

# North Star Academy Work Session Minutes May 3, 2007



Place: North Star Academy, 2920 W. 14010 S.  
Approved: June 7, 2007

North Star Academy is established to provide K-9 students with a safe, challenging and individualized learning environment that will help them achieve their potential and become confident, competent, productive, and responsible young adults who possess the knowledge, skills, attitude, and character necessary to succeed in high school, post-secondary education, and ultimately in employment and community settings.

## **MINUTES**

Members in Attendance: Trudy Sorenson, Dave Petersen, Wendy Lambert, Pam Van Wagoner, CJ Abel

Others: Mark Johnson (Principal), Jed Stevenson (Academica West)

Parents: Claudia Taylor, Rekehl Johnson, Leesa Baldwin, Nikki Paxman, Jan Griffiths, Rich Jenkins

6:00 PM – Call to Order

## **BUSINESS ITEMS:**

- ❖ The board reviewed the Fee Waiver Policy. The policy has been modified to reflect a pro-rated refund fee according to a formula entered into SIS. Fees refunded to exiting students and charged to new students entering mid year will be based on daily attendance. Specific fees have also been added to cover electives to be offered for the 2007-2008 school year.
- ❖ The board reviewed the proposed Credit Transfer Policy. This policy is designed to ensure that credits transfer to and from other schools according to State Law. This policy also ensures that North Star is in compliance with the North West Accreditation Standards.
- ❖ The board reviewed the purchase request for a divider for the gym/cafeteria. Trudy presented two options for the divider: a sound reducing barrier and a divider. Space is the primary concern in purchasing the divider, but sound reducing barrier would allow for more versatility in using the two spaces. The board questioned the value of the sound barrier's noise reduction. Sheldon Killpack will speak to an acquaintance to determine if the noise reduction of 23dcd is worth the additional cost. The board plans to move forward with the purchase of a divider pending this information and the bids. The cost will not exceed ten thousand dollars.
- ❖ Trudy presented an amended Building Rental Policy. The liability and wear on the building has made it necessary to raise the building use fees and add a required deposit. Under the policy, the school has the ability to waive the fee and insurance requirement for school or PTO sponsored activities as they are covered under our State Risk Management Policy. Outdoor facilities are to be added to the policy at the rate of \$40/day for commercial use and \$10/day for charitable/non-profit use.
- ❖ Pam reported on the Dress Code Policy. Parents, faculty, and students have been notified of proposed changes to the Dress Code Policy and feedback was requested. It has been determined by the Board of Trustees and Administration that the current Dress Code is very time consuming to enforce and must be simplified. The proposed dress code was sent out to the student body and their families. Several parents and students requested that navy blue pants and white turtle necks to be worn under a polo shirt be added to the proposed Dress Code. This change has been made as well as a few minor

grammatical changes for clarification. Consequences for dress code violations were also added to the Policy. CJ reiterated that the success of the new policy hinges on enforcement. The faculty and administration will be trained on the new policy before the beginning of the 2007-2008 school year.

❖ Public Comment:

Nikki Paxman: Ms. Paxman suggested that we mail a letter and the new dress code policy to each home to ensure it is received. Ms. Paxman expressed her appreciation to the Board for their work at the school. Her concern is with the Middle School Foreign Language Credits. If 9<sup>th</sup> graders are given priority for foreign languages, the problem is facilitated from year to year. In order for a student to be given High School credit for a foreign language, the two years must be taken consecutively. Students are required to have two years of a foreign language to attend a major university. Ms. Paxman would like the Board and Administration to consider offering two years of foreign language to all who request it at North Star so they are able to spend the High School electives on other classes.

Leesa Baldwin: Ms. Baldwin encouraged the Board to consider options that would allow 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> graders to complete their foreign language requirements at North Star.

Rich Jenkins: Mr. Jenkins' son is a 7<sup>th</sup> grader. He is looking to his son's future and wants to enable him to fulfill his High School foreign language requirements now so that he has electives available his senior year to allow him to specialize. Mr. Jenkins echoes Ms. Paxman's request to consider foreign language options. Mr. Jenkins also agreed that Dress Code letters should be sent home by mail.

