



Governance Board Newsletter

January 2024

Happy New Year! This is an exciting year for Stargate as we anticipate our **30th anniversary celebration** this fall! We are also wrapping up our charter renewal process with the district, and we are happy to report that the District Accountability Committee will be recommending a **five-year renewal** to the district board. We again thank all those who have been involved in positively representing Stargate in the site visits, reports, and presentations. Our Executive Directors will be presenting to the Adams 12 Board of Education during their public meeting on Wednesday, January 17th, and the Board of Education will announce the renewal decision on Wednesday, February 7th. If you would like to participate in public comment at either of these meetings, information is provided on their [meeting calendar](#).

Thank you to those who completed the **mission and vision** survey and volunteered for the focus group. The Social Research Lab (SRL) from the University of Northern Colorado conducted the survey and compiled the results. They also conducted our recent work session, where we engaged in focus group discussions about the strengths and weaknesses of the mission and vision statements. SRL will be sharing a comprehensive analysis of the quantitative and qualitative data next month, after which the board will determine next steps. To learn more about mission and vision statements for charter schools, please see the Board 101 section of this newsletter.

SRL will also be conducting the annual **parent and staff surveys** this year. We value your feedback and hope you will make time to participate. The surveys will be open January 22nd through February 4th. Please watch for an email from the Social Research Lab/Qualtrics with the survey link on Monday, January 22nd.

Please join us for our **next business meeting**, February 28th at 6:00 pm in the secondary future center. We will receive updates from our Executive Directors, conduct the annual board self-evaluation, consider policy revisions, approve the 2024-2025 school calendar, discuss results received from SRL, review progress on the Reimagine recommendations, discuss our third-party bylaw and policy review, and receive a KPI update from the School Accountability Committee.

If you would like more information regarding our decisions beyond what is included in this newsletter, please reach out via governance@stargateschool.org.

Lisa Hosfelt
Stargate Board President
On behalf of the Stargate Governance Board

Recognitions:

- Third grade teachers for planning and hosting a successful Economics Fair
- Executive Directors, principals, Maggie Anderson, and Danielle Fox for all their work on the charter renewal
- Lindsey Paquette for working with SRL to initiate the mission and vision evaluation process
- Brandon Holter for his work on ICAP/ALP combination within Naviance
- Community members who participated in the mission and vision survey and focus group feedback process
- Maintenance staff for having everything working and the building ready to go when classes started
- Each teacher who returned from break to welcome our students back to school

Please [email us](#) if there is someone you would like us to publicly acknowledge.

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Operations Report

- Ms. Whitney presented the revised 2023-2024 budget for approval.
 - Final enrollment numbers were lower than anticipated, but increases in investment income helped to offset the lower-than-anticipated per-pupil revenues
 - Adjustments were made to classified wages to align with the district's recently increased salary schedule, bringing all Stargate staff to district compensation levels
- Mr. Granger, Executive Director of Operations and Finance, was unable to attend the meeting, but provided written updates on facilities, safety and operations:
 - Facilities staff is working on a list of improvements to be included in the potential Adams 12 bond issue
 - The vegetarian lunch survey was conducted in December, and discussions with My Kids' Lunch regarding potential changes are in process

- The full operations report will be available with the meeting [minutes](#) after they are approved at our next business meeting.

Academics Report

- Dr. Greene, Executive Director of Academics, provided updates on academics:
 - The admissions team has received over 900 applications for K-11 admissions
 - Professional development plans for January and February include noted speakers:
 - Kim Beville presented in January on neuro-science and research specific to gifted and neuro-divergent brains
 - Matt Zaresky will present in February on classroom strategies to support differentiated SEL for gifted students
 - Marsha Tate will present in February on differentiation through project-based learning
 - Drs. Rundquist and Greene are working on potential updates to the Instructional Materials Policy
 - A student task force group is being formed and will meet at the end of the month
- The full academics report will be available with the meeting [minutes](#) after they are approved at our next business meeting.

