

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF  
NORTHSTAR ACADEMIES, INC.  
September 17, 2024**

A meeting of the Governing Board of NorthStar Academies, Inc. was held on Tuesday, September 17, 2024, at 4:30 PM. This Meeting was held at Palm Beach Preparatory Charter Academy, located at 3525 S. Congress Avenue, Palm Springs, Florida 33461.

The following Governing Board Members appeared virtually via Zoom: Chairperson, Ms. Beth Adelman; Board Secretary and Treasurer, Mr. Ira Paul; Mr. Robert Holland; and Mr. Martin Burkett. Mr. Douglas Shelton was absent from the meeting.

The following guests also appeared via Zoom: Thom Jackson, President & CEO, EdisonLearning; Dr. Eunice Casey, Vice President of Operations, EdisonLearning; Mendi Riggins, Procurement & School Compliance Manager, EdisonLearning; Susan DeAngelo, Talent Acquisition Specialist, EdisonLearning; Jeff Wood, Tripp Scott, LLP; Dr. Tony Arza; Arza and Associates; Dr. Sharard Walker, Vice President of Strategic Growth and Development, NorthStar Academies; Dr. Theola Moore, Principal, Chambers High School; Dr. Dwayne Stewart, Principal, Palm Beach Preparatory Charter Academy; Kerry-Ann Brammer, Principal, Andrews High School; Charmayne Joseph, Principal, Sandra Marie Curtis High School; Alexandra Plaza, Principal, Main Street High School; Alejandro Madrigal, Principal, CG Bethel High School; Michelle Schmitt, Vice President of Finance and Treasurer, EdisonLearning; and Debra Bella, Osceola School District.

The meeting was called to order at 4:54 p.m. The meeting was chaired by the Board Chairperson, Ms. Beth Adelman. Ms. Mendi Riggins recorded the Minutes and conducted a roll call. Following the roll call, Ms. Adelman noted that Messrs. Paul, Holland and Burkett were present, that Mr. Shelton was absent from the meeting, but that a quorum was present.

There were no requests for public comment.

On a motion by Mr. Burkett and seconded by Mr. Holland, the Board unanimously agreed to approve the May Board Meeting Minutes as presented.

On a motion by Mr. Paul and seconded by Mr. Burkett, the Board unanimously agreed to ratify the following actions performed by the Board Chairwoman, prior to the Board meeting.

Andrews High School

- 2024-2025 CAP Grant Opt-In
- Alyssa's Alert Vendor
- 2024-2025 Attachment 5\_SIA Plan Governing Board Certification Form
- ESSA School Improvement Plan
- Safe School Officer
- Safety & Security Requirements
- 2024-2025 Parent/Student Handbook
- Statement of Assurance for Exceptional Student Education
- Out of Field Reports
- Engagement Letter

CG Bethel High School

- Mental Health Opt-In
- 2024-2025 NMBPD MOU
- 2024-2025 Safe School Officer Attestation
- 2024-2025 Assurance Checklist
- Business Processing Letter
- Engagement Letter
- ESSAC Assurance From
- 2024-2025 Fee Schedule
- 2024-2025 Parent/Student Handbook

Chambers High School

- 2024-2025 Assurance Checklist

- 2024-2025 Safe School Officer Attestation
- Fee Schedule
- Engagement Letter
- 2024-2025 Safety & Security Assurance
- Transfer Form
- 2024-2025 Parent/Student Handbook
- Agreement for Charter School Teachers Accepting Out of Field Assignments
- Out of field waivers

#### Main Street High School

- Engagement Letter
- Charter Renewal Agreement
- 2024-2025 Parent/Student Handbook
- 2024-2025 Reading Plan
- Out of field report
- Internet Safety Policy

#### Palm Beach Preparatory Charter Academy Middle School

- CPS Grant Letter
- Principal Appointment Letters
- 2024-2025 Parent/Student Handbook

#### Palm Beach Preparatory Charter Academy

- FY24 Charter Reimbursement Request Letter
- ACH Form FY24
- Principal Appointment Letters
- Request for FY24 UniSIG Reimbursement
- 2024-2025 Parent/Student Handbook
- Out of field waivers

#### Sandra Marie Curtis High School

- CAP Grant Opt-In
- Authorized User Form: Charter Tools
- Alyssa's Alert Vendor
- Safety Security Requirement Attestation Form
- SSO Compliance Form
- Governing Board Acknowledgement \_ESSA SIP
- ESSA School Improvement Plan
- 2024-2025 Attachment 5 \_SIA Plan Governing Board
- 2024-2025 Parent/Student Handbook
- Out of field waivers
- Engagement Letter

