

**Board of Directors Meeting  
North Metro Flex Academy**

2350 Helen Street  
North St. Paul, MN 55109

June 21st, 2023  
Board Meeting 4:00 PM



# North Metro Flex Academy

## Agenda

*Our mission is to prepare a diverse community of elementary and middle school students to be successful in high school and in their chosen vocation through a flexible, individualized learning experience that develops analytical, compassionate, disciplined and self-directed learners.*

### **Call to Order and Roll Call**

The meeting was called to order at 4:02

- Board Members Present: Dave Isaacson, Kyle Johnson, Mike Leary, Joe Palkowitsch
- Board Members Absent:
- Public Present: Debbie Kranz
- NEO Representative:
- Finance Representative:

### **Approval of the Agenda**

**A motion was made by Dave Isaacson to approve the agenda.**

**Second: Joe Palkowitsch**

Johnson: Aye

Isaacson: Aye

Palkowitsch: Aye

Leary: Aye

**Motion passed.**

### **Conflict of Interest Declaration**

After reading the agenda, do any Board members have any real or perceived conflict of interest with any agenda item?

Johnson: no

Leary: no

Isaacson: no

Palkowitsch: no

### **Public Comment**

## Finance

- ❖ We are pleased to inform everyone that we have received a significant federal funding boost for the month of June and the upcoming fiscal year. During the meeting, the finance representative shared positive news regarding the budget deficit. They mentioned that the \$160,000 shortfall is now behind us, and we are projected to improve our financial position. It was reported that we concluded the year with a general fund balance of 13%, indicating a favorable financial standing.

## Consent Agenda

- Acceptance of May 2023 Board Meeting Minutes
- Acceptance of May 2023 Finance Report

**A motion was made to approve the Consent Agenda by Joe Palkowitsch.**

**Second: Dave Isaacson**

Johnson: Aye

Isaacson: Aye

Palkowitsch: Aye

Leary: Aye

**Motion passed.**

## Board Training Update

- Board Training Priorities based upon Appendix C from the Board Development Plan
- [https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1CgTmoclYeeb5M0WeuK1bNXhfwntoJ8M8QaAH8Xo5Npg/edit?usp=share\\_link](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1CgTmoclYeeb5M0WeuK1bNXhfwntoJ8M8QaAH8Xo5Npg/edit?usp=share_link)
- NEO Module Training Update

## Policy Committee Update

- <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1DQgh3ltQ9Ty3YD85Vd-8g2oEQAQArpV30tKZ8vO4AhQ/edit>
- Education Reimbursement Policy Approval
- ❖ During the meeting, the policy committee convened to develop an educational reimbursement policy. Once the draft policy was completed, it was subsequently forwarded to our lawyer for review. In her response letter to the board, the lawyer expressed her belief that the policy may infringe upon the constitutional prohibition, which mandates that state funds be allocated solely for "public purposes." Dave Isaacson voiced his perspective, finding the lawyer's opinion perplexing as he strongly believes the policy is both ethical and lawful. Mike shared similar sentiments, expressing his own confusion. Furthermore, he acknowledged the importance of considering the legal advice offered by the lawyer in their decision-making process. To gain further clarity on the matter, it was suggested that we reach out to our authorizer NEO and ascertain their stance regarding the policy.

## NEO Points of Business

### School Principal Report

- ❖ During the meeting, Principal Kranz provided an update on the response received from NEO regarding the changes made to our performance framework. She mentioned that despite being informed by NEO that there was sufficient time for implementing the alterations, our proposed changes were ultimately not accepted and presented to the NEO Board of Directors. The representative from NEO explained that the changes were submitted too late to be considered.
- ❖ Debbie raised concerns about the current state of the frameworks, emphasizing their lack of meaningfulness and utility for our school and students. She further noted that the MCA testing results, which are currently under embargo, will not be reflected in our framework until August. It was anticipated that the existing version of the framework may negatively impact our school's score, as the necessary adjustments could not be made in time.
- ❖ Dave Isaacson voiced his frustration with the process of changing the framework, emphasizing that we followed all the appropriate channels. In light of this, it was suggested that we draft a letter to inquire about the reasons behind the rejection of our proposed changes.
- ❖ During the meeting, Dave Isaacson shared a document showcasing the MCA results of schools under our current authorizer. He pointed out that several of those schools are not meeting the expected performance standards when compared to our school.

### Performance Framework

- ❖ Debbie Kranz proposed a change in the method of tracking student progress in reading and math within our framework, suggesting a transition from NWEA to FastBridge. However, it was noted that the decision to transition would be contingent upon obtaining approval from our authorizer. It was highlighted that we should present changes in July.

### Board Calendar Items

#### Old Business

- Kindergarten Start Date

**A motion was made to approve the concept of starting kindergarten earlier by Mike Leary.**

**Second: Joe Palokwitsch**

Johnson: Aye

Isaacson: Aye

Palkowitsch: Aye

Leary: Aye

#### **Motion passed.**

- Results of Board Election
- ❖ This will be looked into and presented at the July meeting. Chelsea Smieja, our operations manager, still needs to get the votes counted. It was mentioned that generally Kyle Knudsen counted the votes for board elections.

- Approve contracts for CKC, CSTMN, Kesa, JMC

**A motion was made by Kyle Johnson to approve the four contracts listed above.**

**Second: Joe Palkowitsch**

Johnson: Aye  
Isaacson: Aye  
Palkowitsch: Aye  
Leary: Aye

**Motion passed.**

- SPED Contracts Renewal -Tammy Pulver, Sharen Lovegren, DAPE

**A motion was made to approve the SPED contracts by Joe Palkowitsch.**

**Second: Mike Leary**

Johnson: Aye  
Isaacson: Aye  
Palkowitsch: Aye  
Leary: Aye

**Motion passed.**

- MACs Membership Consideration
  - ❖ This would cost around \$3000 per year. They keep us up to date with legislative changes with regards to charter schools. It was suggested that if we do join MACs, board members should take advantage of the training provided and opportunities for professional development. It was suggested to add a monthly calendar item to the board agenda about our membership from MACs.

**A motion to approve MACS membership was made by Kyle Johnson.**

**Second: Dave Isaacson**

Johnson: Aye  
Isaacson: Aye  
Palkowitsch: Aye  
Leary: Aye

**Motion passed.**

### **New Business**

- Tech Budget Approval
  - ❖ It was suggested using the line item for the tech budget from last year which was \$24,000. Jesse requested around \$15,000 for the tech budget.

**A motion Joe Palkowitsch to approve a tech budget of \$24,000 was made by Joe Palkowitsch.**

**Second: Dave Isaacson**

Johnson: Aye

Isaacson: Aye

Palkowitsch: Aye

Leary: Aye

**Motion passed**

- Annual Board offsite Update
- ❖ The Annual Board retreat will be held on July 10th at North Metro Flex Academy.

**Adjourn**

**A motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:23 was made by Kyle Johnson.**

**Second: Joe Palkowitsch**

Johnson: Aye

Isaacson: Aye

Palkowitsch: Aye

Leary: Aye

**Motion passed.**

**Next Board Meeting: July 19th, 2023**