



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 – October 28, 2023

I. Attendance

- A. Board Members: Scott Emerson (Board Chair), Norma Shirk (Vice Chair), Jordan Walters (Treasurer), Dr. Aikyna Finch, Sarah Ann Ezzell and Yolanda Suttle
- B. Absent Board Member(s): None
- C. Others Present: LaKendra Butler
- D. Minutes taken by Dr. Aikyna Finch

II. Proceedings: Called to order by Scott Emerson at 8:45 a.m.

III. Approval of August's Board Minutes: Motion for approval made by Dr. Aikyna Finch and seconded by Norma Shirk. All approved. No objections made.

IV. Approval of August's Agenda: Motion for approval made by Sarah Ann Ezzell and seconded by Jordan Walters. All approved. No objections made.

V. Board Changes

- A. Stephanie Huffman was introduced to the board by Norma Shirk. After some questioning and discussion, she was voted onto the board.
- B. Kris Reliford resigned from the board.

VI. Board Committee Reports and Discussions

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), Yolanda Suttle, and Scott Emerson
 - Finance: Jordan Walters (Chair), & Scott Emerson
 - Governance: Scott Emerson & Aikyna Finch.

A. Governance Committee

- Board Officer Elections – It was voted that Scott, Norma, and Jordan will continue their positions of Chair, Vice Chair, and Treasurer. The Secretary position became open after Kris resigned. Aikyna volunteered, and it was voted and approved.
- Board Member Training – Training needed to be complete by December 1st. Three board members needed to complete the training. Stephanie had a year to complete the training.
- School Leader Evaluation Framework – The board was given a list of criteria that the school is measured on. We were to choose criteria to measure LaKendra on for her bonus. Each board member picked their top five, and the governance committee will streamline the list.
- Succession Planning – So far, the succession plans for the school have failed. Each option has fallen through for one reason or the other. The discussion was had that the board needs to have an SOP for the school functions if anything goes wrong.

B. Finance/Facility Committee

- Enrollment Challenge —> Financial Scenario – As of the 2023-24 year, the school has lost 865K in funding due to COVID money and enrollment. The enrollment goal is 400, to date, the enrollment is 243(6th grade=50, 7th grade=96, 8th grade=97). So, the goal is to raise the number of students by 150 to get the additional enrollment funding to make up for the deficit. We also explored the conversation about grants and how to get them.

C. Academic Scores Discussion

- TCAP Scores- STRIVE & McGavock Cluster – In 2022, the school had the highest TCAP Scores in the McGavock Cluster. The school is a Level 5 school

D. Development Committee

- STRIVE Thursday, Nov. 16th – The next event to invite potential donors and board members to learn about Strive. The meeting was at 7am CT ran by the development committee. We also talked about leads to get more people to the event. Norma is the point person for the list.
- Update on Community Events Participation – We participated in two events, which helped us know what was needed and how to prepare for other awareness events.

E. Marketing STRIVE

- Marketing STRIVE - Deep Dive – We discussed what we can do as far as Product, Price, Place, Packaging, Positioning, People, and Promotion for the school. We did a SWOT analysis about what could be done to help in these efforts and
- Family Recruiting & Fundraising – The conversation about the progress of finding a recruiter to handle family recruiting was had. This would help with the enrollment issue and take some pressure off of LeKendra.

F. Executive Director Report

- LeKendra won the 2023 Administrator of the year award. We also discussed her thoughts on the framework criteria that was suggested. We also discussed the marketing efforts to date and what does that look like.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 PM. The next Board meeting is on December 12, 2023 from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm on Zoom.