

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS
NORTHSTAR ACADEMIES, INC.
June 17, 2025**

A meeting of the Governing Board of NorthStar Academies, Inc. was held on Tuesday, June 17th, 2025, at 4:30 PM. This meeting was held at Sandra Marie Curtis High School - 424 W Sunrise Blvd Fort Lauderdale, FL 33311.

The following Governing Board Members appeared virtually *via* Zoom: Chairperson, Beth Adelman; Vice Chair, Mr. Robert Holland; Board Treasurer, Mr. Ira Paul; Board Secretary, Doug Shelton; and Martin Burkett

The following guests also appeared *via* Zoom: Thom Jackson, Pres. & CEO, EdisonLearning; Dr. Eunice Casey, Vice President of School Operations, EdisonLearning; Michelle Schmitt, VP of Finance and Treasurer, EdisonLearning; Dr. Sharard Walker, Vice President of Strategic Growth and Development, NorthStar Academies; Nia Bridges, Executive Assistant, EdisonLearning; Susan DeAngelo, Talent Acquisition Specialist, Edison Learning; Maria Rojas, Tripp Scott, LLP; Thomas Sternberg, Tripp Scott, LLP; Dr. Tony Arza, Arza and Associates; George Isaac, Arza and Associates; Dr. Theola Moore, Principal, Chambers High School; Dr. Dwayne Stewart, Principal, Palm Beach Preparatory Charter Academy; Chris Skierski, Principal, Palm Beach Preparatory Charter Academy Middle school; Charmayne Joseph, Principal, Sandra Marie Curtis High School; Alexandra Plaza, Principal, Main Street High School; Alejandro Madrigal, Principal, CG Bethel High School; and Jennie Gil de Lamadrid Rubio, Osceola School District.

The meeting was called to order at 4:37 p.m. The meeting was chaired by the Board Chair, Ms. Beth Adelman. Ms. Nia Bridges recorded the minutes and Dr. Walker conducted roll call. Following the roll call, Ms. Adelman noted that Mr. Doug Shelton, Mr. Ira Paul, Mr. Burkett were present, and Mr. Robert Holland was absent. A quorum was present.

There were no requests for public comment.

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

A legislative update was provided by Dr. Arza, and no vote was required.

General Counsel provided a brief update to the Board on governance matters. The Board was advised that the ad valorem tax issue in Palm Beach County remains ongoing. Additionally, the Board was informed of pending litigation related to a public records request. Counsel, Thomas Sternberg, requested authorization to settle the matter within a specified financial range to minimize further taxpayer expense and avoid the need for a special board meeting. The Board granted this authority, with the understanding that any final settlement would be subject to Board approval via email.

On a motion by Mr. Burkett and seconded by Mr. Paul, the Board unanimously agreed to approve the motion to give authority to council to settle within the range provided, subject to final sign off by the Board Chair.

The Office of Strategy, Growth, and Development provided an update on several key initiatives. Dr. Walker informed the Board that Senate Bill 296 was signed into law and takes effect July 1st. It requires school boards to document strategies if they choose start times outside the mandated schedule. High schools are expected to begin no earlier than 8:30 AM. The Board must decide whether to opt out or proceed with changes. Public hearings and board meetings were suggested to support the decision-making process. Finance and operational teams will assess the impact over the summer. If current start times are maintained, public meetings and town halls will be necessary. Additional guidance from the state is expected soon.

NorthStar is also developing partnerships with colleges and universities to support teacher certification and the use of evidence-based education practices. The goal is to create student teaching internships at local schools and establish a strong teacher pipeline. Institutions under consideration for partnership include Florida Memorial University, the University of Florida, and the University of Central Florida.

Finally, Dr. Walker requested Board approval of NorthStar's mission and vision statements, which were initially shared at the March board retreat. The statements have since been revised based on feedback from board members and senior leadership.

On a motion by Mr. Paul and seconded by Mr. Shelton, the Board unanimously agreed to approve the NSA Mission Statement

On a motion by Mr. Paul and seconded by Mr. Shelton, the Board unanimously agreed to approve the NSA Vision Statement.

Michelle Schmitt presented the Board with a review of the financial reports and provided updates on the proposed 2025–2026 school year budgets 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

On a motion by Mr. Paul and seconded by Mr. Shelton, the Board unanimously agreed to approve the financial reports, and 2025-2026 school year budgets as presented.

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.

Dr. Casey updated the Board on several important topics, including principal appointments and renewals, ELDA summer professional development, and the NSA graduation progress. She recommended transitioning Dr. Moore from probationary to official principal of Chambers High School, and the Board was requested to approve.

On a motion by Mr. Shelton and seconded by Mr. Paul, the Board unanimously agreed to approve that Dr. Moore is the official principal of Chambers High School.

She also requested the renewal of all current principals for the 2025–2026 school year.

On a motion by Mr. Shelton and seconded by Mr. Paul, the Board unanimously agreed to approve the renewal of all current principals for the 2025-2026 school year.

The search for a middle school principal is still ongoing. Resumes are being reviewed, and interviews are in progress, with a candidate expected to be selected in the coming weeks.

ELDA professional development sessions will take place over three weeks starting July 14th, beginning with professional learning community (PLC) leads. Sessions for principals, assistant principals, and Deans of Academics are scheduled for the week of July 21st, followed by all-staff sessions during the week of July 28th. These sessions aim to ensure consistency across schools and set priorities for the upcoming school year, aligning with the achievement framework.

Regarding graduation, approximately 575 students have graduated across all NorthStar schools so far, with more expected after the summer session. Dr. Casey commended the principals for their hard work and dedication. Finally, Board members were invited to attend the all-staff ELDA meeting, which features a new theme each year focused on growth and evolution

Dr. Casey also provided the Board with the School Operations Report for the following schools:

Chambers High School

- a. Miami-Dade County 2024-2025 Charter School Teacher/Administrator Evaluation System Resolution

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

CG Bethel High School

- a. Miami-Dade County 2024-2025 Charter School Teacher/Administrator Evaluation System Resolution

On a motion by Mr. Shelton and seconded by Mr. Burkett, the Board unanimously agreed to approve the operational item as presented for CG Bethel High School.

Main Street High School

- a. Mental Health Allocation Plan 25-26

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

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 5:46 p.m. on a motion by Mr. Holland and seconded by Mr. Shelton.

By: Rob Sparks
Rob Sparks (Oct 3, 2025 11:36:55 EDT)

Title: Governing Board Chair