

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OF
NORTHSTAR ACADEMIES, INC.
December 21, 2021**

A meeting of the Governing Board of NorthStar Academies, Inc. was held on Tuesday, December 21, 2021 at 4:34 PM. This Meeting was held at C.G. Bethel High School, located at 16150 NE 17th Avenue, North Miami Beach, FL 33162.

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

Also present *via* Zoom video conference were Thom Jackson, President & Chief Executive Officer, EdisonLearning; Dr. Eunice Casey, Director of School Leadership & Support Services, EdisonLearning; Mendi Riggins, Sr. Executive Assistant, EdisonLearning; Michelle Schmitt, Senior Controller, EdisonLearning; Karrie Dunn, Vice President of Human Resources, EdisonLearning; Noya Hastings-Ritchie, Talent and Culture Specialist, EdisonLearning; Susan DeAngelo, Talent Acquisition Specialist, EdisonLearning; Wezinna Gillespie, Total Rewards Manager, EdisonLearning; Thomas Sternberg, Tripp Scott, LLP; Jeff Wood, Tripp Scott, LLP; Tony Arza, Arza and Associates; Dionne Stone, Principal, NorthStar Academy of Pinellas; Dr. Sharard Walker, Principal, Palm Beach Preparatory Charter Academy; Dwayne Stewart, Principal, Main Street High School; Alejandro Madrigal, Principal, C.G. Bethel High School; Marie Curtis, Principal, Sunrise High School; and Kerry-Ann Brammer, Principal, Andrews High School.

The meeting was called to order at 4:34 p.m.

A quorum was present.

There was no public input.

The meeting was chaired by the Board Chairman. Ms. Mendi Riggins recorded the Minutes. Ms. Riggins conducted a roll call. The Chairman noted that Mr. Ira Paul and Ms. Beth Adelman were present.

On a motion by Mr. Paul and a second by Ms. Adelman, the Board unanimously approved the following items on the Consent Agenda:

- Board Meeting Minutes for November 16, 2021
- Ratification of interim actions by the Board Chairman

On a motion by Mr. Paul and a second by Ms. Adelman, the Board unanimously agreed to ratify the following actions by the Board Chairman which were required to be performed prior to the extant Board meeting:

NorthStar Academy of Pinellas County Documents:

- Florida Department of Education Project Application

Palm Beach Preparatory Charter Academy Documents:

- Compliance Confirmation Letter
- FY22 School Hardening Grant Election to Participate Assurance
- November Financial Checklist
- Out of Field Waiver
 1. Akeam Porter
- 2021-2024 American Rescue Plan (ESSER III – Application Modified for Charters)

Sunrise High School Documents:

- Out of Field Waiver
 1. Oral Allen
 2. Irela Spetien
 3. Marlenis Calmell
 4. Ciro Suarez
 5. Sophia Brown
 6. Jean Rya

Governing Board Member, Ms. Stephanie Sears tendered her resignation from the Board on December 6, 2021 to the Governing Board Chair. It was agreed that the Governing Board should be compiled of a group of at least five members from diverse professional backgrounds, with a strong understanding of Charter Schools and the population in which we serve. It is preferred that the incoming Governing Board Members are located in the same Counties as the NorthStar Academy schools.

On a motion by Ms. Adelman and a second by Mr. Paul, the Board unanimously accepted the resignation of Ms. Stephanie Sears.

Mr. Arza provided legislative update. No vote was required.

Mr. Jackson, recommended that the Governing Board Members consider removing the interim status for Mr. Stewart, Principal, Main Street High School; and Ms. Curtis, Principal, Sunrise High School.

On a motion by Mr. Paul and a second by Ms. Adelman, the Board unanimously approved the removal of interim status for Ms. Curtis.

On a motion by Ms. Adelman and a second by Mr. Paul, the Board unanimously approved the removal of interim stats for Mr. Stewart.

Each of the new Principals, Mr. Stewart, Main Street High School; Ms. Stone, NorthStar Academy of Pinellas County; Dr. Walker, Palm Beach Preparatory Charter School and Ms. Curtis, Sunrise High School provided the Board with an update on their school and highlighted their accomplishments

thus far into the school year. The Principals reported on current school enrollment and upcoming school activities.

There was a complaint filed with the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) against the principal of a feeder schools in Palm Beach County. Palm Beach Preparatory Charter Academy was not the subject of the complaint, however the OIG investigator asked to speak with Dr. Walker. After consultation with counsel, Dr. Walker spoke with the investigator, who expressed his satisfaction with Dr. Walker's statement. Dr. Walker reported that he received a second inquiry from the OIG's office with respect to a nepotism complaint that arose during the tenure of this predecessor. Dr. Walker has forwarded the matter to legal counsel.

Dr. Casey provided an update with respect to the corrective action plan for NorthStar Academies of Pinellas County that was submitted to the Pinellas County School District during the 2020-2021 academic year. Dr. Casey also reported EdisonLearning's Human Resources Department is conducting a Title IX investigation as a result of a complaint alleging misconduct and inappropriate language against a staff member at NorthStar Academy of Pinellas County. Dr. Casey noted that the staff member has been placed on paid administrative leave until the conclusion of the investigation.

Ms. Dunn provided the Board with a personnel report with some terminations, resignations and new hires at some of our schools. Ms. Dunn presented the Title IX Procedural Framework.

On a motion by Mr. Paul and a second by Ms. Adelman, the Board unanimously voted to approve the Human Resources Report as presented including the positions that have been hired and resigned as well as the Title IX Procedural Framework.

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

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

On a motion by Mr. Paul and a second by Ms. Adelman, the Board unanimously voted to approve the financials for each of the above schools as presented.

With no further discussions, the meeting was adjourned at 6:40pm on a motion by Ms. Adelman and seconded by Mr. Paul.

By: Leonard Posey
Leonard Posey (Feb 10, 2022 13:17 EST)
Title: Governing Board Chairman