#### NorthStar Academies

- Employees Handbook

Board Counsel, Mr. Wood, provided the Board with the results of Board Counsel's investigation of the allegations in the complaint filed by Gabriel Soto with the School District of Palm Beach, dated April 2, 2024. Mr. Wood stated that Ms. Soto was a former employee of Palm Beach Preparatory Charter Academy. He stated that Tripp Scott, as part of its standard investigatory protocols, made several attempts to speak with Ms. Soto with respect to her allegations. Mr. Wood reported that Ms. Soto did not return Tripp Scott's calls or correspondence and remained unresponsive as of the date of the Board meeting. Mr. Wood reported that after a thorough and independent investigation by his team, which included a review of documents and interviews of school staff, including the Principal and Assistant Principal, as well as employees of EdisonLearning, the allegations are unfounded as they were speculative and not backed with supporting evidence. He noted, however, that there were procedural and documentation errors that were brought to the attention of and immediately addressed by school's leadership and EdisonLearning. Mr. Wood stated that a complete copy of the firm's report was delivered to all Board members and EdisonLearning on August 23, 2024. Mr. Jackson confirmed that a copy of the Board Counsel's report has been reviewed and shared with the school's Principal. No vote was required.

Ms. Adelman inquired whether the curriculum for NorthStar Academies included lessons in financial literacy. A discussion ensued with respect to the importance of teaching financial literacy to middle and high school students, and

the consensus of the Board expressed a desire that a financial literacy course be offered to the students of NorthStar Academies. Dr. Casey assured the Board that she already has taken the steps to make a course available *via* eSchoolware.

Dr. Walker provided the Board with an update on the strategic initiatives, the “Rock the Vote” campaign and the Executive Committee’s strategic Planning committee. No vote was required.

Dr. Arza presented the Board with the legislative update. No vote was required.

Dr. Casey provided the Board with the Office of School Operations Report. No vote was required.

Ms. Schmitt provided the Board with a review of the financial reports and updates for the following NorthStar Academies:

1. Andrews High School
2. CG Bethel High School
3. Chambers High School
4. Main Street High School
5. Palm Beach Preparatory Charter Academy
6. Palm Beach Preparatory Charter Academy Middle School
7. Sandra Marie Curtis High School

A complete copy of the financial reports for each school was included in the Board packet distributed for the Board's review prior to the meeting. On a motion by Mr. Holland and seconded by Mr. Burkett, the Board unanimously agreed to approve each of the financial reports as presented for each of the above schools.

Ms. Schmitt provided the Board with a review of the 2023-2024 Final General Budget for Palm Beach Preparatory Charter Academy. On a motion by Mr. Holland and seconded by Mr. Paul, the Board unanimously agreed to approve the 2023-2024 Final General Budget for Palm Beach Preparatory Charter Academy.

Ms. Schmitt provided the Board with a review of the 2023-2024 Referendum Budget for Palm Beach Preparatory Charter Academy. On a motion by Mr. Holland and seconded by Mr. Paul, the Board unanimously agreed to approve the 2023-2024 Referendum Budget for Palm Beach Preparatory Charter Academy.

Ms. Schmitt provided the Board with a review of the 2023-2024 Referendum Budget for CG Bethel High School. On a motion by Mr. Holland and seconded by Mr. Burkett, the Board unanimously agreed to approve the 2023-2024 Referendum Budget for CG Bethel High School.

Ms. Schmitt provided the Board with a review of the 2024-2025 TSIA Plans for the NorthStar Academies:

1. Andrews High School
2. CG Bethel High School
3. Chambers High School
4. Main Street High School
5. Palm Beach Preparatory Charter Academy
6. PBPCA Middle School
7. Sunrise High School

A complete copy of the 2024-2025 TSIA Plan for each school was included in the Board packet, distributed for the Board's review prior to the meeting. On a motion by Mr. Holland and seconded by Mr. Paul, the Board unanimously agreed to accept the 2024-2025 TSIA Plan as presented for each of the above schools.

Ms. DeAngelo provided the Board with the personnel report. On a motion by Mr. Holland and seconded by Mr. Paul, the Board unanimously agreed to accept the Human Resources Report as presented regarding the employment vacancies throughout the NorthStar Academies.

With no further discussions, the meeting was adjourned at 6:27p.m. on a motion by Mr. Holland and seconded by Mr. Paul.

By: Beth Adelman  
Beth Adelman (Oct 17, 2024 15:31 CDT)  
Title: Governing Board Chairwoman