



BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
*Wednesday, April 8, 2026*  
New Heights School Room 105  
3:30pm - 5:00pm

MINUTES

I. Opening of Meeting/Call to Order

Board Chair Stephanie Bagwell called the meeting to order at 3:36pm.

A. Attendance

Board of Directors:

Stephanie Bagwell \_\_X\_\_

Angie Bohnert \_\_X\_\_

Ex-Officio

Tom Kearney (Principal/Superintendent)

Sofie Engebretson \_\_X\_\_

Cressida (CJ) Silver \_\_X\_\_

Lindsay Berberich (Bookkeeper)

Rikk Sorenson \_\_X\_\_

Visitors:

Sarah Schlake

B. Welcome Guests/Visitors

Board Chair Stephanie Bagwell welcomed those present.

II. Review of Agenda and Minutes (action)

A. Review Agenda and Conflict of Interest

The agenda was reviewed with no changes recommended. A roll call was completed to see if anyone had a conflict of interest with the Agenda items. Votes are as follows: Stephanie- no, Sofie- No, Rikk- No, Angie- no, CJ- No.

B. Approval of the [March 11, 2026 Minutes](#)

On a motion by Angie, seconded by Rikk, with no discussion and all present voting yes, motion passed to approve the Board of Directors' minutes from March 11, 2026.

III. Financial Report (action)

A. Financial Review

Lindsay presented and answered questions on the March 2026 Check Register Report (available on the Board of Directors shared drive). February ended with check number 20631. March begins with check number 20632, ends with check number 20655.

On a motion by Angie, seconded by CJ, with no discussion and all present voting yes, motion passed to approve the March Check Register as presented.

IV. Old Business (action)

A. Authorizer Goal Review

Goal 1: FastBridge Reading

Goal 2: MCA Reading

Goal 3: MCA Math

Goal 4: MCA Science

Goal 5: Graduation

MCA testing in progress. Graduation rate is looking good. Career stuff happening in advisory, and secondary career week is next week.

B. [2025-26 Board Goals](#) Review

Goal 1: Fundraising

Goal 2: Policy Manual

Goal 3: Crisis Management

Goal 4: Develop plan to purchase building

Goal 1: Angie and Steph met and developed lists. Focusing on community fundraising vs. only relying on our families. Working on another fundraiser this year (Pizza Ranch)

Goal 2: Ongoing. Going well, especially compared to other schools.

Goal 3: Person came to do digital building mapping for free through a grant Plans are up to date with correct phone numbers, contact people, etc. Next step is to meet with local police department to review plans. Crisis management policy was reviewed in October and updated. A new camera was added to the outside.

Goal 4: Agreement finalized with municipal advisor. Weekly and monthly meetings with updates on progress.

## V. New Business (information/action)

### A. Posting for Board Member Vacancy (Secretary)

1. Voting Procedures
2. Voting Dates
3. Vote Counter
4. Publications/Mailings

*Secretary's term (Angie's term) is ending. She will be running again.*

*Google form to be sent. Voting dates 5/6- 12pm on 5/13. Lindsay will be vote counter. Posted on website, in office, and notice sent via email.*

### B. Authorizer Update

*Due to the imminent closing of The Guild, a new authorizer is needed. We need to have a board resolution to seek separation from the current authorizer (The Minnesota Guild of Charter Schools), so that we can seek a new authorizer (MOChA- Minnesota Office of Charter Authorizing). MOChA met with us, and seemed to be a good fit. IQS would also be another option.*

*On a motion by Angie, seconded by CJ, with no discussion and all present voting yes, motion passed to approve the intent to transfer from The Guild and to pursue an authorizer contract with MOChA.*

*On a motion by Angie, seconded by Steph, with no discussion and all present voting yes, motion passed to approve pursuing an authorizer contract with IQS in the event that a contract with MOChA is unsuccessful.*

*On a motion by Angie, seconded by Rikk, with no discussion and all present voting yes, motion passed to approve the empowerment of the Board Chair, Steph Bagwell, to sign a mutual separation letter with The Guild, once it is available.*

