



## Literacy, Leadership, & Personalized Learning

Vision: STRIVE Collegiate Academy will cultivate college- ready high school graduates who will achieve post-secondary success and become leaders in their communities, Nashville, and beyond.

Mission: At STRIVE Collegiate Academy, our mission is to prepare middle school students for success in high school, college, and career. We will achieve this by empowering each student with a literacy-based curriculum aligned across all content areas in a culture that encourages leadership, virtue, and excellence as the foundation for success in all of their endeavors.

### Board Minutes – August 22, 2023

#### **I. Attendance**

- A. Board Members: Scott Emerson (Board Chair), Norma Shirk (Vice Chair), Kris Reliford (Secretary), Jordan Walters (Treasurer), and Yolanda Suttle.
- B. Absent Board Member(s): Sarah Ann Ezzell and Dr. Aikyna Finch
- C. Others Present: LaKendra Butler
- D. Minutes taken by Kris Reliford

#### **II. Proceedings:** Called to order by Scott Emerson at 6:05 p.m.

#### **III. Approval of June's Board Minutes:** Motion for approval made by Jordan Walters and seconded by Norma Shirk. All approved. No objections made.

#### **IV. Approval of August's Agenda:** Motion for approval made by Norma Shirk and seconded by Yolanda Suttle. All approved. No objections made.

#### **V. School Report-Leadership Changes**

- A. Interim Benchmark Assessments for 1st Qtr were done in October and 2<sup>nd</sup> Qtr in February. IA for 3<sup>rd</sup> Qtr is occurring now.
- B. The Goal for each grade is for the Proficient and Advanced score categories and are show in the presentation. New curriculum is more difficult but ELA & Social Studies have exceeded percentage goals and has increased the student's level by putting the work on the student. Math & Science have shown improvement (Advanced is still a bit low but Proficient has increased). Overall increase over last year's scores. New curriculum is working.
- C. The state test is a timed online exam this year. Envision scoring higher on TN Ready this year over last.

#### **VI. School Report-New School Year Challenges**

- A. Goal is to shift the organizational structure of STRIVE by creating a mid-level leader

model. Shift to one director of academics, one director of culture and community, one director of business and operations and a director of continuous improvement, with a mid-level leader and team below each director.

- Director of continuous improvement is a new role. All other roles are clearly defined.
- Most roles have been filled internally. Director of continuous improvement role will be posted May 1<sup>st</sup>.
- B.** Student recruitment has ended. New students are applying now. Currently canvassing and communicating with current families relating to sibling enrollment.
- C.** Nine staff members are transitioning. Eight out of nine are Teach for America. Ninth is transitioning to high school in Franklin. Currently interviewing staff members.

## **VII. School Report-What's Coming Up**

- A.** Upcoming math testing this week
- B.** Volleyball, soccer, and football have started
- C.** Upcoming Events
  - First Fridays (for families)
  - September 9 Open House
  - Upcoming College Visits
  - Book Fair
  - September 21 Strive Thursday
- D.** Staff and Student Recruitment
  - Business Canvassing and community event attendance by Board members and staff

## **VIII. Board Committee Reports**

**The following is historical information provided here for continued emphasis.**

- The committee members are:
  - Academic: Sarah Ann Ezzell (Chair), Dr. Aikyna Finch, and Scott Emerson.
  - Development: Norma Shirk (Chair), Kris Reliford, Yolanda Suttle, and Scott Emerson
  - Finance: Jordan Walters (Chair), & Scott Emerson
  - Governance: Scott Emerson & Aikyna Finch.
- A. Governance Committee**
  - New board members needed. Sergio had to roll off. LaKendra to send list of potential parent board members.
  - Upcoming board training.
- B. Finance/Facility Committee**
  - Vote on New Auditor. Auditor last year was Baker Tilly but no longer contractually bound. Crossland came with most competitive proposal. Motion by Norma Shirk to change auditor to Crossland based on proposed bid/estimate. Seconded by Yolanda Suttle.
  - Ended the year with positive operating income but there was a decrease in BEP/TISA. Adjustment to budget forecast due to lower enrollment. Income loss of \$395,000.

- Enrollment is around 250, need to target 275

**C. Development Committee**

- Goal is raising awareness.
  - First of STRIVE Thursdays set for September 21. Scott put together sample email to send to contacts.
  - Business canvassing – putting up flyers at local business and going to Donelson/Hermitage Chamber events
  - Name tags –\$13 per tag with magnetic backing for board members to use when representing school at various events
- Putting together a list of events for board members to attend:
  - McKendree Village Taste of the Town, September 30
  - Cruise-In Car Show, Old Hickory, October 21
  - Donelson/Hermitage Christmas parade
  - Farmer’s Market table

The meeting was adjourned at 6:57 PM. The next Board meeting is on October 28, 2023 from 8:30 am to 12:00 pm in-person.