



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 26, 2024

I. Attendance

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

II. **Proceedings:** Called to order by Scott Emerson at 8:40 a.m.

III. **Approval of August’s Board Minutes:** Motion for approval made by Stephanie Huffman and seconded by Yolanda Suttle. All approved. No objections made.

IV. **Approval of August’s Agenda:** Motion for approval made by Norma Shirk and seconded by Jordan Walters. All approved. No objections made.

V. Board Changes

Diane Quarles-Hartman and Stephanie Sargent were introduced to the board by Scott Emerson. After some questioning and discussion, a motion was made to add them to the board by Jordan Walters and seconded by Norma Shirk. All approved. No objections made.

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. School Report

- Charter Renewal Process for the McGavock Cluster
 - April 1st – Application Submitted – 4 binders
 - October 21st – Capacity Interview
 - Seven people from the MNPS Board
 - Five people from Strive
 - Part 1 was the Presentation, and Part 2 was the Questions
 - The Report comes out on November 21st
 - Dec 3rd or 11th – Vote on the School Charter
 - 5 out of the 9 Board members committed to visiting the school, and one made it so far
- Discussed the MNPS Fall Visit Presentation that happened on Oct 28th

B. Finance Committee

- 270 to 195 students – Net loss of 1.2M
- Up 75K in expenses
- End of Year Cash – 1.5 M
- Target for gifts/donations – 450K already have received 150K
- Discussed FY25 Financial Dashboard – Numbers were from August

C. Governance Committee

- Board Officer Elections
 - It was motioned and seconded that the elections would be done in one vote.
 - It was motioned and seconded that Scott, Norma, Jordan, and Dr. Finch will continue their positions of Chair, Vice Chair, Treasurer, and Secretary
- Board Member Training – Training needed to be completed in 2025. New Members have a year to complete the training.

D. Development Committee

- Topics of Focus for the Committee:
 - Increase Awareness
 - Strive Thursdays
 - Social Posts
 - Corporate Outreach
 - 10th Anniversary Fundraiser (idea)
- Scheduled events
 - Taste of the Town on September 21st in Old Hickory went well – Stephanie H., Norma, and Ticora staffed the table for the event
 - Donaldson and Old Hickory Chamber Taste of the Town will be attended next year
- Strive Thursday is on November 21st, from 7:30am -9am – Send Names and Emails to Scott
- November 13th at 10am is Committee Meeting

E. Recruitment and Corporate Outreach

- Student Recruitment
 - Board Report – The board will receive a quarterly report on the progress of student recruitment
 - Schoolmint – The company is helping with recruitment via Social media ads
 - Postcard Assistance – The board addressed, stamped, and mailed out postcards to assist with recruitment
 - Recruitment Efforts/Ideas
 - Canvassing Neighborhood
 - Canvassing Businesses – Create posters/handbill/flyers to take to Businesses share about Strive and leave the materials
 - Tours – Lakeview Elementary on Oct 30th from 1:45-2:45pm
 - School Mailers to the Neighborhood and Principal Emails
 - Strive Newsletter will be sent Quarterly and will be donor-focused – share emails of people who should get the newsletter
 - Chamber Events
 - Adopt-A-Class
 - Community Events
 - Family Referral Program
 - Recruitment Fair
- Strive Projects
 - Discussed a list of projects that Donors could sponsor
 - Sinks for Classroom
 - Upkeep of Outside
 - Books for Library/ Building out the Library
 - Costly Curriculum

The meeting was adjourned at 11:32 AM. The next Board meeting is on December 17, 2024 from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm on Zoom.