

The Trustees in attendance: Rick Rieder, Ezdehar Abuhatab, Nicole Bearce, Ann Borowiec, Steve Creekmur, Lawrence Evans, Trisha Scipio, Scott Sleyster and Jamey Verrilli.

Also present: Julie Jackson, Jennifer Da Silva, Maya Roth- Bisignano, Timeese Townes-Pratt, Mike Mann, John Powell, Kelly Dowling, Julianna Worrell and Onome Ufinomue.

The meeting was called to order at 6:04 p.m. by Mr. Evans who noted that the meeting had been duly publicized, as required by law, in *The Star-Ledger* and *The Americano* with updated address information posted on the North Star Academy website.

A motion was made by Mr. Evans and seconded by Mr. Sleyster to approve the board members:

- *1.3 Appointment of Board Members for a Two- Year Term*
- *1.4 Appointment of Parent Board Members for a One-Year Term*

The trustees voted unanimously in approval.

A motion was made by Mr. Verrilli and seconded by Mr. Evans to approve the board members:

- *1.5 Resolution to Appoint Student Representative to the Board*

The trustees voted unanimously in approval.

Ms. Borowiec moved to approve the following minutes. Ms. Scipio seconded the motion:

- Approval of 6/18/25 Public Session Minutes
- Approval of 6/18/25 Executive Session Minutes

The trustees voted unanimously in approval.

Ms. Da Silva opened the meeting on a celebratory note with a highlight reel from the Class of 2025 Signing Day. She reported that North Star Academy closed the year with 291 graduates who earned a combined \$9.8 million in scholarships and grants, received 2,066 college acceptances, and included 1 Posse Scholar, 2 Cooperman Scholars, and 11 QuestBridge Scholars.

She introduced new student representative Onome Ufinomue and Regional Superintendent of Instruction Kelly Dowling to the board.

Mrs. Worrell provided an overview of North Star's PK-12 ambition: to operate the nation's highest-performing schools, close the college completion gap, create pathways to economic mobility at scale, and extend the network's impact nationally and globally. She noted that Uncommon Schools has now reached 6,133 alumni.

To illustrate North Star's holistic support model, she shared the story of Faith Kipyegon's goal to run a sub-4-minute mile, and played a video of Shatavia Knight describing how North Star, its college counselors, and community clarified and supported her path to college.

Mrs. Worrell described the professional development sequence used to scale that impact: leaders' Summer PD, an all-staff retreat, and continued peer-to-peer regional PD by grade and content area.

She highlighted a successful school launch and noted that the U.S. News & World Report ranked North Star Academy the #1 charter school in Newark.

Ms. Worrell updated the board on the 2025 state exam results. Key outcomes include North Star Academy remaining the network's top performer and outperforming district and state averages in both ELA and Math. Across grades 3–8, NSA exceeded state averages by 13 points in ELA and 9 points in Math. Elementary schools are projected to meet or exceed New Jersey's non-economically disadvantaged (NED) subgroup in ELA and Math. Middle schools are projected to meet or exceed the NED subgroup in ELA and surpassed the NJ statewide average in Math.

She highlighted several bright spots: elementary math made significant gains and is projected to match the state's NED performance; 100% of West Side Park Middle School students passed the Algebra I exam; and 4th- and 6th-grade cohorts showed double-digit ELA growth. NSA also maintained proficiency levels during the transition from elementary to middle school. Ms. Worrell attributed these successes to a culture of high expectations for adults, families, and students; strong mission alignment and belief in college readiness; high-quality instructional leadership from principals; and efficient operational systems that maximize learning time.

Data trends for grades 3–8 include:

- ELA (Gr 3–8): Improvement and strong outperforming of state averages (NSA ~67% in 2025 vs. NJ ~54%).
- ELA (Gr 3–4): +6 points; projected to exceed NJ's highest-performing subgroups.
- ELA (Gr 5–8): Small decline (-1 point) but still favorable versus statewide averages.
- Math (Gr 3–8): Held steady and remains above the statewide average.
- Math (Gr 3–4): +6 points; above statewide average.
- Math (Gr 5–8): Declined by -3 points but still outperformed the NJ statewide average.

Ms. Worrell identified two main drivers of the middle school math decline: expanded Algebra I enrollment (which lowered year-over-year measured performance) and declines at Clinton Hill Middle School tied to teacher departures and insufficient math leadership.

To address gaps, she outlined the following actions:

- Increase math professional development for leaders, coaches, and teachers.
- Add 90 minutes per week of math intervention.
- Conduct quarterly content instructional walkthroughs and develop school action plans to close gaps.

She concluded by asking the board if they had any questions. There were no questions.

Mr. Rieder asked for a motion to go into executive session. A motion was made to move to an executive session by Ms. Borowiec and seconded by Mr. Evans. The trustees voted unanimously to adjourn at 6:50 pm to discuss legal matters, personnel and real estate.

At the end of the executive session, a motion was made by Mr. Sleyster and then seconded by Ms. Scipio to return to the public session. The trustees voted unanimously to return to the public session at 7:04 pm.

Ms. Da Silva opened the floor to public comments. There were no public comments.

Ms. Da Silva then presented the following Personnel items to the board for approval:

- *2.1 NSA Personnel Report*

A motion was made by Ms. Scipio and seconded by Ms. Borowiec to approve the personnel items. The trustees voted unanimously to approve.

Ms. Da Silva then presented the following Finance and Facilities items to the board for approval:

- *3.1 Resolution to Approve FY26- Initial Salary*
- *3.2 Resolutions to Approve IDEA Application*
- *3.3 Resolution to Approve ESSA Application-FY26*
- *3.4 Resolution to Approve FY25- Final Salary*
- *3.5 Resolution to Approve June, July, August Financial Reports*

A motion was made by Ms. Scipio and seconded by Mr. Evans to approve the finance and facilities items. The trustees voted unanimously to approve the financial resolutions.

Ms. Da Silva shared Administrative Resolutions for board approval.

- *4.1- 4.2 Resolutions to Approve Out of District Placement Contracts*
- *4.3 CRW 25-26 Out of District Contract*
- *4.4 Resolution to Authorize 2025 Charter Renewal Expansion Submission-Enrollment*
- *4.5 Resolution for Additional Address Approval*
- *4.6 HIB Report*

A motion was made by Mr. Verrilli and seconded by Ms. Scipio to approve the administrative items. The trustees voted unanimously to approve the administrative resolutions.

A motion was made by Mr. Evans and seconded by Ms. Borowiec to uphold the recommendations of the Student Hearing Committee.

A motion was made to adjourn by Mr. Verrilli and seconded by Ms. Scipio to adjourn the board of trustees meeting. The trustees voted unanimously to adjourn at 7:12p.m.

THE NEXT BOARD MEETING will be held at 18 Washington Pl. on December 2nd, 2025.