Claudia Taylor: Ms. Taylor suggested the option of an accredited Middle School teacher teaching Spanish after school. Ms. Taylor also expressed concern over the Drug rehabilitation center that applied for a business license to the North of North Star on 2920 West.

## REPORTS:

❖ Principal Report

- Mark updated the board on the Wellness Policy. The policy is completed. Mark will forward a copy of the policy to the Board of Trustees to review. After the review, the policy will be submitted to the State by Mark.
- The school is doing very well with their efforts to have all teachers and paraprofessionals 100% highly qualified for their assignments. All teachers have confirmed their status on CACTUS. Two ARL teachers will show a percentage of highly qualified this year. Next year, all teachers will show as highly qualified. North Star is now a Praxis testing site. All teacher's assistants will complete the Praxis exam and be highly qualified.
- Mark reported on positions to be filled for the 2007-2008 school year:
  1. Middle School Curriculum Specialist
  2. Two Teacher's Assistants
  3. Reading SpecialistAll new teachers hired for next school year have observed at North Star and taken curriculum materials home to study.
- A Public Meeting will be held Monday May 7<sup>th</sup> at 7p.m. at Bluffdale Elementary School regarding the proposed Rehabilitation Center on 2920 West just North of North Star. The Administration will create and distribute a notice regarding the meeting.
- PTO carnival will be held on May 18<sup>th</sup> to benefit the Starfish Foundation.
- CRTs will be given the week of May 21<sup>st</sup>.

❖ Parent Organization Report (5 minutes)

- CJ reported that some families are consistently volunteering within the school while others have not done so. 68% of North Star families have logged at least some volunteer hours. CJ suggested advertising volunteer opportunities in the newsletter.

- CJ gave an update of activities for the remainder of the school year. The PTO will provide support for the teacher planned field day in June.
- 9<sup>th</sup> grade graduation will be held June 7<sup>th</sup>.
- The PTO purchased "Scooter Boards" to be used for PE and field day as their gift to the school.

❖ Board Report

- Dave reported on the "Board University" workshop attended by the Board of Trustees. From the information gained at the class, Dave suggested the Board of Trustees identify specific goals to work on. They are:
  1. Establish Organization Purpose
    - Produce End Statements.
  2. Commit resources and time on good governance.
    - Discuss good governance issues at board meeting, read governance materials.
  3. Delegate Authority and Ensure Accountability
    - Develop Executive Limitations, Board Limitations and Board Action Policies.

The Board would like to spend more of their time focused on student achievement.

An internal audit of policies, charter accountability and procedures will be conducted to ensure compliance by the end of May. Academica will also be audited on their effectiveness.

Jed will confirm the liability coverage carried on Board Members through Risk Management.

- Dave reported on the Technology Grant. Troy Fernley has been working on the grant. The priorities for the grant money have been set as follows:
  1. Elementary Computer Lab
  2. Typing books and online program
  3. LCD projectors
  4. Professional Development

The grant money may not be used for any infrastructure.

- Wendy reported on Renzulli Learning. The cost for the program is \$5,000 per year. The program will be very beneficial in developing the Schoolwide Enrichment Model. The Renzulli learning representative will be available for faculty training in the fall.
- Pam reported that all available openings for the 2007-2008 school year have been filled by lottery. There are still 1,949 students on the waiting list.
- Trudy reported on the budget. The expenditures for substitute teachers is over, but is compensated for in the fact that several teachers have taken leave without pay because they have maxed out their PTOs. The Teacher Assistant budget is over budget, but is offset in the additional revenue from the Trustland Money.
- Wendy reported on the Middle School Elective Survey results. Less than 25% of middle school students and their parents responded to the survey. The office staff will mail a Spanish specific survey to the homes of all current 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders. The survey will be due by May 15<sup>th</sup>. The results of this survey will determine the need for Spanish classes to meet the requests of middle school students. The Board is earnestly seeking to meet the needs of the middle school students as they transition into High School. Once the survey results are available, options will be discussed to meet the needs of the Middle School students.

❖ Academica Report

- Jed reviewed the situation with the proposed Drug Rehabilitation Center. He encouraged the Board and Administration to attend the public meeting to gather information. Jed will help the Board determine what further action is needed once more information is available.

Adjourn: 8:30 PM