



## Governance Board Newsletter

### March 26, 2024

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Congratulations to Officer Couture, the administration, staff, and students for achieving **Safe2Tell's Gold Star Status!** Stargate is the first school to receive this award in the state of Colorado. We had a wonderful ceremony last week with Colorado Attorney General Phil Weiser, representatives from Thornton police and the Adams 12 Board of Education, the Safe2Tell team, and some staff and students. Thanks to all those who work so hard to promote a culture of safety at our school.

Thank you to everyone who completed the parent and staff surveys. Congratulations to the **winners of the survey drawing** for a \$50 Amazon gift card - Katie Baczurik (staff) and Deb Palmer (parent)!

As members of a charter school community, it is important that we remain updated on [legislation](#) that may affect our operations. [House Bill 1363](#) has been introduced and sent to the House Education Committee. We encourage you to actively follow the progress of this bill and take action that you feel is necessary, as it has several implications for charter schools across the state.

Our spring **election** for two Parent Director positions on the Governance Board is fast-approaching. Nomination information will be sent via email on April 8th. We are also seeking nominations for [Independent Directors](#). If you know of individuals who may be interested - who are not parent/guardians nor employed by the school - please share the [Independent Director Candidate application form](#).

We currently have one active member of the [Recruiting Committee](#) (the Board liaison), and two long-term members of the [Election Committee](#) will soon be retiring and are looking to train their replacements. Both committees mostly operate only seasonally, have well-defined processes and routines in place, and offer valuable experiences that contribute to the success of our community. Volunteers play a critical role in our community. Please contact [recruiting@stargateschool.org](mailto:recruiting@stargateschool.org) to express your interest in either of these committees or other volunteer opportunities.

Mark your calendars for our annual **State of the School** presentation on April 10th at 6:00 pm in the Secondary Commons. Join Board members for a **Meet and Greet** immediately prior at 5:30 pm to ask questions about becoming a Board member or about our proposed bylaw amendments. Our State of the School presentation will include: staff and volunteer awards; updates from school leadership, student council, and school committees; snapshots of finances, parent survey findings, and Reimagine report progress; and mission/vision evaluation updates. We will conclude with an overview of the **proposed bylaw amendments**. As some sections of the bylaws require a majority vote of stakeholders with 30% participation in an election, we encourage you to become informed and provide feedback where possible. We will have an updated draft of the amendments made available on our [governance site](#) before the meeting.

Our **April business meeting** will immediately follow the State of the School. We will receive updates from our Executive Directors; discuss results from Social Research Lab and potential proposals for updated mission and vision statements; review progress on the Reimagine recommendations; review proposed amendments for the bylaws (including a first reading of amendments requiring board approval); review the Admissions Policy; and discuss our organizational chart.

We have many reasons to celebrate at Stargate! Please visit our [Student Showcase](#) page to learn about some featured successes.

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

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

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## Recognitions:

- Officer Couture for creating a culture of safety and being a recognized leader in Colorado for his efforts to promote Safe2Tell in our community
- Mr. Ryan, Mr. Love, Mr. Sievers, and Mr. Sanchez for working to clear the campus of major snow on March 14th, not knowing school would be closed the following day
- The After Prom Committee for all their hard work to ensure students have a fun and safe place to celebrate after prom
- Ms. Wolfer and Ms. Francis for managing elementary staffing changes
- Dr. Greene and Ms. Roach for their work in ensuring students are safe
- The high school boys' and girls' basketball coaches for their success on and off the court, especially for creating a strong sense of family among the athletes
- Danielle Fox and Lisa Hosfelt for all their work on the bylaws
- Nick Hofer for receiving the Colorado Athletic Director's Association scholarship
- The Knowledge Bowl Team for winning the 3A State Championship
- Jacob Green and Cynthia Liu for advancing to the next round of the North American Computational Linguistics Open Competition. Jacob tied for first place in the world with a perfect score
- Gabbie Umekubo for earning honorable mention in the district art show, and Jerry Lou for finishing first place
- The Brawling Bananas and Mile High Mechanics robotics teams for advancing to the world championship
- The high school and middle school Science Olympiad teams, led by Mrs. McVeigh and Mrs. Myers, for earning several honors
- The high school boys' basketball team for advancing to the sweet sixteen in the state tournament
- The HOSA Future Professionals team for earning top awards and having 27 members qualify for nationals

- James Waldron for taking first place in the regional history and geography bees and qualifying for the national and international competitions

