



Governance Board Newsletter

April 2024

Thank you to all who attended our annual **State of the School!** We enjoyed honoring recipients of the staff and volunteer awards, and hearing updates from our committees, student council, and leadership. We also reviewed survey and financial data, as well as provided updates on goals. The presentation is available on [our board page](#).

Nominations for **Parent Director** positions on the Governance Board are open! 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](#).

Voting for our annual election will be May 2nd through May 16th. We hope you'll join us to meet the candidates at our **Candidate Forum** on April 30th at 7:00 pm. Along with two Parent Directors, our proposed Bylaw amendments will also be on the ballot. For these amendments to pass, we need at least 30% of community members to vote, and 67% to vote in favor of the proposed amendments. Please review [the proposed Bylaws and summary documents](#) to become informed on the changes and reasoning behind them. Please also look for forthcoming communication with additional rationale for two of the changes.

Volunteers play a critical role in our community. We are still seeking members to join our [Recruiting Committee](#), and [Election Committee](#). 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 school. Please contact recruiting@stargateschool.org to learn more.

We had previously informed you about [House Bill 1363](#) that was introduced this legislative session and had several implications for charter schools. The House Education Committee reviewed it on April 11th, and it has been postponed indefinitely. Thank you to all those who expressed their opinions to legislators or supported the cause in other ways.

Please join us for our **next business meeting on May 8th**. We will receive updates from our Executive Directors; review survey results from the proposed mission and vision statements; review progress on the Reimagine recommendations; conduct a second reading of proposed amendments to the Bylaws and Articles; review the Admissions Policy and Instructional Materials Policy; and discuss our organizational chart.

Thank you to teachers and students for all their efforts during the ongoing assessments! We wish our students the best of luck!

Lisa Hosfelt

Recognitions:

- All those who helped with the State of the School:
 - Aaron Duong, Student Body President, for his presentation about high school student activities
 - Stacy Tempas and Lindsey Sims for their updates on all that the school committees have accomplished this school year
 - Jenn Roach and Maggie Anderson for facilitating the staff award nominations
 - Maggie Anderson for helping with refreshments
 - Danielle Fox for creating the staff award certificates, acknowledging all staff members who were nominated, and putting together the award gifts
 - Lindsey Paquette for her hours spent preparing for and orchestrating the entire evening
 - Doug Ryan and his team for setting up
 - Others who contributed to the presentation slides
- Dr. Rundquist for her work on the math curriculum evaluation process
- Ms. Krill, Mrs. Nerz, and the high school student council for achieving the National Council of Excellence Gold Student Council recognition
- Mr. VP and Mr. Holter for hosting running club again
- The After Prom committee for their work to host an exciting event students are looking forward to
- Lumakar Challa and Therese Morin, SAC members, for all their work on the parent surveys
- Apryl Sweat for her continued dedication to and leadership of the Stargate Foundation
- Lisa Hosfelt for her work on the proposed Bylaws revisions
- Lindsey Paquette for working with Social Research Lab on parent and staff surveys

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

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Operations Report

- Mr. Granger, Executive Director of Operations and Finance, presented updates:
 - A new sound system has been installed in the field house
 - 15 new radios were added, and radios have been reprogrammed to facilitate improved communications
 - A pilot program for vegetarian options has been launched
 - Hiring for open positions for the 2024-2025 school year is ongoing
 - The 30th Anniversary Committee will meet this month to begin planning. The high school graphic design students will work on designing a logo and other creative elements
 - CommUnity U will begin this month with classes on April 16th and 30th
- 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:
 - An interest form has been sent to teachers for feedback on the Instructional Materials Policy
 - Administrators are evaluating the Naglieri General Abilities Test (NGAT) for potential use in our admissions process and identification of gifted students
 - The curriculum committee continues their work on the math curriculum selection process
 - High School social studies department is evaluating the adoption of a social studies curriculum or text book
 - Interest forms have been sent to staff for an AI committee, as well as staff-designed induction and mentoring programs
 - Staff recommendations and feedback are being utilized to plan next year's professional development
- The full academics report will be available with the meeting [minutes](#) after they are approved at our next business meeting

Committee Reports

The Election and Recruiting Committees are preparing for the May Board election. Nomination forms are available for both [Parent](#) and [Independent](#) Directors. Ongoing communications are planned to promote participation.

Policy Updates

Several policies have been sent to legal counsel for outside review and potential updates.

Board Approvals

- First reading of proposed amendments to the Articles of Incorporation
 - Second reading will take place at the May business meeting
- First reading of proposed amendments to the Amended and Restated Bylaws
 - These amendments are for sections needing Board approval only
 - Second reading will take place at the May business meeting

Board Discussions

- Proposed amendments to the Amended and Restated Bylaws needing member approval
 - Amendments will appear on the ballot in May
- Mission and Vision revisions
 - Reviewed draft changes
 - Survey will be sent with proposed options in coming weeks
- Reimagine progress toward goals
- Potential changes to Policy 1.15 Board Communication and Complaint
- Reviewed training requirements, as report is due to the district May 31st
- Volunteerism and engagement
- Legislative Updates
 - Discussed implications of HB 1363
- Charter Contract Update
 - Board members will review in the coming week so that legal counsel can make final changes to the contract

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

Business Meetings:

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

June 12th, 6:00 pm in the Secondary Future Center

Coffee Chat (Board members may be in attendance):

May 2nd, 5:30 pm

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 \(includes Reimagine report and State of the School Presentation\)](#)

[Meeting Calendar](#)

[Community Compact](#)

[Communication Pathways](#)

[Current Strategic Plan and Data Dashboard](#)

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

Stargate School Social Media Page