Kause

The Grade Level Expansion has still not been filed as we are still waiting for information from Nan. There is still a question of timing concerning what constitutes a merged entity. Is it the signing of the documents, or the actual coming together of the two entities? We need clarification from the lenders regarding what they are looking for.

Also, what happens to the liquid assets of MNSA? We are worried that the State may want our liquid assets turned over to them, as Charter School law says that assets should go back to the State when Charter Schools dissolve. We think that Non-Profit law should govern the merger.

A decision making team will need to be established once the task force is dissolved. This will be necessary to make day to day decisions regarding construction, so that both boards will not need to be involved. We will discuss more at the September meeting. Possibly MAP can refer us to others who can assist.

Policies

Policy No. 407, Employee Right to Know – Exposure to Hazardous Substances was reviewed and discussed. There have been no changes to the policy.

Motion No. 06-119: Boelter moved to approve Policy No. 407, Employee Right to Know – Exposure to Hazardous Substances. Cuta Seconded. Motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:13 pm.

The next meeting will be Monday, October 20, 2008.