

MINUTES
NORTH STAR CHARTER SCHOOL
GOVERNING BOARD
FEBRUARY 18, 2025
SPECIAL MEETING

Chairman Wheeler called the meeting to order at 11:05 am with roll call; Directors Wheeler, Dumas, Balch, Gregg, and Van Beek were in attendance at roll call. Director Anderson arrived at 11:15 am.

Motion to approve the agenda by Director Dumas. Second by Director Van Beek. Vote taken, all in favor. Motion passes.

BOARD BUSINESS

A. Strategic Planning (ACTION AND DISCUSSION)

Bryan opened by reminding the board about the statement of direction created in 2023. Prior to and in the statement of direction, we've discussed growth and expansion. This is a new opportunity that aligns with these previous statements of direction.

Andy presented a new opportunity for expansion.

We are running into space issues with our current program and vision to provide more electives and options for students. We have researched options for expansion of the current building, and building a new building - all came back as highly cost prohibitive.

Andy was approached in Dec about potential merger with RH by their ED. The original vision was to try to merge by using our waitlist to "make them whole". Since then the update on their current enrollment/lottery projections are low. With this new information changes and with our admin discussion, the original plan puts all the risk on NS. Doesn't make sense to go forward with this plan to keep two sites K-12 and K-8. New presentation RH students would come over to NS and NS HS would move to the RH site. Andy discussed keeping k-1 capacity numbers the same at NS.

NS currently has over 900 in our lottery. Discussed NS intent to return numbers. Ideas presented on how the space would be allocated and master schedules but would need to flush this out more fully.

MVB asked about calculating all expenses such as added curriculum. Preliminary projected revenues were discussed but BW reminded us that we are not yet reviewing this detail but rather deciding if the board gives permission to admin to move forward to pursue full specifics and details to be presented for Board approval at a later date.

Upcoming Charter Commission meeting on Mar 24. They will be looking for a proposal that doesn't displace charter students. Questions around lottery priorities and rules were discussed and determined this would be something the charter commission could clarify.

Stakeholder surveys would need to take place to determine the interest of our stakeholders.

Special education - presented numbers for RH and NS - would likely need to increase Special Ed teacher to support.

Andy presented projected numbers by grade and reviewed current RH staffing - many are looking to leave. There would be an interview process. Discussed free and reduced lunch - RH offers, but we would not offer at NS. Reviewed projected staffing with merger - rough estimates. Presented the RH vs NS curriculum.

Question on optimistic field access. Verbal agreement to use their parking for the daytime, does have access to field. Need to determine if there is something in writing with agreement to utilize parking lot and access to field.

Asking for authority to move forward with pursuing the specifics and details for this plan.

Andy has a meeting on the 24th with a charter school in Colorado that successfully merged two schools to learn how a merger works.

Director Huffaker left the meeting at 11:58 AM.

The Board requested seeing financial projections including all balloon payments before approval.

Reviewed the order of process - will go to the charter commission to see if it is possible to merge, after the charter commission meeting would come back to Board Mar 11 to propose full plan for approval
Maggie stepped away at 11:58pm

Discussed whether or not to communicate out to stakeholders. Determined it is best to send something general out now.

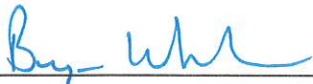
Andy discussed bussing options of adjusting routes and providing shuttling.

Shay spoke to the concerns from the Elementary perspective. Important that we don't lose the specials and the same system and culture NS currently has. Doesn't really see a spacing issue as we will be able to spread out more with the HS leaving. It will be important to place people correctly in new positions created. Important to understand the students coming over - how to best serve them. Still processing the information as it is known. Biggest challenge was how to fit 60 additional kids into our specials.

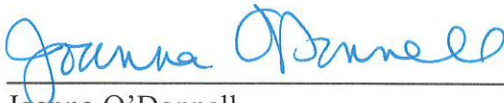
SG emphasized the need to create a statement/communication - presenting an exciting time, growing the community, exploring opportunities to benefit families.

Motion Move to authorize NS admin to move forward in good faith and due diligence to gather more information from staff, parents and students and discover all pertinent financial information for a rolling hills merger in order to provide answers to any board questions and provide path and plan which will be considered for board approval. **by Director Dumas. Second by Director Gregg. Vote taken, all in favor. Motion passes.**

Motion to adjourn at 12:19 pm by Director Van Beek. Second by Director Anderson. Vote taken, all in favor. Motion passes.



Bryan Wheeler
Chairman of the Board



Joanna O'Donnell
COO/substitute clerk of the Board

