

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF  
NORTHSTAR ACADEMIES, INC.  
January 21, 2025**

A meeting of the Governing Board of NorthStar Academies, Inc. was held on Tuesday, January 21<sup>st</sup>, 2025, at 4:30 PM. This Meeting was held at Main Street High School, located at 1100 N Main St, Kissimmee, FL 34744.

The following Governing Board Members appeared in person: Board Treasurer, Mr. Ira Paul, at Main Street High School.

The following Governing Board Members appeared virtually *via Zoom*: Chairperson, Ms. Beth Adelman; Vice Chair, Mr. Robert Holland; Board Secretary, Mr. Douglas Shelton; and Member, Mr. Martin Burkett.

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

The meeting was called to order at 4:31 p.m. The meeting was chaired by the Board Chairperson, Ms. Beth Adelman. Ms. Nia Bridges recorded the Minutes and Dr. Walker conducted a roll call. Ms. Adelman noted that Mr. Robert Holland, Mr. Ira Paul, Mr. Douglas Shelton, and Mr. Martin Burkett were present. Following the roll call, a quorum was present.

There were no requests for public comment.

Mr. Paul noted a correction for the November Board Meeting Minutes, Sandra Marie Curtis High School was previously referred to as Sunrise High School.

On a motion by Mr. Paul and seconded by Mr. Holland, the Board unanimously agreed to approve the November Board Meeting Minutes as amended by Mr. Paul.

On a motion by Mr. Paul and seconded by Mr. Holland, the Board unanimously agreed to approve the consent items as presented.

Governance Matters was briefly skipped and the Board decided to move on to Dr. Walker who presented the Board with updates from the Office of Strategy, Growth, and Development for the following districts: Miami-Dade and Palm Beach. Discussions are ongoing regarding new developments in Miami-Dade, while research is being conducted to explore potential services in Palm Beach. Additionally, NorthStar Academies will retain its federal grantee status as part of its grant strategy efforts, though the application process for federal grants remains lengthy and time-consuming. Executive strategic planning sessions have been scheduled for January 22-23, 2025, with collaboration involving Dr. Casey and Michelle Schmitt.

In terms of Stakeholder updates Dr. Walker informed the Board that partnerships continue with the Miami-Dade charter office and Palm Beach Alternative Education Department. A board member recommended sending two middle school students to a new middle school as part of this initiative. The Middle School Awareness Council has set event dates for 2025, with planned activities in late spring, June, September, and November. Furthermore, the

team will be attending the COGNIA Conference in Orlando next week. Additionally, collaboration continues with the Dan Marino Foundation to develop a workforce readiness data tool for students. Discussions have also occurred with Palm Beach State College; the next steps focus on establishing an articulation agreement for future collaboration. Lastly, Dr. Walker mentioned how committees on both sides from the college as well as NorthStar and EdisonLearning will join forces to offer college courses for students from Homestead to Kissimmee, providing access to a broad network of faculty and classes from Palm Beach State.

Thomas Sternberg, General Counsel, briefly addressed the board on governance matters. His discussion focused on two lawsuits, though no formal lawsuit has been served – only a notice of intent to sue. A whistleblower complaint was referred to in the previous Board Meeting but not classified as such, and while a notice to sue has been received, no one has formally served. Additionally, the agenda item referring to an OIG Complaint is null and void due to the former employee filing suit.

Mr. Sternberg also mentioned that he's working with Dr. Walker to update board policies, with a proposed workshop for further discussion. The goal is to ensure ample time for review before any vote. Furthermore, Two Ad Valorem tax issues have been raised in Palm Beach and Broward, leading to lawsuits filed to preserve rights under statutory deadlines. He also mentioned that he wanted the board to be fully aware of the two engagement letters signed by Madam Chair and welcomed any individual to call to discuss in further detail.

Additionally, an accommodation lawsuit is in process to resolve tax- related issues in Palm Beach. The landlord must sign off on all agreements, but expectations are that no material tax will be owed by either school.

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

Dr. Casey presented the Board with updates from the Office of School Operations for the following: Project safety, collaborative school evaluation visits, and school leadership evaluations. The meeting began with an update on the Security project, which highlighted the need for upgrades to the camera systems across all NorthStar Academies. The total estimated cost for the entire project is \$357,657, with the individual costs for each school as follows: Andrews - \$58,549, Chambers - \$85,000, Main Street - \$60,000, Palm Beach - \$78,000, Sandra Marie Curtis - \$78,000, and C.G. Bethel - \$78,000. Following the Board Procurement Policy, the Office of School Operations is seeking approval to update each school security system. Funds are available in all schools except Main Street, which has sufficient reserves. It was noted the last camera system update occurred nearly seven years ago, and technology has significantly advanced since then.

