

**North Star Charter School Newsletter**  
**June 28, 2013**

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**Head of School's Corner**

**Updates on North Star's Charter:** The North Stars Board of Directors and staff invite you to attend one of two town hall gatherings to get the most up-to-date information about our school and find out how parents, students and the greater North Star community can get involved in showing positive support for our school. The first meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, July 2nd and the second will be held on Wednesday, July 10th. Both meetings are slated to kickoff at 7 pm and will be held in the North Star band room. During the meetings, there will be time for questions and answers. In advance, if you have questions that you would like to have addressed at the meeting, please forward them to: [information@northstarcharter.org](mailto:information@northstarcharter.org) . We hope everyone can attend as we hope to mobilize and rally our supporters to ensure we have great enrollment numbers when we open our doors on August 22 for the new school year.

Below are several questions that have been posed by a number of parents related to the recent actions of the Meridian School District. Please take a moment to read through the list and use the answers as a tool to talk about North Star and our plans moving forward to keep the doors open.

Question: Does a revocation of the charter mean that the school has to close?

Answer: If the Meridian School District persists in pursuing the revocation of our charter, we will at the appropriate time appeal the decision to the Idaho State Board of Education. That Board will have the ultimate authority over whether we continue or not; MSD does not hold the final power to make that decision

Question: Can the charter change to another school district, and if so, how likely is that to happen?

Answer: There are other options for us to gain a new charter, including with the State, but not another school district.

Question: Do the bondholders have any say in the matter regarding the forced closing of the school?

Answer: The bondholders do not decide whether we lose our charter, but they do hold the key to us passing the financial stability test.

Question: Will the bondholders amend their recent agreement with NSCS to ensure that they will not force an action that will shut down the school mid-year, and if so, will that satisfy the Meridian School District's concerns?

Answer: We are unclear what impact this will have with the bondholders. We are in on-going discussions concerning possibilities for obtaining help from that group.

Question: When is the MSD public hearing?

Answer: We have just received a letter from the Meridian School District and are in the process of assessing our legal rights and next steps.

Question: What should we as parents of students do at this point to help (i.e. send letters, show up at meetings, etc.)?

Answer: All of those things. We are working on a plan to help parents engage to ensure their actions are coordinated and our messages are consistent.

Question: How likely is it that the Meridian School District will reverse its decision?

Answer: We expect that the Meridian School District will persist in their effort to revoke our Charter.

Question: If it doesn't reverse its decision, how likely is it that the Idaho State Board of Education will overrule the MSD's decision?

Answer: We are confident that we have demonstrated financial stability for the next school year, but we have to successfully renegotiate our debt agreements during next year so we can continue beyond next year. As such, we believe Meridian had no basis to revoke our charter. The board surprised when they rendered their decision to revoke our charter status.

Question: If the entire appeal process takes 60-days or so, how likely is it that NSCS will have retained its enrollment and, more importantly, its staff by time school begins?

Answer: The entire process from the date of our receipt of the Notice of Intent can take up to 120 days maximum. PR is our key challenge at this point. We need parents to remain calm, supportive and bring your kids to school this fall. If we lose a substantial number of students, we likely won't be able to continue.

Question: Do we as parents need to be making alternate plans for this upcoming school year?

Answer: I understand that some parents have "dual enrolled" their kids just in case we do not open for school this fall. However, as I stated in my letter, we fully expect to be open for school on August 22nd and we hope everyone shows up at North Star.

There will be town hall meetings on Tuesday July 2 at 7:00 p.m. and Wednesday July 10 at 7:00 p.m. The purpose of the meeting will be for Chairman Miller to update North Star families and interested parties on any changes in the charter status, and how you can get involved in standing up for North Star. Both meetings will be held in the band room.

**Acknowledgement:** For three years of outstanding service during challenging times at North Star; for support of staff, students, and parents; for many and long meetings; for expertise in problem and puzzle solving; and for being my right hand, go to person – Thank you, Mrs. Arrate (Heidi Adams) for all your contributions to North Star! LR

**Acknowledgement:** Patrice Rouse has been scrubbing sidewalks, soffits, HVAC vents, and vacuuming floors – all to make North Star look good for visitors and family alike. Thank you, Patrice!

