

Board Meeting Minutes
November 4, 2023
8:30-9:30

Attendees:

Brenda Robertson – Chair
Walter Martin – Vice Chair
Steven Peters – Treasurer
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
Tasha Parnell – Principal High School
Cande Killian Wood – Consultant
Sara Struhs – Executive Director

Brenda asked Sara Struhs to run the meeting.

Sara called a quorum and read the Mission Statement.

Sara asked for a motion to accept the agenda and the minutes from the previous meeting. Brenda made the motion. Mark seconded it. Sara called for a vote: it was unanimous.

Sara read through the consent items identifying five new teacher hires. Mark made the motion. Walter seconded it. Sara called for a vote: it was unanimous.

Sara asked Katie to give a school update. Katie spoke to the following:

- 1) Katie identified the new lapel pins for the Board Members with the symbol of our new mascot and hope they will wear them to promote the Bears!
- 2) Katie gave an update on school enrollment – we have added 75 new K-2 students at the request of the Board. We continue to have

- students on the waitlist K-8. She explained that 50-60% come off the waitlist but there are some who choose not to change now that school has started. There are 800 on the waitlist now most of whom are in HS.
- 3) Varsity Tutors conducted 400 in person sessions last month. This has been a big improvement and higher than last year. She attributes this to the ability for teachers to directly schedule the sessions for the students. They have found that younger students prefer in person sessions and High School students prefer chat sessions. Varsity Tutoring will begin large group tutoring for up to 5 students at a time as well.
 - 4) The school completed the first check-in testing. This is valuable to help teachers to identify standards requiring student improvement.
 - 5) Katie celebrated the e-sports team and their advancement to the Fort Nite State Championship in February.
 - 6) And Katie celebrated that at the last State Board Meeting NCVA was NOT on the list of low performing schools.

Sara thanked Katie and asked Brenda to give an update on the Stride Summit in DC. Brenda spoke to the summit, networking and strongly encouraged all board members to attend next year. Brenda asked Scott how NCVA compares to other schools in Stride and he said that we are an average size with many schools in the 3000-4000 students.

Sara then gave an update on the following:

- 1) Sara asked that all Board Members please mark their calendars for the off-site planning meeting February 9-11. Cande will be presenting at that meeting.
- 2) Sara updated the Board on the investment in CD's that they voted for in October. The money has been invested and our "ladder" is complete so we will have emergency access to funds month if needed.
- 3) Sara mentioned the FMLA program offered by the State and asked that they vote today to enroll us in the program since we are already doing everything they require, and this will allow us to receive reimbursements for hiring substitute teachers.

Before taking up the votes, Katie asked that the Board consider hiring an additional ELL Teacher. We currently have one ELL teacher and we have

grown and there is a demand for an additional teacher. Stacey confirmed the need for this teacher. Sara added it to the list of items to be voted on.

Sara then asked the Board to consider the action items requiring a vote: hiring of an additional ELL teacher, payment of the October Stride invoice and to enroll in the FMLA program offered by the State. The Board asked that we vote for all at the same time. Sara asked for a motion to vote on all the items at the same time. Brenda made the motion. Walter seconded it. Sara called for the vote: it was unanimous.

Sara asked for a motion to adjourn. Mark made the motion. Chris seconded it. Sara called for the vote: it was unanimous.