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

## In this Newsletter:

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## Operations Report

- Mr. Granger, Executive Director of Operations and Finance, presented updates:
  - A pilot program for vegetarian lunch options will be launched in when we return from Spring Break
  - The Sick/PTO Leave policy was updated to better align with new legislation
  - The website data migration is complete. Work on the new site will continue, with an anticipated launch at the end of the school year
  - A new sound system will be installed in the secondary gym during spring break
  - An improved radio channel plan for staff will be implemented in April
- 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:
  - Interviews are being held for open positions in both the elementary and secondary buildings, including a middle school principal
  - Secondary teachers are exploring expanding differentiation by providing both honors and traditional options for some courses
  - March professional development focused on assessment training, safety, and grade-level meetings

- Dr. Cynthia Rundquist, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, shared an update of the math curriculum selection process:
  - Three committees reviewed nine K-8 math curricula
  - The selection has been narrowed to four options which will be reviewed by all committee members
  - Feedback will be provided on how to improve the selection process going forward
- The full academics report will be available with the meeting [minutes](#) after they are approved at our next business meeting

## Committee Reports

The School Accountability Committee presented a summary of the report on the parent survey provided by Social Research Lab. As this is a new process, direct comparisons to last year's data have not yet been prepared, but will be made available at the State of the School for deeper analysis.

The Recruiting Committee has prepared forms, documents, and communications for the upcoming Parent Director nomination process. The Independent Director description and nomination form will be shared on Volunteer Match and the Colorado League of Charter Schools.

## Policy Updates

The Board approved a second reading of revised policy [1.10 Board Orientation](#).

## Board Approvals

- Revised [2024-2025 school calendar](#)
  - Parent/teacher conferences were moved from the first week of October to the second week due to a scheduling conflict
- Revised 2023-2024 Staff Handbook
  - Updated Sick/PTO Leave policy to better align with new legislation
- Revised Annual Meeting Notice Designation
  - To include the agenda being posted on the main doors of the secondary building in case of emergency when posting on the website is not possible

## Board Discussions

- Mission Vision Update
  - Potential modifications will be reviewed with administration
  - A community survey is planned later this spring to solicit feedback on potential revisions
- Reimagine Updates
  - Reviewed portraits of board members and parents

- Bylaw Revisions Updates
  - Discussed proposed amendments that will be presented at the State of the School
  - Two board members will continue to work with Carleen Clark on suggested changes identified at the work session
- Open Meeting Law Review
  - Annual recap of necessary procedures
- Volunteerism
  - Shared ideas for inviting volunteerism
- Legislative Updates
  - Discussed implications of HB 1363
- Charter Contract Update
  - Carleen Clark and the district's legal counsel have provided initial revisions

## Board 101

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

### **Individual Board Member Responsibilities**

- Attend all board meetings, committee meetings, and required school functions, including special events. (This generally averages out to approximately 8-10 hours per month.)
- Be informed about the school's vision and mission, services, policies, and programs
- Review agenda and supporting materials prior to board and committee meetings
- Serve on committees or task forces and offer to take on special assignments
- Consider a personal financial contribution to the school in an amount that is personally meaningful
- Inform others about the school...be an ambassador!
- Suggest possible nominees to the board who can make significant contributions to the work of the board and the school
- Keep up-to-date on developments in education and charter school issues
- Follow conflict of interest and confidentiality policies
- Openly disclose perceived or actual conflicts of interest
- Refrain from making any direct requests of the staff
- Assist the board in carrying out its fiduciary responsibilities, such as reviewing financial statements for the school

### **Personal Characteristics that Make for Healthy Board Dynamics**

- Ability to listen
- Ability to analyze
- Ability to think clearly and creatively
- Ability to work well with people individually and in a group
- Willing to prepare for and attend board and committee meetings
- Willing to ask questions
- Willing to take responsibility and follow through on a given assignment
- Willing to contribute personal and/or financial resources in a generous way according to circumstances

- Willing to open doors in the community
- Willing to evaluate oneself
- Develop certain skills if you do not already possess them, such as to: cultivate and solicit funds, cultivate and recruit board members and other volunteers, read and understand financial statements, learn more about the substantive program area of the school
- Possess: honesty, sensitivity to and tolerance of differing views, a friendly, responsive, and patient approach, community-building skills, personal integrity, a developed sense of values, concern for your school's development, and a sense of humor

## Upcoming Board Events

### **State of the School, April 10th:**

5:30-6:00 pm Meet and Greet with Board Members

6:00 pm Presentation, including staff and volunteer awards

### **Business Meetings:**

April 10th, 7:00 pm in the Secondary Commons

May 8th, 6:00 pm in the Secondary Future Center

### **Coffee Chat (Board members may be in attendance):**

April 12th, 8:30 am

### **Governance Board Parent Director Nominations**

April 8th - 22nd

### **Governance Board and Bylaw Amendment Voting**

May 2nd - May 16th

## 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](#)