### C. Administrator Review

*Steph gave a summary of the Administrator Review: Tom does all the building things (boiler, sidewalks, etc); had surgery and had a solid plan in place before his absence; working with the authorizers; current on educational news and research; strong connection with students and families. Met expectations on all items.*

*On a motion by Steph, seconded by Rikk, with no discussion and all present voting yes, motion passed to approve the Administrator Review.*

## VI. Policy Review (action)

### A. Policy Revisions for Approval

1. [#410/410.1: Family and Medical Leave/Employee Leave Accrual, Accumulation, and Use](#) - Rikk  
*Rikk led a discussion on this policy and recommended changes to 410 based on MSBA model policy, which is updated due to new state laws, regarding removing "12 Week Leave Under State Law" section.  
On a motion by Rikk, seconded by Angie, with no discussion and all present voting yes, motion passed to approve Policy #410/410.1 as presented.*
2. [#514: Bullying Prohibition](#) - Rikk (tabled from March)  
*Rikk led a discussion on this policy and recommended no changes.  
On a motion by Rikk, seconded by CJ, with no discussion and all present voting yes, motion passed to approve Policy #514 as presented.*
3. [#609: Religion](#) - Sofie

*Sofie led a discussion on this policy and recommended changes, including changing the title to "Religion and Religious and Cultural Observances" and making minor grammatical corrections.*

*On a motion by Sofie, seconded by Steph, with no discussion and all present voting yes, motion passed to approve Policy #609 as presented.*

4. [#206: Public Participation & Complaints in Board Meetings](#) - Angie

*Angie led a discussion on this policy and recommended no changes.*

*On a motion by Angie, seconded by Steph, with no discussion and all present voting yes, motion passed to approve Policy #206 as presented.*

5. [#534: Unpaid Meal Charges](#) - Angie

*Angie led a discussion on this policy and recommended changes, including changing the name to "School Meal Policy."*

*On a motion by Angie, seconded by Rikk with no discussion and all present voting yes, motion passed to approve Policy #534 as presented.*

B. Assign Policies for May:

1. [#210.1: Conflict of Interest- Charter School Board Members](#) - CJ

2. [#304: School Director Evaluation](#) - Rikk

## VII. Administrator's Report

*Tom Kearney gave a report on the state of the school, including the following:*

- *106 total enrollments this year- lots of interest: some are good fits, some are not.*
- *ADM: 94.23 - The reasons students left are not directly related to programming offered at NHS.*
- *Attendance: 91.4%... addressed in the newsletter repeatedly. Majority have great attendance, a handful have terrible.*
- *Discipline Referrals: 40 total.*
- *Staffing: Not much turnover expected- maybe 3 people will be leaving, but the hiring in the state isn't looking good due to many districts having budget deficits. Working on covering maternity leave for Steph.*
- *Building acquisition in progress: Banks are submitting offers. The best offer we currently have is a simple, 28-year bank loan. The annual payment would save us approximately \$40k per year. Still getting offers.*
- *Authorizer Update: We don't think we should have a problem getting a new contract.*
- *Option of doing a pilot program next year to help develop a leadership succession plan. Not to tell us, but to facilitate and guide conversations. They provided an outline/steps of what they do. Board members to review it. We will ask them to present to us at June board meeting since Steph will be gone in May.*

## VIII. Receive Donations

*Lots of donations for the dance! Decorations, snacks, etc.*

## IX. Other

*None*

## X. Set Agenda for Next Meeting (May)

- *Review Agenda and Minutes*
- *Financial Review*
- *Authorizer Goal Review*
- *Board Goals Review*
- *Board Member Election Results*
- *Designation of Depository*
- *Policy Reviews: #210, 304*
- *Assign Policies for June: None*
- *Administrator's Report*
- *Receive Donations*
- *Other*
- *Set Agenda for next meeting*

**XI. Adjournment**

*On a motion by CJ, seconded by Rikk, the meeting was adjourned at 4:48pm.*

**Next Meeting:**

*The next Board of Directors Meeting will be on Wednesday, May 13, at 3:30pm in Room 105.*

**Mission: To inspire and challenge each individual to reach his or her full potential.**

If you cannot attend the meeting, please call Angie Bohnert, (651) 439-1962 [abohnert@newheightsschool.org](mailto:abohnert@newheightsschool.org)