

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
OF  
NORTHSTAR ACADEMIES, INC.  
April 15, 2025**

A meeting of the Governing Board of NorthStar Academies, Inc. was held on Tuesday, April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2025, at 4:30 PM. This meeting was held at Chambers High School- 698 Homestead Blvd, Homestead, FL 33030.

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

The following guests also appeared *via* Zoom: Thom Jackson, Pres. & CEO, EdisonLearning; Dr. Eunice Casey, Vice President of School Operations, EdisonLearning; Michelle Schmitt, Vice President of Finance and Treasury, EdisonLearning; Dr. Sharard Walker, Vice President of Strategic Growth and Development, NorthStar Academies; Nia Bridges, Executive Assistant, EdisonLearning; Thomas Sternberg, Tripp Scott, LLP; Jeff Wood, Tripp Scott, LLP; Dr. Tony Arza, Arza and Associates; Dr. Theola Moore, Principal, Chambers High School; Dr. Dwayne Stewart, Principal, Palm Beach Preparatory Charter Academy; Kerry-Ann Brammer, Principal, Andrews High 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 4:32 p.m. The meeting was chaired by the Board Vice Chair, Mr. Robert Holland. Ms. Nia Bridges recorded the Minutes and conducted a call. Following the roll call, Ms. Adelman noted that Mr. Doug Shelton, Mr. Ira Paul, and Mr. Robert Holland, were present and Mr. Martin Burkett was absent from the meeting. A quorum was present.

There were no requests for public comment.

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

General Counsel briefly addressed the Board on governance matters, focusing on annual Board officer elections, Board policies, the formation of an investment committee, and a litigation update. Following Mr. Sternberg's report, the Board proceeded to reaffirm its officer positions for the upcoming year.

- On a motion by Mr. Holland and seconded by Mr. Paul, the Board unanimously agreed to nominate Ms. Adelman to be reappointed as Board Chair.
- On a motion by Mr. Shelton and seconded by Mr. Paul, the Board unanimously agreed to nominate Mr. Holland to be reappointed as Vice Chair.
- On a motion by Mr. Holland and seconded by Mr. Shelton, the Board unanimously agreed to nominate Mr. Paul to be reappointed as Treasurer.
- On a motion by Mr. Holland and seconded by Mr. Paul, the Board unanimously agreed to nominate Mr. Shelton to be reappointed as Secretary.

The Board also reviewed its NSA Governing Board calendar for the 2025–2026 school year and reaffirmed its meeting schedule.

On a motion by Mr. Holland and seconded by Mr. Shelton, the Board unanimously agreed to approve the 2025-2026 NSA Governing Board Meeting Calendar.

Board members were reminded of their obligation to complete the annual Conflict of Interest Statement, confirming adherence to the organization’s Conflict of Interest Policy. If approved, the acknowledgment would require each member to comply with these provisions, including the avoidance of self-dealing and the disclosure of any potential voting conflicts.

On a motion by Mr. Holland and seconded by Mr. Shelton, the Board unanimously approved the Conflict of Interest Acknowledgment.

An update was provided on the Board Governance Policy Manual. Dr. Walker, Dr. Casey, Maria Rojas, and members of General Counsel have worked collaboratively to update and refine Board policies. A question was raised regarding the absence of arbitration in the grievance process. It was noted that arbitration is not standard for student grievances, and that employee grievances already follow a mediation process before reaching the Board, with legal action still available if necessary.

On a motion by Mr. Holland and seconded by Mr. Shelton, the Board unanimously approved the adoption of the proposed Board Policies.

The Board also discussed the formation of an Investment Committee, which was introduced at the recent Board retreat.

On a motion by Mr. Holland and seconded by Mr. Shelton, the Board unanimously approved the formal creation of the Investment Committee.

The Board confirmed that if more than one Board member participates, the meetings must be publicly noticed in compliance with the Sunshine Law. The following individuals were appointed to the committee: Dr. Casey, Dr. Walker, Michelle Schmitt, Mr. Shelton, Mr. Burkett, and Ira Paul.

On a motion by Mr. Holland and seconded by Mr. Shelton, the Board unanimously approved the investment committee members.

Lastly, a litigation update was provided. The ad valorem tax exemption case in Broward County was successfully settled, reinstating the full exemption. The Palm Beach case remains ongoing, but the Broward outcome creates a favorable precedent for resolution.