On a motion by Mr. Burkett and seconded by Mr. Shelton, the Board unanimously agreed to approve the security upgrades as presented for Andrews High School.

On a motion by Mr. Burkett and seconded by Mr. Holland, the Board unanimously agreed to approve security upgrades as presented for Chambers High School.

On a motion by Mr. Burkett and seconded by Mr. Paul, the Board unanimously agreed to approve security upgrades as presented for Main Street High School.

On a motion by Mr. Burkett and seconded by Mr. Paul, the Board unanimously agreed to approve security upgrades as presented for Palm Beach Preparatory Academy.

On a motion by Mr. Burkett and seconded by Mr. Holland, the Board unanimously agreed to approve security upgrades as presented for Sandra Marie Curtis High School.

On a motion by Mr. Burkett and seconded by Mr. Paul, the Board unanimously agreed to approve security upgrades as presented for C.G. Bethel High School.

A discussion followed regarding the allocation of funds for future security upgrades. There was a suggestion to identify a portion of the budget specifically for these upgrades, which will be included in the February report for further review.

In the School Evaluations section, Dr. Casey discussed the ongoing collaborative school evaluation visits, with

reports expected to be presented at the February board meeting. Additionally, principal evaluations are currently in progress, and midterm evaluations will be discussed in February. The probationary periods for three first-time principals are also to be determined.

Lastly, Dr. Casey provided the Board with the Office of School Operations Report for the following schools:

Andrews High School

- a. Compensation/ Pay for Performance Plan
- b. Response Action Plan (Broward)

On a motion by Mr. Paul and seconded by Mr. Holland, the Board unanimously agreed to approve operational items as presented for Andrews High School.

C.G. Bethel High School

- a. Florida School Recognition Plan Form
- b. Charter School Policies and Procedures Attestation

On a motion by Mr. Holland and seconded by Mr. Paul, the Board unanimously agreed to approve operational items as presented for C.G. Bethel High School.

Palm Beach Preparatory Charter Academy

- a. Out of Field - Waivers

On a motion by Mr. Burkett and seconded by Mr. Paul, the Board unanimously agreed to approve operational items as presented for Palm Beach Preparatory Charter High School.

Main Street Highschool

- a. Out of Field – Waivers

On a motion by Mr. Paul and seconded by Mr. Burkett, the Board unanimously agreed to approve operational items as presented for Main Street High School.

Chambers High School

- a. Miami-Dade County Public Schools Referendum Allocation and Disbursement 2024-2025 FY Certification Affidavit
- b. Charter School Policies and Procedures Attestation

On a motion by Mr. Paul and seconded by Mr. Burkett, the Board unanimously agreed to approve operational items as presented for Chambers High School.

Sandra Marie Curtis High School

- a. Compensation/ Pay for Performance Plan

On a motion by Mr. Burkett and seconded by Mr. Shelton, the Board unanimously agreed to approve operational items as presented for Sandra Marie Curtis High School.

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

1. Andrews High School
2. C.G. 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

On a motion by Mr. Holland and seconded by Mr. Burkett, the Board unanimously agreed to approve the financial reports as presented for Andrews High School.

On a motion by Mr. Holland and seconded by Mr. Burkett, the Board unanimously agreed to approve the financial reports as presented for C.G. Bethel High School.

On a motion by Mr. Holland and seconded by Mr. Burkett, the Board unanimously agreed to approve the financial reports as presented for Main Street High School.

On a motion by Mr. Holland and seconded by Mr. Paul, the Board unanimously agreed to approve the financial reports as presented for Palm Beach Preparatory Charter Academy.

On a motion by Mr. Holland and seconded by Mr. Burkett, the Board unanimously agreed to approve the financial reports as presented for Palm Beach Preparatory Charter Academy Middle School.

On a motion by Mr. Burkett and seconded by Mr. Paul, the Board unanimously agreed to approve the financial reports as presented for 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.

Ms. DeAngelo provided the Board with the personnel report. On a motion by Mr. Burkett 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 5:50p.m. on a motion by Mr. Shelton and seconded by Mr. Burkett.

By: Beth Adelman  
Beth Adelman (Feb 21, 2025 10:33 EST)  
Title: Governing Board Chairwoman