MINUTES
NORTH STAR GOVERNING BOARD
NORTH STAR CHARTER SCHOOL
REGULAR MEETING
July 23, 2026

Chairman Wheeler called the meeting to order at 6:06 pm. At roll call, Chairman Wheeler, Directors Balch, Dumas, Van Beek, and Gregg were present. Director Huffaker had an excused absence.

Motion to amend the agenda to move the Financial Report to Board Business, Item A by Director Balch. Second by Direct Van Beek. Vote taken, all in favor. Motion passed.

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

GOOD NEWS NORTH STAR

Andy Horning gave an update on enrollment projections for the upcoming school year, with current enrollment at 1,186 students and possibly increasing to 1,200 through the addition of foreign exchange students. He praised the new elementary principal for her communication skills and her team player personality.

He updated the board on several summer maintenance and improvement projects as they are nearing their completion. Classrooms were vacuumed and cleaned, new furniture was installed in several classrooms, and two storage sheds at Linder will be cleared out. Surplus items will be made available to other schools. A new fence at Linder is scheduled to be installed soon, while renovations to the high school locker rooms continue. The gym floor at Linder has also been refinished using a water-based coating to improve its durability.

The school continues to benefit from grant funding and community partnerships. Through the Bluum grant, an aluminum shed is being purchased for use as a multi-purpose room at the high school. Additionally, the grant funded new furniture for the front offices at Linder, which will enhance the overall appearance of the school. Calvary Chapel, Eagle, has continued its collaborative support by purchasing an additional shed.

Mr. Horning noted that all staff positions have been filled for the upcoming school year, including the hiring of a new high school math teacher. Lastly, today the school reached a significant milestone in the bond refinancing, with Raymond James purchasing the bonds that support the refinance.

BOARD BUSINESS

Financial Report

Scott Brown and Joseph Schmelzle presented their financial report to the board for June 2026. The school is ending the year in a healthy financial position. Funds include the employee retention credit (ERC) and the Rolling Hills net asset acquisition thus making the budget versus actual revenue higher. They noted that this increase cannot be relied upon in the future. Overall school spending is under budget. Additional work remains in that receivables for the grant is not yet included in the expenses and the capital project funds still need to be reconciled. There was no state revenue posted in June 2026.

They stated two areas of focus: re-verify earlier monthly reports and clean up previous gaps in the general ledger. They will be preparing for the audit, which has been accelerated due to the bond refinance. They continue to close out legacy accounts on the balance sheet and are making line by line reconciliations.

Chairman Wheeler asked them to report the progress of the clean ups next month. Director Balch asked when the grant reimbursements will be coming in? Mr. Schmelzle replied likely next month. Director Balch asked if Bluum is actively working on the reimbursements. Mr. Horning shared that Bluum has been actively asking for reimbursement submissions.

Mr. Brown presented a web based application to display financials that he and Mr. Schmelzle have been working on. The debt requirement is 45 days cash on hand or $1.5 million but the goal is to have 60 days of cash on hand. Director Balch liked the built in cash runway they are incorporating.

Mr. Brown stated he will wait until the first day of school to determine if a budget amendment will be necessary. Chris Yorgason, legal counsel, stated a budget amendment will require another public budget hearing. Mr. Horning expressed concerns with the current budget and not meeting the agreed upon enrollment numbers. Mr. Yorgason reminded him that it's a budget and things can change. Charter Impact stated they can make an update to the forecasting in November or December to be more accurate. Director Balch agreed the school should wait until the first day of school to make a determination on amending the budget.

Motion to approve the June financial report as presented by Director Balch. Second by Director Dumas. Vote taken, all in favor. Motion passed.

Swearing in of Board Members

Board Clerk Eveleen Kearney swore in Directors Balch and Gregg for their new terms. Director Huffaker will be sworn in at a later date.

No motion taken.

Board Office Nominations

Chairman Wheeler nominated Director Van Beek as Vice Chair, Director Balch as Treasurer, and Director Dumas as Secretary. Director Van Beek nominated Chairman Wheeler as Chairman.

Motion to approve the nominations by Chairman Wheeler. Second by Director Gregg. Vote taken, all in favor. Motion passed.

Board Committees

Chairman Wheeler discussed open committee positions. The following are the new committee positions.

Policy and Safety Committee: **Joanna O'Donnell (Chair)**, Andy Horning, Michelle Van Beek, Dave Dumas, Bob Kearney, and Shelly Manuel.

Finance Committee: **Joanna O'Donnell (Chair)**, Andy Horning, Bryan Wheeler, Jenna Balch, and Joseph Schmelzle.

Strategic Planning Committee: **Andy Horning (Chair)**, Bryan Wheeler, Joanna O'Donnell, Stephen Gregg, and Michelle Amoroso (PTO President).

Academic Excellence Committee: **Justin Durflinger (Chair)**, Maggie Huffaker, Michelle Van Beek, Laiena Leatherman, and Josh Hickey.

Director Balch reminded everyone there is a vacant seat on the board. The new board member can fill in where needed.

Board Calendar Dates

The board discussed the proposed dates for the 2026-2027 school board meetings. After some evaluation, the board agreed to the fourth Thursday of each month with some adjustments for conflicting dates and holidays.

Motion to approve the regular board meetings dates as adjusted without objections by Director Balch. Motion passed without objection.

Brown Bus Routes and Safety Approval

Mr. Horning presented the Brown Bus safety routes for the 2026-2027 school year.

Motion to approve the Brown Bus safety routes for the 2026-2027 school year without objection by Director Van Beek. Motion passed without objection.

Bond Refinance

Director Balch acknowledged the many hours, including early mornings and late evenings, and the work that has gone into the bond refinance. She recognized Mrs. O'Donnell, Mr. Horning, Mr. Yorgason, and many others. She stated the team has tried to remain conservative in their decisions. There have been multiple iterations to be in compliance with covenant thresholds. The team wanted to have the confidence to make realistic decisions. Earlier in the day, there was a pricing call where Raymond James was able to secure the bonds. The team is grateful to have locked in a rate. The closing of the bond refinance is scheduled for Thursday, July 30, 2026. Zion Bank will be the trustee. The school will be paying $3 million at closing, which the school had been preparing for over the last two years. Mrs. O'Donnell thanked Director Balch for all her work and expertise in the entire process. Director Dumas thanked everyone involved.

No motion taken.

CONSENT AGENDA

Director Dumas asked a clarifying question about a newly hired teacher, whose contract is part certified and part classified.

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

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn at 7:21 pm without objection by Director Dumas. Motion passed without objection.

Bryan Wheeler
Chairman of the Board

Eveleen Kearney
Clerk of the Board