The Office of Strategy, Growth, and Development shared an update on the North Star Strategic Plan, which is expected to be presented for Board approval at the June meeting. The plan focuses on ensuring high-quality education, financial stability, and the future direction of the organization. Additionally, North Star has been asked to submit data to the Florida Charter School Alliance on its Career and Technical Education (CTE) program, including student performance and completion rates.

An update was also provided on Project Heal – Palm Beach. This initiative aligns with North Star Academy’s mission to provide holistic, trauma-informed education and support. The program is designed to serve 500 individuals (400 students and 100 parents/caregivers) across nine service

areas and two geographic regions. Services will include mental health support, academic enrichment, workforce readiness, and wellness services. With \$3 million in annual funding over the next three years, implementation is set to begin in January 2026 following an October startup phase. If awarded both grants, the program could generate \$6 million in annual revenue, create 50 new jobs, and significantly increase the number of families served. North Star has been invited to in-person interviews for both the Broward and Palm Beach grants, with final decisions expected in June.

Ms. Schmitt provided the Board with a review of the financial reports and updates 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

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. On a motion by Mr. Holland and seconded by Mr. Paul the Board unanimously agreed to approve each of the financial reports as presented for each of the above schools.

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

C.G. Bethel High School

- a. 2023-2024 SY Charter School Youth Mental Health Awareness Training Attestation Form

On a motion by Mr. Holland and seconded by Mr. Paul, the Board unanimously agreed to approve operational item as presented for C.G. Bethel High School.

Palm Beach Preparatory Charter Academy

- a. UniSig Reimbursement
- b. FY25 Title I Reimbursement

On a motion by Mr. Holland and seconded by Mr. Paul, the Board unanimously agreed to approve operational items as presented for Palm Beach Preparatory Charter Academy.

Sandra Marie Curtis High School

- a. Charter School SY25 Certification of Youth Mental Health

On a motion by Mr. Holland and seconded by Mr. Paul, the Board unanimously agreed to approve operational item as presented for Sandra Marie Curtis High School.

Dr. Casey also shared updates on safety, security, and charter renewals for Andrews and Sandra Marie Curtis High School. The district is upgrading camera systems across all schools, with installations completed at Andrews, Sandra Marie Curtis, Palm Beach, and Main Street. CG Bethel is scheduled for installation next Monday, and Chambers will follow in May.

At PBPCA, a Behavioral Threat Management Team visit took place. A new BTA chair has been appointed, and Dr. Stewart confirmed that two trained alternates are now in place. Two compliant BTA meetings were held with participation from law enforcement, the mental health team, and Palm Beach's head of threat management.

Several schools recently underwent state SAFE visits. At Andrews, the April 10 visit noted a delay in staff BTA training; Ms. Brammer has since implemented a system to prevent future delays. Palm Beach is now holding BTA meetings in compliance. Main Street's February visit revealed a door lock issue—now resolved—and missing law enforcement at one drill, which Ms. Plaza has addressed through a new system. CG Bethel had no findings from its October visit. Sandra Marie Curtis and Chambers have not yet been visited, but internal audits have been completed.

Regarding charter renewals, Andrews submitted its intent to renew on April 10. A required informational session is scheduled for May 7, with attendance required from the principal and Board Chair. For Sandra Marie Curtis, the charter agreement has been signed and submitted for Broward School Board approval and is included on the May 20 meeting agenda.

Dr. Casey also noted that Chambers High School underwent a district review on April 8. The review raised concerns about student engagement, instructional quality, and support for students with IEPs. An action plan was initiated on April 9 to address these issues, with a follow-up report expected in June.

The following principals provided the Board with school reports:

- Ms. Plaza – Main Street High School
- Dr. Stewart in place of Mr. Skierski – PBPCA Middle School
- Ms. Joseph – SMC
- Dr. Moore – Chambers (Comprehensive District Review)

Ms. DeAngelo provided the Board with the personnel report. On a motion by Mr. Holland and seconded by Mr. Paul, the Board unanimously agreed to accept the Human Resources Report as presented regarding the employment vacancies throughout NorthStar Academies.

With no further discussions, the meeting was adjourned at 6:39 p.m. on a motion by Mr. Paul and seconded by Mr. Shelton.

By: Beth Adelman  
Beth Adelman (May 21, 2025 13:02 EDT)  
Title: Governing Board Chairwoman