

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

Also present: Jennifer Da Silva, Maya Roth- Bisignano, Timeese Townes-Pratt, Julie Jackson, Mike Mann, David Silber, Amethyst Charette, Alex Mateo, Giovanni Smith, Jessica Rosado, and Eri Akinpelu

The meeting was called to order at 6:04 p.m. by Mr. Rieder 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

Mr. Verrilli moved to approve the following minutes. Mr. Bellur seconded the motion:

- Approval of 5/18/26 Public Session Minutes
- Approval of 5/18/26 Executive Session Minutes

The trustees voted unanimously in approval.

Ms. Da Silva opened the meeting by celebrating Senior Signing Day and sharing highlights from the Class of 2026's college enrollment results. She reported that 99% of seniors were accepted to college and that students submitted applications to 256 colleges and universities, five technical schools, and two branches of the military. Seniors received a total of 2,378 college acceptances, representing an increase of more than 100 acceptances compared to the previous year. She also shared that more than 60 students will attend college through the Educational Opportunity Fund (EOF) Program.

Ms. Da Silva further highlighted the affordability outcomes achieved by the Class of 2026. She reported that more than 30 students earned no-loan financial aid packages, placing them on a path to graduate debt-free. Seventy students enrolled in college without borrowing loans during their first year, and nearly 130 students had 100% of their demonstrated financial need met through financial aid packages. She also shared that, on average, enrolled seniors will pay approximately \$5,800 out of pocket toward their college education.

Ms. Da Silva noted that the Class of 2026 earned more than \$6.4 million in scholarships and grants. She also celebrated several prestigious scholarship awards, including eight QuestBridge Scholarships and one Posse Scholarship. Additionally, she shared that the graduating class achieved several historic college matriculations, including Lincoln Park High School's first enrollments at Bucknell University, Bates College, and Rice University, and Washington Park High School's first enrollments at Hofstra University, Towson University, and Bard College. Ms. Da Silva concluded the celebration by recognizing that 130 seniors have completed the full K-12 North Star Academy journey.

After showing the board a Senior Signing Day recap video, Ms. Da Silva introduced Amethyst Charette, Alumni Success Coach at Washington Park High School, to provide an update on Alumni Success programming.

Ms. Charette began by reviewing the current state of alumni support at North Star Academy and presented updated six-year college persistence and graduation data. She explained that the College Access and Success team is focused on several key priorities, including strengthening student purpose and voice, improving college application and admissions outcomes, supporting alumni persistence through college, re-enrolling former students when appropriate, and developing a scalable alumni support strategy aligned to the organization's long-term goals.

Ms. Charette then discussed the Access to Success handoff process, which supports graduating seniors as they transition to college. She explained that Alumni Success Coaches meet with seniors individually and in groups to determine the level of support students may need during the summer and throughout their transition to higher education. She reported that 364 seniors across Lincoln Park and Washington Park High Schools participated in transition meetings this year.

The board also learned about financial support programs available to alumni. Ms. Charette described the network's microgrant and persistence grant initiatives, which provide assistance for expenses such as textbooks, course materials, access codes, technology, and financial holds that could prevent students from remaining enrolled in college. She reported that the organization exceeded its microgrant participation targets in both the fall and spring semesters and provided persistence grants to students facing significant financial barriers.

Ms. Charette shared several key learnings from the team's work with alumni and reviewed current alumni support initiatives designed to help students persist through college and successfully complete their degrees. She also presented findings from the 2025–26 Alumni Early Career Outcomes Analysis, highlighting the impact of college major selection and institutional fit on long-term outcomes for graduates.

The board also heard about North Star Academy's continued efforts to expand artificial intelligence literacy programming and the organization's belief that college completion remains a critical milestone in advancing economic mobility and career opportunities for students and families.

Ms. Charette then highlighted several alumni success stories, featuring recent graduates who are pursuing studies at institutions including Yale University, the University of Pennsylvania, North Carolina A&T State University, Delaware State University, Rutgers University-New Brunswick, and The College of New Jersey. She shared how these alumni are leveraging their college experiences to pursue careers in fields such as cognitive science, nursing, psychology, sociology, and finance.

The board then heard reflections from several North Star Academy alumni, including Erioluwa Akinpelu, Jessica Rosado, Alex Mateo, and Giovanni Smith. The alumni discussed their college experiences, personal growth, academic pursuits, and the impact of North Star Academy's college access and success programming on their educational journeys.

Ms. Charette concluded the presentation by answering questions from board members. Trustees expressed appreciation for the continued success of North Star Academy graduates and the comprehensive support systems in place to help students persist through college and achieve degree attainment.

Mr. Rieder asked for a motion to go into executive session. A motion was made to move to an executive session by Ms. Scipio and seconded by Mr. Evans. The trustees voted unanimously to adjourn at 6:53 pm to discuss legal matters, personnel and real estate.

At the end of the executive session, a motion was made by Ms. Scipio and then seconded by Mr. Verrilli to return to the public session. The trustees voted unanimously to return to the public session at 6:59 pm.

Ms. Da Silva opened the floor to public comments. There weren't any members of the public in attendance.

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

- *2.1 NSA Personnel Report*

A motion was made by Mr. Verrilli and seconded by Mr. Sleyster 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 Approval of Elementary & Secondary Education Act (ESEA) Budget Amendment*
- *3.2 Resolution for Member Participation in COOP*
- *3.3 Resolution for FY26-27 NSA Final Budget*
- *3.4 Resolution for FY26-27 NSA Max Travel Budget*
- *3.5 Approval of April Financial Reports*
- *3.6 Approval of May Financial Reports*

A motion was made by Mr. Sleyster and seconded by Mr. Verilli to approve the financial resolution. The trustees voted unanimously to approve.

Ms. Da Silva then presented the following Administrative Resolutions for board approval:

- *4.1 Approval of SY 26_27 Handbook Changes Summary*
- *4.2 Chronic Absenteeism Correction Action Plan*
- *4.3 Out-of-District Placement Contract*
- *4.4 Preliminary Resolution to Execute Contract Bid No. CNP 2026*
- *4.5 HIB Report*
- *4.6 Amending Bylaws*
- *4.7 New Trustee*

A motion was made by Mr. Evans and seconded by Mr. Sleyster to approve the administrative resolutions. The trustees voted unanimously to approve.

A motion was made by Mr. Evans and seconded by Ms. Scipio to adjourn the meeting. The trustees voted unanimously to adjourn. The trustees voted unanimously to adjourn at 7:04p.m.

This was the last board meeting for the 25- 26 school year.