MINUTES
NORTH STAR GOVERNING BOARD
NORTH STAR CHARTER SCHOOL
REGULAR MEETING
September 17, 2026

Chairman Wheeler called the meeting to order at 6:03 pm. At roll call, Chairman Wheeler, Directors Balch, Van Beek, and Dumas were present. Director Huffaker arrived at 6:07 pm. Director Gregg had an excused absence.

Motion to amend the agenda to add 2026-2027 Board Visit Dates to Item D: Committee Reports without objection by Director Balch. Motion passed without objection.

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

GOOD NEWS NORTH STAR

Nick Hagiperos, Athletic Director, greeted the board and gave a summary of the newly established football program.

Josh Hickey said they are in the process of forming a booster club with parent volunteers. He said the arrival of all foreign exchange students is almost finalized. They currently have students from Brazil, Spain, France, Germany, Italy, and Kyrgyzstan. Looking ahead to parent teacher conferences, the school is looking to offer a Thursday night community event where parents can see all the great things happening at the school.

Justin Durflinger praised his team and their collaborations. Recently, Director Van Beek brought in 11 teachers from Nevada as part of their NNU program. Director Van Beek said the experience was wonderful. She appreciated the structure and observations.

Shelly Manuel said back to school night went well. The observations she's done so far have been incredible to watch.

Andy Horning praised Mr. Durflinger for the structures he and his staff have created during transition times. He said Chrissy Kane, the 6-12 counselor, is gathering data on graduates that she can include in a snapshot to showcase their success. At the K-8 campus, the fall festival is Thursday, September 24, 2026 from 4:30-7:30 pm. Joanna O'Donnell and Monica Summers will have a capital campaign booth set up at the event where they will showcase future campaign plans.

Chairman Wheeler updated the board on the current board positions. As a reminder, Director Cherish Anderson finished her term in June 2026 and Director Huffaker moved from a community seat to a parent seat. Director Dumas moved from a parent seat to a community seat, which leaves the vacant seat as either a parent or community seat. With that said, Chairman Wheeler introduced Steven Gabrielsen as a prospective board member appointee. Mr. Gabrielsen greeted the board and said he's been a parent at North Star for about 5 years. He is a Certified Public Accountant (CPA) and a small business owner. Chairman Wheeler stated the board would vote on his appointment at the next board meeting.

BOARD BUSINESS

Testing Results

Mrs. Manuel informed the board that Amira is the platform used for IRI testing and progress monitoring. The data presented compares North Star's scores with the state, West Ada School District, Boise School District and other charter schools. Comparison with other charter schools was included at Chairman Wheeler's request. Amira is used for K-2 grades and ISAT testing is used for 3rd-11th grades.

Mr. Hickey presented concurrent credit eligible courses. About 219 students are enrolled in those courses through CWI and NNU, allowing them a path towards an associates degree. About 35 seniors this year will graduate with an associates degree. Chairman Wheeler asked if concurrent credits interfere with ISAT testing. 9th and 10th grade Math and ELA classes are not concurrent credits, allowing teachers to properly prepare students for the ISATs. Mr. Horning reminded the board that ISAT proficiency is a North Star graduation requirement. Director Dumas said at graduation this year, it would be nice to highlight the achievements of students graduating with an associates degree.

Mrs. Manuel discussed the elementary response to increasing proficiencies this year via the various tier levels. Mr. Durflinger said they are following the same tiered system. He said grade level teachers, along with Laiena Leatherman, take part in collaborative meetings to identify student needs. Mr. Hickey said the high school uses a tiered system for RTI testing and their advisories are structured by student need. Students check in to advisory using a google link in order to keep them accountable.

PLP Goals Approval

The school wide goal is focused on increasing math scores. The goal is 73-75% proficiency. Before action was taken, Director Van Beek noted that some of the PLP's had not been signed. Mr. Horning stated they will get signed.

Motion to approve the 2026-2027 PLP goals without objection by Director Van Beek. Motion passed without objection.

High School Clubs Approval

Mr. Hickey stated that the high schoolers are interested in adding two new clubs. The clubs are Dungeons and Dragons, supervised by Zach Covert, and Drama Club, supervised by Jennifer McConnell. Dungeons and Dragons would take place during advisory and Drama Club would take place after school.

Motion to approve High School Clubs, Dungeons and Dragons and Drama Club, without objections by Director Huffaker. Motion passed without objection.

Committee Reports

Strategic Planning: The marketing team met with Mitchell Palmer to discuss ways parents can help promote and share the positive things happening at North Star. Mr. Horning said the committee is looking into adjusting enrollment numbers to help with student retention at certain grade levels. Additionally, the committee is exploring the option to offer a hybrid model for secondary students. Math and ELA classes would be in person but other classes could be taken online. Lottery dates and bell schedule adjustments are also being considered. The bell schedule change could include having the same start and end times at the K-8 campus. Director Van Beek expressed concerns about having K-8 students on the same buses.

Director Van Beek asked how the hybrid model would be offered. Mr. Horning said online classes would be offered through IDLA but the student's enrollment would be at North Star.

Policy: Mr. Horning said potentially 17 more policies will be presented for approval at next month's board meeting. Director Balch asked for policies to be sent in advance of the meeting in order to have adequate time to review.

Finance: Director Balch said the cleaning up of financial documents continues to be an emphasis of Charter Impact and North Star. The ERC credits have been received and deposited, including the funds designated for the RH accounts. The audit will hopefully be completed soon, but it has fallen on the shoulders of North Star to complete many of the tasks requested by our auditor. The first official bond payment has been made.

2026-2027 Board Visit Dates: The board decided to visit the high school on December 9, 2026 from 10-12pm.

Idaho Charter School Association Training

Chairman Wheeler said the association is offering a Board Governance training on October 9, 2026 from 9-12 pm. Interested board members can notify Eveleen Kearney by October 2, 2026 to be registered.

Financial Report

Members of Charter Impact were not present as agreed to; therefore, Mr. Horning and Director Balch presented the financial report. Director Balch said the financial report provided by Charter Impact was for the month ending on August 30, 2026. Since this report, there's been a $3 million deposit into the LGIP. North Star has 112 days cash on hand. Zion Bank is the trustee on the bonds. Director Balch said they have been great to work with and have been helping meet deadlines. Mr. Horning said he is working with career technicals in an effort to bring in additional funding. Additionally, efforts are being made to get SPED paraprofessionals certified in order to bill medicaid for their services.

Motion to approve the Financial Report without objection by Director Huffaker. Motion passed without objection.

CONSENT AGENDA

Chairman Wheeler asked a clarifying question about a check on the check register.

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

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn at 7:51 pm without objection by Chairman Wheeler. Motion passed without objection.

Bryan Wheeler
Chairman of the Board

Eveleen Kearney
Clerk of the Board