

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
OF  
NORTHSTAR ACADEMIES, INC.  
June 15, 2021**

A meeting of the Governance Board of NorthStar Academies, Inc. was held on Tuesday, June 15, 2021 at 4:30 PM. This Meeting was previously scheduled to be held at NorthStar Academy of Pinellas County, located at 2220 62nd Avenue South, Saint Petersburg, FL 33712. However, in light of Executive Order 20-69 (Emergency Management - Covid 19 – Local Government Public Meetings), dated March 20, 2020, which allows the Governance Board to “utilize communications media technology, such as telephonic and video conferencing,” this meeting will be conducted by the Governance Board via electronic communication and will be live-streamed on Zoom.

The following Board Members were present via Zoom video conference: Board Chairman Mr. Leonard Posey, Ira Paul, Stephanie Sears and Ms. Beth Adelman.

Also present via Zoom video conference were Mr. Thom Jackson, President & CEO, EdisonLearning; Dr. Sherrell Hobbs, SVP Achievement Results and Operations, EdisonLearning; Michelle Schmitt, Senior Controller, EdisonLearning; Jennifer Anglin, Director of Career & Technical Education/Grants, EdisonLearning; Dr. Eunice Casey, Director of Specialized Student Services, EdisonLearning; Marines Alvarez, Human Resources, EdisonLearning; Carly Fuller, EdisonLearning; Jeff Wood, Director, Tripp Scott LLP; Thomas Sternberg, Tripp Scott, LLP; Ralph Arza, Principal Arza and Associates; Luis Sullivan, Assistant to Mr. Ralph Arza; Dan Walke, Principal Chambers High School; Alejandro Madrigal, Principal C.G. Bethel; Dionne Stone, Principal NorthStar Academy of Pinellas; Kerry-Ann Brammer, Principal Andrews High School, Dr. Bellande-Francis Outgoing Principal Palm Beach Preparatory Charter Academy; and Dr. Sharard Walker Incoming Principal, Palm Beach Preparatory Charter Academy.

The meeting was called to order at 4:39 p.m.

A quorum was present.

There was no public input.

The meeting was chaired by Mr. Leonard Posey, the Board Chairman and Dr. Eunice Casey recorded the Minutes. Mrs. Anglin conducted a rollcall and the Chairman noted that all Board Members were present.

The second order of business was approval of the following Consent Items:

- a. Board Meeting Minutes for May 18, 2021
- b. The Evaluation System for School Leaders for Andrews High School and Sunrise High School

- c. The Evaluation System for Instructional Staff for Andrews High School and Sunrise High School

The Board Chair confirmed that there were no questions or comments on any of the Consent Items and the Consent Agenda Items as listed, were approved via a motion to approve by Ms. Adelman and seconded by Ms. Sears.

The next order of Business was Governance Matters as follows:

- a. Ratification of interim actions by the Board Chairman in lieu of Board Meeting
- b. Approval Merger of New Alternative Education High School of Osceola County dba Main Street High School

There were three ratification items as follows:

- Alyssa's Law Security Compliance for NSA Pinellas
- Mental Health Assistance Allocation Plan Form for Andrews High School and Sunrise High School
- FY21 Title I Reimbursement Letter for Palm Beach Preparatory Charter Academy

There being no questions or oppositions with respect to the items ratified by the Board Chair, upon a motion by Mr. Paul and seconded by Ms. Sears the three items ratified, were approved.

The Chairman then requested that the meeting agenda be amended to have Finance as the next matter up for discussion.

