

**MINUTES  
NORTH STAR CHARTER SCHOOL  
GOVERNING BOARD  
August 13, 2009**

**I. REGULAR MEETING**

- A. Meeting called to order: by Chairperson Herrold at 7:35 p.m.
- B. Roll Call: Chairperson Herrold, Trustee McCarthy, Trustee Carroll and Trustee Waniata were present. Trustee Reeve joined the meeting at 7:40 p.m.

Chairperson Herrold entertained a motion to recess into Executive Session at 7:35 p.m. for the purpose authorized in Section 67-2345 (1) (a) Idaho Code to consider hiring a public officer, employee, staff member or individual agent. A motion was made by Trustee Waniata and seconded by Trustee Carroll. Motion passed 3-0.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

At 8:03 p.m. a motion was made by Trustee Carroll to recess into Question and Answer session which was seconded by Trustee Waniata. Motion passed 4-0.

**II. MEETING PRELIMINARIES**

Roll Call: Chairperson Herrold, Trustee Reeve, Trustee McCarthy, Trustee Carroll and Trustee Waniata were present.

Approval of Agenda: Trustee Carroll requested that Employee Benefits plan be added to the agenda under new business and motioned to approve the amended agenda. Trustee McCarthy seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0.

Persons wishing to speak to an Agenda Item: Kathy Pennisi wanted to address the middle school block schedule that was discussed during the last meeting. She stated that she has been working on alternative schedules and that there are some parents that are very concerned about the block schedule. She would like the board to form a joint committee between the administration and the parents regarding the block schedule. Trustee Waniata stated that he felt that the scheduling of the school is not a board issue and that is an administrative issue. He feels that this is too last minute to try and come up with a new schedule two weeks before school starts. Principal Smith asked Kathy if she received her phone call and email and Kathy stated that she hadn't. Principal Smith told Kathy that she would meet with her anytime to look at her proposed schedule. They agreed to meet on Friday, August 14.

Persons wishing to speak to a Non-Agenda Item: Gerda Ford

### **III. CONSENT AGENDA**

The Governing Board reviewed the enclosures under the consent agenda. A motion to approve the consent agenda for accounts payable for the month of July, 2009 in the amount of \$91,976.01, to approve contracts and to approve the minutes for 7-23-09 was made by Trustee Carroll and seconded by Trustee Waniata. Motion passed 4-0.

### **IV. CONTINUING BUSINESS**

A. Update on Construction Project/Approval of Requisition Payment: Ken Tucker gave the update on the construction project. The school is near completion. They are working on landscaping and the punch list. The ACHD work should be done by the end of next week, so the first bond should be released. The other bond put up for the city should be released in about a month. Ken suggested that the Building Committee meet again regarding FF&E spending. Principal Wold expressed her thanks on behalf of the board and administration for all of the work that Ken has put into this project and helping the school get moved from the old location. Chairperson Herrold asked for a motion to approve the requisition payment. The motion was made by Trustee Carroll and seconded by Trustee McCarthy. Motion passed 4-0.

B. Ribbon Cutting: Trustee Carroll stated that there has been a lot of participation from the board and the administration for the ribbon cutting ceremony. It is scheduled for August 27, 2009 at 5:00 p.m.

### **V. NEW BUSINESS**

A. Entrance/Exit Review Policy: This is a first read. Principal Smith stated that last year they started collecting data from students that were leaving North Star. The Interest Inventory Policy would read as follows: North Star Charter School will compile a data base of factual information regarding why families choose to attend our school and why families choose to leave. Principal Smith stated that the administration is working on an entrance interview and an exit interview. There may need to be several people designated to do these interviews.

B. Employee Benefits Plan: Principal Smith stated that the health insurance went out to bid and the plan that is being proposed is essentially the same, but will save the school nearly \$80,000 a year. Trustee Carroll motioned to approve the new employee benefits plan. The motion was seconded by Trustee McCarthy. Motion passed 3-0. (Trustee Waniata stepped out of the room for a moment.)

### **VI. REPORTS AND DISCUSSION**

A. Financial Dashboard: The clerk presented the financial dashboard. There is a spreadsheet that shows the budget for the year by month and will show the actual vs. budgeted on a month by month basis and a year to date total.

B. Process & Procedure Manual Update: Trustee Carroll thanked the board for their review of the policy manual. It needs to be posted on North Star's website in advance of the next meeting so everyone is prepared. Trustee Carroll stated that will get in contact with Trustee Pipal and make sure that it is communicated with the parents where they can find the policies on the website before the next board meeting. He will also post a schedule of which policies will be reviewed at the meetings.

C. Fundraising Committee: Chairperson Herrold was in contact with some of the people who are working on fundraising. They are looking to possibly move the international dinner to November and have an International Christmas Tree Festival. Chairperson Herrold would like to see fundraising on a work session agenda soon to discuss fundraising further.

## **VII. QUESTION & ANSWER/CONCERN SESSION**

Gayann DeMordaunt addressed the block schedule issue. She is concerned about the block schedule and any time that may be taken away from core classes. She feels this is a departure from North Star's educational model. Principal Smith asked Gayann if she opposed the block schedule in the high school. Gayann stated that she did not. The reason block is necessary in the high school is because high school students would not have any electives if they did not have a block schedule. During this transition year, the block schedule is necessary for the middle school. Trustee Carroll asked what would happen if there was no schedule for the middle school. He feels that if anything starts to take away from getting a schedule for the middle school would be detrimental to the school and that the block needs to be completed and then an alternative schedule can be looked at. Trustee McCarthy mentioned that the school has legal contracts with the teachers to teach in their certified areas and changing the schedule at this point may impact that. Chairperson Herrold stated that the board and administration is doing the best that they can and she believes that the right people are in place to do this.

Joanne Love stated that she is one of the founding families of North Star and has not been at a board meeting in a long time. She feels that her son will not do well with the block schedule. She thinks in high school it would be fine. She feels that there would be more families at the meeting if they had known that there was going to be a discussion on the block schedule.

Melissa Castrigno stated that she has the same issues with the block schedule that were previously mentioned.

Jennifer Butler asked why this was being brought up so late. She feels this discussion should have started in May and that parents are not aware that there is going to be a block schedule in the middle school.

Endi Fillmore stated that the teachers at North Star are amazing. She feels the school needs to keep the middle school parents happy in order to keep the high school filled later.

Dan Hullinger has been working at the Department of Education. What the Department of Ed is hearing from teachers is that they don't have enough time to teach the way they want to teach and that students are being taught to the middle. The students in the upper and lower ends are not receiving the attention that they need.

Merlinda Haueter was also a founder of the school. The focus was to have as much time for curriculum as possible. She doesn't want to have North Star compared to other schools regarding with their schedule.

Gerda Ford stated that she agrees with the issues regarding the block schedule. She had concerns about the email she received regarding the registration for 6th to 11th graders, stating that if they did not register on the 24th, they could not attend school on the first day. Principal Wold stated that the parents could contact her if they needed to make other arrangements, but if they were not registered before school started, they could not attend the first day because they would not have a schedule.

## **VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

Chairperson Herrold asked for a motion for adjournment. After a full and complete discussion upon a motion made by Trustee Carroll and seconded by Trustee Waniata, the meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m. with all members voting aye.

**The above minutes represent a true and accurate summary of this meeting.**

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Chairman

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Clerk