

MINUTES
NORTH STAR GOVERNING BOARD
NORTH STAR CHARTER SCHOOL
REGULAR MEETING
January 22, 2026

Chairman Bryan Wheeler called the meeting to order at 6:01 pm. At roll call, Directors Wheeler, Van Beek, Balch and Dumas were present. Directors Anderson, Gregg, and Huffaker had excused absences.

Motion to approve the agenda without objection by Chairman Wheeler. Motion passed without objection.

GOOD NEWS NORTH STAR

Rebecca Franks, 2nd grade teacher, presented before the board by introducing students from her classroom. She explained the Science of Reading as being an explicit and systematic process of teaching students how to read. Mrs. Franks and her students engaged in a phonemic awareness activity showcasing some of the skills being taught/learned in class.

Shay Davis updated the board on the recent school visit by Nanette Merrill, Executive Director of the Idaho Charter School Association. Mrs. Merrill visited with the North Star administration and was given a tour of the school. Mrs. Davis also informed the board of a special education training a few staff members attended. Laiena Leatherman provided an update on the enrichment activities happening in elementary. Mrs. Leatherman praised Andy Horning for setting up access to the Idaho Digital Learning Alliance (IDLA) for additional enrichment support with certified teachers.

Justin Durflinger updated the board on a Positive Behavior Intervention and Support (PBIS) assembly the middle school students had earlier in the day. Students were celebrated for academic and behavioral achievements. The middle school student council also hosted a glow dance. Mr. Durflinger highlighted the Tamarack Ski trips coming up in February.

Josh Hickey provided an update on the high school, noting that the Winter Ball is scheduled for next week. The high school kitchen and garage are now fully operational, with the new oven enabling the school to offer breakfast and lunch options. The 8th graders are slated to visit the high school next week where students will get an introduction to the life of a high schooler. In terms of electives, high schoolers are enjoying digital media, restaurant management, and wilderness survival. Additionally, Mr. Horning is taking 10-12 juniors to the school choice rally at the state capital.

Mr. Horning provided an update on the marketing campaign by highlighting the recent pictures and video taken. Mr. Horning praised Joanna O'Donnell on her recent efforts in implementing Skyward, the school's new accounting software. She has been instrumental in the transition to this new system. Mr. Horning praised his administration team, including Mr. Hickey for looking into future plans for next year.

BOARD BUSINESS

2026-2027 Calendar Approval

Mr. Horning presented the proposed 2026-2027 school calendar, noting some possible considerations for future years.

Motion to approve the 2026-2027 school calendar without objection by Director Van Beek. Motion passed without objection.

Annual Performance Report

Mr. Horning presented the annual performance report for North Star Charter School (NSCS) and Rolling Hills Public Charter School (RHPCS).

Motion to accept the annual performance report for NSCS and RHPCS without objection by Director Balch. Motion passed without objection.

Financial Update

Jonathan Gillen updated the board by stating that the financial transition with the new system is ongoing. He said Skyward is operational with payroll and accounts payable. Mr. Gillen stated that moving forward, the reporting will look different. Skyward will have financial reports more easily accessible as the system is more user friendly. Mr. Gillen is working with Charter Impact to establish duties and responsibilities.

Mr. Gillen provided a refinancing update. He has had discussions with the Idaho Public Charter School Commission (IPCSC) about the 2022-2023 annual performance report where conditions were placed. In order to qualify for a refinancing enhancement, the IPCSC must sign for the last three years of annual performance reports. Our annual audit will be moved up and completed at the end of June 2026. Chris Yorgason provided some insight into the process. Director Balch discussed possible scenarios in the event the school doesn't qualify for the enhancement.

Motion to accept and acknowledge the financial update as presented without objection by Director Balch. Motion passed without objection.

Enrollment Caps

Mr. Horning presented enrollment caps for next year. He stated he is trying to keep about 28 students per classroom.

Motion to accept the enrollment caps without objection by Director Van Beek. Motion passed without objection.

Graduation Policy Authorization

Mr. Horning presented the current graduation policy to the board. Mr. Horning explained multiple scenarios of current students working through individualized associate plans. Director Dumas asked to address this policy at the next policy meeting.

The board acknowledged Mr. Horning's presentation, based on the different pathways available to students. No action was taken.

Capital Campaign Update

Mrs. O'Donnell provided the board with an update on the two-year capital campaign. As of the end of 2025, the funds raised totaled \$164,000, which is more than the amount raised at the same time last year. Mrs. O'Donnell stated an impact report will be done towards the end of the year to report how the funds will be used. Plans are being made to create a new project committee.

Strategic Planning Committee

Mr. Horning highlighted the marketing team that recently visited both schools and shared photographs taken during the visit. Mr. Horning also discussed plans to collaborate with Northwest Nazarene University (NNU) to provide students with an additional pathway toward an associate degree.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion to enter into Executive Session pursuant to Idaho Code 74-206 (1b) at 7:33 pm by Director Van Beek. Second by Director Dumas. Roll call: Director Balch-yes, Director Dumas-yes, Director Van Beek-yes, and Chairman Wheeler-yes.

Motion to exit Executive Session by Director Dumas at 8:05 pm. Second by Director Van Beek. Vote taken, all in favor. Motion passed.

No action taken.

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion to approve the consent agenda without objection by Director Balch. Motion passed without objection.

Chairman Wheeler notified the board of the upcoming visit to students by Sam Demma, an inspirational speaker. His visit is scheduled for February 12, 2026.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn at 8:08 pm without objection by Director Van Beek. Motion passed without objection.



Bryan Wheeler
Chairman of the Board



Eveleen Kearney
Clerk of the Board