## **Finance**

Ms. Schmitt provided the Board with a review of the financials and updates for the following schools:

1. Chambers High School
2. C.G. Bethel High School
3. Sunrise High School
4. Andrews High School
5. Palm Beach Preparatory Charter Academy
6. NorthStar Academy of Pinellas

With no question with respect to the financials, Ms. Schmitt then reviewed the budget for the following schools:

1. Chambers High School
2. C.G. Bethel High School
3. Sunrise High School
4. Andrews High School
5. Palm Beach Preparatory Charter Academy
6. NorthStar Academy of Pinellas

In presenting the budgets, Ms. Schmitt discussed the FTE enrollment funding and staffing for each of the schools as well as the facilities and operational costs. Mr. Jackson also provided the Board with an overview of the aggressive enrollment plan for all of the NorthStar schools. The Chairman raised the question with respect to Pinellas and whether we were out of compliance for any of the financial items. Dr. Casey mentioned that a full report is forthcoming in this meeting when the Corrective Action Plan update is provided. With no further discussions, upon a motion by Mr. Paul and seconded by Ms. Adelman the financial statements and each of the school's budget were approved as presented.

Returning to the second item under Governance Matters: Approval Merger of New Alternative Education High School of Osceola County dba Main Street High School, Mr. Wood informed the board that Main Street had accepted our counter-proposal for one board member, that the funds for Osceola remains in Osceola, and that the motion had passed with a 3 to 1 vote. Mr. Wood stated that because of the positive reaction to our counterproposal, their recommendation is to seek authority from the Board to continue with the drafting of the merger documents and for our board to vote on approval to move forward with the merger.

With respect to the Board Member to be appointed from the Main in Street Board, there were still some clarity that was needed. After a lengthy discussion, Mr. Wood clarified that the Board has some say with regards to which of the recommended Board Member joins the NorthStar Board. With a motion by Mr. Paul and seconded by Ms. Adelman, the Board approved that NorthStar Academy Board invite Mr. Jim McGregor to join the NorthStar Board effective July 1, 2021, pending the final approval of the merger between New Alternative High School of Osceola County dba Main Street High School and North Star Academy.

## **Legislative Update**

Mr. Ralph Arza reported the following:

1. The Governor signed the charter school legislation and one of the highlights is that it allows for colleges to become charter school authorizers instead of going to the school district.
2. There was a State Board of Education Meeting last week in which the Board took a vote on not allowing critical race theory to be taught in the state of Florida.
3. Mr. Aza suggested a visit to Pinellas and Hillsborough County School Districts for some time in August.
4. With regards to Broward, there is currently an Interim Superintendent and they are still looking for a Superintendent. Because there is no clear leadership, it impacts us a little bit. Mr. Arza reported that the CFO also resigned and there appears to be a deteriorating environment in Broward.

## **Personnel Matters**

Ms. Alvarez provided the Board with a personnel report and noted that Dr. Bellande-Frances had resigned along with some other resignations and new hires at some of our other schools. Mr. Jackson then thanked Dr. Bellande-Francis for her service and welcomed Mr. Sharard Walker, to

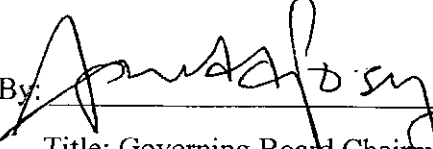
the Board as the incoming Principal at PBPCA. With respect to recruitment, Ms. Alvarez mentioned that HR is working diligently, with all hands on deck to get all opened positions filled expeditiously.

### **School Matters**

Dr. Casey updated the Board on the Corrective Action Plan for NSA Pinellas. With respect to the curriculum and having certified staff in place, HR continues to actively recruit to fill the open instructional positions. In terms of ESE, Dr. Casey reported that an ESE Specialist is in the process of being hired and this candidate will be providing the compensatory services as mentioned in Amy's letter and that all IEPs and 504s are currently up to date. With respect to the financial documents concerns and questions with regards to the year-to-date expenditures, that those are currently being addressed. In terms of the insurance certifications, there was no additional paperwork needed. With reference to the academic annual goals, a DMT was hired and Ms. Stone is currently working on updating attendance and entering students' credits into FOCUS.

Each of the Principal Academic Officers provided the Board with an update on their school and highlighted all of the exciting news happening at their school. The PAOs reported on graduation, summer school enrollment, and projected enrollment for the new school year.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:37pm.

By:   
Title: Governing Board Chairman