



BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
Wednesday, May 13, 2026
New Heights School Room 105
3:30pm - 5:00pm

MINUTES

I. Opening of Meeting/Call to Order

Vice Board Chair Rikk Sorenson called the meeting to order at 3:35pm.

A. Attendance

Board of Directors:

Stephanie Bagwell __A__

Angie Bohnert __X__

Sofie Engebretson __X__

Cressida (CJ) Silver __X__

Rikk Sorenson __X__

Ex-Officio

Tom Kearney (Principal/Superintendent)

Lindsay Berberich (Bookkeeper)

Visitors:

Sean Elder

B. Welcome Guests/Visitors

Vice Board Chair Rikk Sorenson 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- Absent, Sofie- No, Rikk- No, Angie- no, CJ- No.

B. Approval of the [April 8, 2026 Minutes](#)

On a motion by Angie, seconded by CJ, with no discussion and all present voting yes, motion passed to approve the Board of Directors' minutes from April 8, 2026.

III. Financial Report (action)

A. Financial Review

Lindsay presented and answered questions on the April 2026 Check Register Report (available on the Board of Directors shared drive). April begins with check number 20656, ends with check number 20685.

On a motion by Sofie, seconded by Rikk, with no discussion and all present voting yes, motion passed to approve the April Check Register as presented.

B. FY27 Budget Draft

Draft in process. Reviewed compensatory revenue chart; the state of MN has not put out funding formula yet.

Discussed things that impact budget- staffing, enrollment, utilities, etc. Likely will have a special meeting to review the budget, then it will be voted on in June.

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

FastBridge and MCA testing complete. Graduation rate is looking good.

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.

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. Presentation today regarding securing financing.

V. **New Business (information/action)**

A. 10Square Presentation: ABC Building Company Financing

Sean presented information regarding the building purchase process so far. Explored various financing options, including different bonds and loans. Presented two financing options- one through 22Beacon and one through First State Bank and Trust. 22Beacon financing would save us approximately \$40k next year vs. leasing. Could close end of June/early July. 22Beacon offers 6.25% interest, with a 28-year fixed-rate financing. FSBT offers only a 5-year term. Reviewed other pros and cons of financing with either company and answered questions from board members (limits of fund deposits, sources of funding, refinancing options, requirements with the city, etc).

10Square recommends financing with 22Beacon.

Angie made a motion to approve moving forward with financing through 22Beacon, with the subject to credit approval, seconded by CJ; with no further discussion and all present voting yes, motion passed.

B. Designation of Depository

The First State Bank and Trust in Bayport is our current depository site and was suggested to remain the same.

Angie made a motion to designate the First State Bank and Trust located at 950 North Highway 95, Bayport, Minnesota, as our depository site; CJ seconded the motion; no further discussion held. Motion carried.

C. Board Election Results

Lindsay presented the results of Board Election for the vacant positions. The result was Angie Bohnert and Rikk Sorenson as the winners.

VI. **Policy Review (action)**

A. Policy Revisions for Approval

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

CJ led a discussion on this policy and recommended changes based on MSBA redlines.

On a motion by CJ, seconded by Angie, with no discussion and all present voting yes, motion passed to approve Policy #210.1 as presented.

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

Rikk led a discussion on this policy and recommended no changes.

On a motion by Rikk, seconded by Sofie, with no discussion and all present voting yes, motion passed to approve Policy #304 as presented.

B. Assign Policies for June: [#721](#) Grant Guidance / [#730](#) Purchasing and Procurement - Sofie

VII. **Administrator's Report**

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

- *108 total enrollments this year- lots of interest: some are good fits, some are not. The reasons students left are not directly related to programming offered at NHS.*

- *Attendance: 91.71%... addressed in the newsletter repeatedly. Majority have great attendance, a handful have terrible.*
- *Discipline Referrals: 51 total. No major standout students.*
- *Staffing: More turnover than expected, elementary staff changes. Steph will be on maternity leave until the end of the first quarter.*
- *Building acquisition in progress: Hoping to have it completed before the beginning of the next school year. The annual payment would save us approximately \$40k per year.*
- *Authorizer Update: We don't think we should have a problem getting a new contract. Met with a new authorizer, they are willing to move forward with us.*
- *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

\$1000 from Bayport Legion for Valleyfair

\$1000 from Meranda Olson for school dance

Lots of families were thanked for dance donations!

Vice Chair Rikk thanked everyone for those donations!

IX. Other

None

X. Set Agenda for Next Meeting (June)

- *Review Agenda and Minutes*
- *Financial Review*
- *FY27 Budget Approval*
- *Authorizer Goal Review*
- *Board Goals Review*
- *Q-Comp Annual Report*
- *Staffing Updates*
- *Board Member Roles and Responsibilities*
- *2026-27 Board Meeting Schedule*
- *Growing Edge Facilitation Presentation*
- *Policy Reviews: #721/#730*
- *Assign Policies for July: #555 - Cell Phone Policy*
- *Administrator's Report*
- *Receive Donations*
- *Other*
- *Set Agenda for next meeting*

XI. Adjournment

On a motion by CJ, seconded by Sofie, the meeting was adjourned at 4:56pm.

Next Meeting:

The next regularly scheduled Board of Directors Meeting will be on Wednesday, June 10, at 9am in Room 105.

Special Meeting to review draft budget: 5/27 @9:30am

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