**Acknowledgement:** We have had teachers working on grants, curriculum, instruction, assessment, lockers, text book adoptions, hiring committees, placement tests, and handbooks to name a few. Big thanks to Shay Davis, Sherry Drain, Shirley Rau, Bob Bishop, Dan Conti, Lisa Holt, Adrien Coronado, Lori Maroe, Alina Jensen, Cindy Compton, and Joe Bidwell. Maybe they didn't get the memo that summer vacation has started? Actually, these are highly dedicated teachers already getting ready for next fall. These teachers are COMMITTED to North Star!

**New Assistant Head of Schools:** We had multiple candidates who applied for our open position as assistant head of schools, and two very strong interviews. The successful candidate who will take over as a North Star administrator is our very own Ryan Cantrell, previous special education teacher! Mr. Cantrell has exceptional strengths including organization, education law and processes, professional development, and special education oversight. He is a recent graduate of NNU's program in administration that culminated in the

degree of Education Specialist (EdS). Ryan is highly respected by the staff at North Star for his work with special education students, helping teachers with educational accommodations and adaptations, and for his staff development with paraprofessionals. Welcome to the administration team, Ryan!

### **About Mr. Cantrell**

I was born in Boise, Idaho to my mother Carmen (now deceased) and father Terry. I was raised in Nampa, Idaho by my parents, who were both public high school teachers. I attended Nampa public school through 9th grade: Centennial Elementary and West Jr. High. As a sophomore in high school, I transferred to Nampa Christian to complete my high school education.

Upon graduating Nampa Christian High School, I attended Northwest Nazarene University to seek an undergraduate degree in Social Work. In my 4th year of college, I met and married my wife Malinda. While attending college, I enjoyed working at the Booth Family Care Center (which was a homeless shelter for families), The Family Table (which was a group home for juveniles transitioning from incarceration back into the community) and volunteering at the Lighthouse Rescue Mission.

Upon graduating from NNU with a degree in Social Work, my wife and I moved to Twin Falls, ID where I served as a Developmental Specialist, Intensive Behavior Interventionist and ultimately as the Director for the Twin Falls branch of Family and Children's Therapy Services (a Developmental Disabilities Agency). I worked in the schools, homes and communities of the children in our program to help educate the families in how Positive Behavior Supports can support children's development.

In 2006, Malinda and I moved back to the Treasure Valley, because we wanted to raise our soon-to-be son in the community where his grandparents live (both Malinda's and my family live in the Treasure Valley). Cole was born in 2007, and our daughter Elise was born in 2012. I began my teaching career at Sherman Elementary, in Nampa, Idaho, in the fall of 2006 as a special education resource room teacher. During this time, I returned to NNU to earn a M.Ed. related to Exceptional Children. In 2011, I taught at INSPIRE Connections Academy, which is an online charter school. In 2012-2013 I was blessed to have worked with the North Star team as a special educator. During this time, I served a year-long administrative internship with North Star's administrative team, as part of an Educational Specialist degree in Building Administration.

Outside of work and school, my interests include camping, riding motorcycles, continuing education and teaching graduate studies at a local university. Cole and I ride often; he got this 1st motorcycle when he was 3, and has learned to ride with training wheels. I sincerely look forward to the upcoming school year, working with North Star parents, students and staff. To visit Mr. Cantrell's web site and view his pictures, go to his Google site: <https://sites.google.com/site/mrcantrellsclassroom/home/about-mr-cantrell>

### **Summer Fundraiser for North Star:**

“Swing into Summer” Golf Tournament

Date: July 15, 2013

Location: Plantation Country Club

Registration forms: [gcoburn@northstarcharter.org](mailto:gcoburn@northstarcharter.org)

Events:

1. Golf Tournament (1:00PM Shotgun)

- Golf \$85 each, or \$300 per foursome
- Box Lunch,
- Golf & Cart, Participation Prize bag,
- Lots of golf prizes
- Dinner and Entertainment,
- Raffle and auctions

2. Sponsorships (3'x3' signage)

- Tee or Green \$500 or.....
- Tee and Green \$700

3. Pool party (12:30 PM to 3:30PM) \$5 kids; \$15 adults; or \$35 per family includes:

- Barbeque lunch,
- Prizes, kids games, and
- Entertainment

4. Dinner only (6:30PM) - \$35 per person

### **Summer Events:**

July 8 – August: Idaho Elite Basketball (IEB) is offering kids ages 6-9 an opportunity to learn the core fundamentals of basketball

[www.idahoelitebasketball.com](http://www.idahoelitebasketball.com)

July 15-18; July 22-25: Paper Doll Summer Day Camp for girls ages 7 – 14.

[www.paperdollcamp.blogspot.com](http://www.paperdollcamp.blogspot.com)