



BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
Wednesday, March 11, 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 [February 11, 2026 Minutes](#)

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

III. Financial Report (action)

A. Financial Review

Lindsay presented and answered questions on the February 2026 Check Register Report (available on the Board of Directors shared drive). January ended with check number 20607. February begins with check number 20608, ends with check number 20631.

On a motion by Angie, seconded by CJ, with no discussion and all present voting yes, motion passed to approve the February 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

Winter FastBridge testing in progress. Graduation rate is looking good. Career stuff happening in advisory, career week in April.

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, waiting for edits. 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. Approve calendar for 26-27 School Year/FY 27

Reviewed proposed calendar. Discussed secondary conferences- not being scheduled, will be at request during a 2 week period. Some days that Stillwater has as staff days we are doing no school to better fit our needs.

On a motion by Steph, seconded by Rikk, with no discussion and all present voting yes, motion passed to approve the [26-27 School Year Calendar](#).

VI. Policy Review (action)

A. Policy Revisions for Approval

1. [#507: Corporal Punishment](#) - Sofie

Sofie led a discussion on this policy and recommended changes based on MSBA changes. Changes included adding a definition section, renaming of sections, and explanation of reasonable force. Statutes and policies added to references.

On a motion by Sofie, seconded by Angie, with no discussion and all present voting yes, motion passed to approve Policy #507 as presented.

2. [#509: Application and Enrollment Policy](#) - Angie

Angie led a discussion on this policy and recommended additions of information regarding continued enrollment (unless records requested, formal withdraw, etc), no distribution of goods or services for enrollment, and dissemination of information.

On a motion by Angie, seconded by Steph, with no discussion and all present voting yes, motion passed to approve Policy #509 as presented.

3. [#514: Bullying Prohibition](#) - Rikk

This policy will be reviewed at the next meeting.

B. Assign Policies for April:

1. [#410/410.1: Family and Medical Leave/Employee Leave Accrual, Accumulation, and Use](#) - Rikk

2. [#609: Religion](#) - Sofie

3. [#206: Public Participation & Complaints in Board Meetings](#) - Angie

4. [#534: Unpaid Meal Charges](#) - Angie

5. [#514: Bullying Prohibition](#) - Rikk (tabled from March)

VII. Administrator's Report

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

- *105 total enrollments this year- lots of interest: some are good fits, some are not.*
- *ADM: 94.5. -1 net loss for enrollments vs. drops. The reasons students left are not directly related to programming offered at NHS.*
- *Attendance: 91.15%... addressed in the newsletter. Majority have great attendance, a handful have terrible.*
- *Discipline Referrals: 35 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. One lady expressed possible interest in covering maternity leave for Steph.*
- *Building acquisition in progress: Affiliated Building Company (ABC) board members appointed last month. Purchase agreement signed. 10Squared is officially soliciting lenders.*

- *Our Authorizer (The Guild) is closing. They are suggesting that we find a new authorizer, while some of their other schools are closing. Looking at 2 other Authorizers; we should be attractive to them because we are more of an asset than a liability (partly due to longevity). We have until June 30, 2027 to secure a new authorizer.*
 - *They identified our lack of segregation of duties as an area of concern (which we know because we are a small school). In order to get a new authorizer, we need to create more separation. We legally can't have a "material weakness" in our audit; we don't have one, we have a "significant deficiency."*
 - *Going to do more at the board meeting to review check registers/accounts.*
 - *Anna Ochs will take on responsibilities in area of finance/accounting because she has a 15+ year banking history. These things will help create separation.*
- *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.*

VIII. Receive Donations

None

IX. Other

None

X. Set Agenda for Next Meeting (April)

- *Review Agenda and Minutes*
- *Financial Review*
- *Authorizer Goal Review*
- *Board Goals Review*
- *Board Member Vacancies*
- *Policy Reviews: #410/410.1, 609, 206, 514*
- *Assign Policies for May: #304, 210*
- *Administrator's Report*
- *Receive Donations*
- *Other*
- *Set Agenda for next meeting*

XI. Adjournment

On a motion by CJ, seconded by Angie, the meeting was adjourned at 4:26pm.

Next Meeting:

The next Board of Directors Meeting will be on Wednesday, April 8, 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