

Board Meeting  
Meeting minutes  
December 4, 2023  
5-6pm

ATTENDEES

Brenda Robertson – Chair  
Walter Martin – Vice Chair  
Mark Fleming – Secretary  
Chris Farrell – Board Member  
Natalie Wright – Board Member  
Scott Sides – VP Stride  
Katie Gomersall- HOS Stride  
Laura Zuber – Admin Stride  
Stacey Brandt – Principal of EC  
Kelley Shanahan – Principal Elementary  
Christy Rodrigues – Principal Middle School  
Chad Long – Finance K12  
Eric Agency – Finance K12  
Theresa Boardman Michigan Alternative Education School  
Alex Smingler – Hudson Financial  
Sara Struhs – Executive Director

Sara opened the meeting and called the quorum

Brenda asked that the agenda and the previous meeting minutes be approved. Mark made the motion; Natalie seconded it. Brenda called the vote: it was unanimous.

Brenda read the mission statement.

Brenda moved to the consent items. There was one item to confirm the hiring of teacher Kate Hall. Brenda asked for a motion. Mark made the motion; Walter seconded it. Brenda call the vote: it was unanimous.

Brenda moved to the Discussion items and asked Alexander Smingler from Hudson Financial to present regarding changes to the 401K. Alex suggested that the Board vote to change the investment fee from R2 to R4 now that we have enlarged our investment to qualify for the reduced rate of R4. Chris

asked what would be the reason that we would not do this and Alex said there is no reason for us not to do this as it will save some money that over time will benefit the teachers. With no more questions, Brenda thanked Alex and we moved the vote to the end of the meeting.

Brenda asked Katie for the HOS update. Katie gave an update on the enrollment. We have no students on the waitlist in k-2 as directed by the Board in a previous meeting. We have added 29 new students k-2. The first of the year we will be adding new students in grades 10,9,8 and K-2. This will bring our enrollment to approximately 3175 students. Even with that increase we will still maintain a waitlist of 500 students over grades 3-10.

Katie moved on to tell us that the State is switching their reporting platform from Power School to Infinite Campus. This will be a two year conversion but the process is beginning.

Katie then spoke about the gifted and talented class and that we are slowly building this program in the school. It is currently a pilot – 35 students in the 5<sup>th</sup> grade have been tested so far. It is a lengthy testing process, but she is confident that it is worth the effort given the opportunities this will provide for the students and at the same time build our school reputation. This is a first step to building the program.

Katie mentioned that they are also tracking all the free and reduced lunch qualifying families and asking them to submit the appropriate paperwork so that we qualify for the additional funds allowed to the school.

And the final note is that we have only one vacancy for an ELL position and we have multiple strong candidates. Once this position is filled, we will not have any open positions.

Brenda thanked Katie and asked Scott to begin the conversation about opening and Alternative School in association with NCVA. Scott introduced Theresa Boardman the current director of a K12 managed Alternative School in Michigan. Scott presented a powerpoint to discuss the NC state requirements around alternative schools, identified the population who would be served by this school, and gave an overview of how the school would be run, what it would require for staff and support staff and expressed the need for this kind of option for students. There were several questions around the

student population and the need for an alternative way to give these students the ability to achieve a diploma and have options beyond high school. Chris asked specifically if this was something that we could realistically have up and running for next year. Scott explained that there is an entire K12 staff dedicated to getting all the necessary information and paperwork filed to ask for a charter. He explained that all new charter requests for next year need to be made between January and April of 2024.

Due to the late hour, Brenda asked that we move on to the remainder of the discussion items and the action items and continue this conversation at the next board meeting in January.

Brenda asked Sara to give an update. Sara explained that she is continuing to work on the Parent's Bill of Rights requirements and will hope to have a policy before the next meeting. She mentioned that the next meeting is scheduled for January 1 and asked that it be moved to January 8. She then asked Chad if he wanted to comment on the current Stride bill. Sara asked the Board members if there were any questions around it and hearing none, Brenda moved on to the Action items.

Brenda asked for a vote to change the 401k from R2 to R4. Mark made the motion; Walter seconded it. Sara explained that Mark had to leave early and asked that she represent his vote as yes, Brenda, Natalie and Walter voted yes; Chris abstained. It passed.

Brenda asked for a vote to move the meeting from January 1 to January 8. Walter made the motion; Chris seconded it; Brenda called the vote: it was unanimous.

Brenda asked for a vote to approve the November bill. Natalie made the motion; Chris seconded it; Brenda called the vote: it was unanimous.

Brenda called for a motion to adjourn. Walter made the motion; Chris seconded it; Brenda called the vote: it was unanimous. We adjourned at 6:15pm