Committee Reports

The Recruiting Committee reported that a staff member is interested in filling the SAC vacancy.

Policy Updates

The Board approved a second reading of updates to [Revised Policy 2.4 Reserve Strategy](#).

Board Approvals

- Revised 2023-2024 Budget
- 2023-2024 Appropriation Resolution
- 2023-2024 Fund Balance Resolution
- Second reading of Revised Policy 2.4 Reserve Strategy
- Annual meeting notice designation
 - All meetings of the Governance Board will be included on the school calendar at least 24 hours prior to the start of a meeting; an agenda for the meeting will be posted on the school's website in the same timeframe.
- Annual allocation of \$40,000 from fundraising funds to the Fundraising Allocation Committee for distribution to approved requests for funds

Board Discussions

- Strategic Plan Development
 - Discussed mission and vision work session and next steps
- Reimagine recommendations
 - Reported progress toward goals and strategies
- Bylaw revisions
 - Two board members will review the initial changes with legal counsel later this month and report back in February
- Board self-evaluation
 - Discussed this year's process, which will include a survey provided by Board OnTrack

Board 101

VISION AND MISSION

From Colorado League of Charter Schools Training Module 1: Board Roles and Responsibilities

One of the first and most important roles of the board is to establish a vision and mission for the organization. The vision states how the charter school will look once it is operating (the big picture view). The mission states how the school intends to make that vision a reality. An easy way to understand the difference between the vision and mission is that the mission focuses on the school's present state and day-to-day fundamentals of the school, while the vision focuses on the school's future.

The vision and mission statements should be succinct, easy to understand, and easy to remember and define your school for potential students, parents and staff. It is important for these statements to be clear and straightforward so that they can easily be implemented over the life of the charter school.

The vision statement:

- Concisely articulates what the board envisions for the school and its long-term impact for the future 5-10 years.
- The vision statement expresses the ideal, long-term impact, scope and scale of the school. It articulates what the school hopes to be, but not how the school will reach that vision.
- The vision should focus on essentials, be research based, and provide guidance to the board and administration as the school grows.
- The vision statement is focused on the future. It concisely and succinctly defines what the school looks like when it is "all grown up."

The mission statement:

- Concisely expresses clear, focused and compelling purposes and priorities that will guide school implementation and operations. It is not a motto or marketing slogan, but rather should include elements that are meaningful, measurable, and attainable and explain how the school will reach its vision.
- Focuses on high quality educational outcomes that are the driving force and rationale behind all other components of the application.
- The mission statement should address the fundamental questions of “what do we want students to learn,” “what are the key programmatic elements that will get us to that end,” and “how will we know students have learned it.” It defines what skills, knowledge, and competencies a student who graduates from the school will possess, and provides the entire community with a clear picture of what the school aims to achieve.

A strong vision and mission are essential as strategic planning, implementation, and operation of the school all take direction from these statements, bringing them to fruition through everyday practice and decision making. Revisiting the vision and mission statements as a board on a scheduled basis is important to ensuring continued clarity of direction for all involved with the school.

Upcoming Board Events

Business Meetings:

February 28, 6:00 pm in the Secondary Future Center

March 13, 7:00 pm in the Secondary Future Center

Board Training Session:

February 7, 6:00 pm

Adams 12 Board of Education [Meetings](#) (related to charter renewal):

January 17, 7:00 pm at the Educational Support Center, Aspen room

February 7, 7:00 pm at the Educational Support Center, Aspen room

Helpful Links

[Board Dashboard \(includes minutes, agendas, and recent newsletters\)](#)

[Important Board Documents \(includes Reimagine report and Stakeholder Presentation\)](#)

[Meeting Calendar](#)

[Community Compact](#)

[Past Board Communication](#)

[Communication Pathways](#)

[Current Strategic Plan and Data Dashboard](#)

[School Calendar \(for meeting link\)](#)

[Stargate School Social Media Page](#)