MINUTES
NORTH STAR GOVERNING BOARD
NORTH STAR CHARTER SCHOOL
REGULAR MEETING
August 27, 2026

Chairman Wheeler called the meeting to order at 6:08 pm. At roll call, Chairman Wheeler, Directors Balch, Van Beek, and Huffaker were present. Director Dumas arrived at 6:10 pm. Director Gregg had an excused absence.

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

GOOD NEWS NORTH STAR

Justin Durflinger gave a middle school update. He praised the new 7th grade teacher, Jasmine Stanciu, and also commended the returning students for being welcoming and supportive of the new students. Overall, the middle school staff agreed it's been a great start to the new school year.

Shelly Manuel gave an update on the elementary school. They had great turn outs for the kindergarten launch and meet and greets. She's been impressed with the students, staff, and parents so far this year.

Josh Hickey gave a high school update. He stated they have 220 high school students. There are 66 freshmen, making them the largest freshmen class to date. Chrissy Kane has helped tremendously with their schedules. The senior class has started to showcase their leadership skills. There are four new teachers this year and the staff as a whole are working well together. The football program has started and there are about 20 players now. Their first game is Friday, August 28, 2026 at Riverglen Middle School in Boise.

Joanna O'Donnell gave a business office update. She said the Charter Impact (CI) team came to Idaho and spent two days organizing accounts. The time spent doing this was very productive. She said the business office onboarded about 25 new employees this school year. The marketing team also met recently, identifying clear marketing strategies and creating targeted messaging. There are additional plans for marketing this school year.

Andy Horning said it's been the best start of the year that he has had. The ongoing construction on Linder Rd continues to cause traffic concerns. The fencing around the Linder campus is complete. This will ensure our campus is safe during school hours. There is ongoing work in increasing enrollment. North Star Administration Team (NSAT) met to brainstorm ways to increase enrollment. Mr. Horning said there is a lot to celebrate and they want to spread the word on all the great things North Star has to offer. Additionally, the crossover with elementary and middle school has been going great as they have started to work together. Lastly, Mr. Horning said the PTO has been fantastic.

Newly elected PTO President, Michelle Amoroso, introduced herself to the board. She said she has been a member of the PTO for 3 years now and explained the various roles she has had throughout the years. The PTO has a lot of fun events on the agenda, with a goal of one community and one spirit event each month. They would also like to expand their volunteer opportunities. She highlighted the various events they have scheduled this year. There are 7 members on the PTO. Mr. Horning expressed his appreciation to the PTO for their generous contributions to classroom supplies for teachers. Director Huffaker offered to volunteer for the upcoming Fall Festival. Director Van Beek asked about the PTO's involvement at the high school. Mr. Horning stated Denise Baar, the previous PTO president, has volunteered to start a booster program specifically for high school students in an effort to support them.

BOARD BUSINESS

Swearing in of Board Member

Board Clerk Eveleen Kearney swore in Director Maggie Huffacker for her new term.

No motion taken.

Annual Sub Rates Approval

Eveleen Kearney presented the 2026-2027 annual sub rates.

Motion to approve the 2026-2027 annual sub rates without objection by Director Van Beek. Motion passed without objection.

Schedule

Mr. Durflinger informed the board of proposed time frames for school visits. It was recommended the board visit the high school in the fall and K-8 in the spring.

Chairman Wheeler informed the board of this year's ISBA conference dates. The conference is scheduled for November 4-6, 2026, at the Boise Centre. Registration opens September 2, 2026.

Financial Report

Scott Brown and Deborah Lahood with CI presented their financial report to the board. First, Mr. Brown announced that Joseph Schmelzle is no longer on the team supporting North Star. Mrs. Lahood is replacing him. Mrs. Lahood, based in Illinois, explained her knowledge and expertise. She enjoyed visiting the school last week.

Mr. Brown gave a brief training on how the board can expect to see financial reports moving forward. He highlighted the statement of financial position with various funds. He demonstrated to the board how to access financial information within the document. He explained new aspects of the financial statement that will be helpful to know. They are continuing to work through the cash flow projections. Additionally, they are including deposits in their reporting for increased transparency. The August financial statement will include more bond refinance transactions.

Mr. Brown stated likely they will have to do a budget re-forecast later in the fall. Chairman Wheeler asked about the MACU loan balance. Mr. Brown stated they now have access to those statements but are still working on gaining full access to the account. They were able to reconcile what they had from January 2026 and on.

Director Balch, on behalf of the finance committee, said they are excited that the budget is in Skyward now. She acknowledged that there's still work to be done but they've made great strides towards the visibility of accounts. Mr. Horning stated he appreciated all the work the CI team has done.

Mrs. O'Donnell asked whether an up-to-date percentage of budget expenditures would be available. Mr. Brown explained that beginning in September, accruals will be reflected in a more useful format.

Motion to approve the financial report as presented without objection by Director Balch. Motion passed without objection.

CONSENT AGENDA

Director Balch asked a clarifying question about the facility rental agreement.

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

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn at 6:52 pm without objection by Chairman Wheeler. Motion passed without objection.

Bryan Wheeler
Chairman of the Board

Eveleen Kearney
Clerk of the Board