



# Wallace Stegner Academy Board of Directors Meeting

**Date:** December 3, 2024

**In Attendance:** Sarah Vaughan, Tony Furano, Frank Magana, Reed Farnsworth

**Excused:** Jeremy Schow

**Others in Attendance:** Anthony Sudweeks, Adam Gerlach, Tyler O'Brien, Hannah Jones, Platte Nielsen, Janey Stoddard

**Location:** 980 Bending River Road; Salt Lake City, UT 84104

*Wallace Stegner Academy will foster a community of active learners through academic rigor and citizenship by providing an opportunity for students to achieve academic excellence.*

## MINUTES

**CALL TO ORDER** Sarah Vaughan called the meeting to order at 5:39 PM.

### CONSENT ITEMS

- October 29, 2024, Board Meeting Minutes  
*Reed Farnsworth made a motion to approve the October 29, 2024, Board Meeting Minutes. Frank Magana seconded. The motion passed unanimously. The votes were as follows: Sarah Vaughan, Aye; Jeremy Schow, Aye; Frank Magana, Aye; Reed Farnsworth, Aye; Tony Furano, Aye.*

### PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

### REPORTS

- Finance Report**  
Tyler O'Brien began the finance report with an explanation of the balance sheet. He reported that the audit is complete, and everything was clean. He said nothing substantial was reported. He said the numbers for fixed assets and depreciations are solid for the year. Tyler noted that the operating cash is at 5.7% which does include the PTIF. Tyler mentioned that the PTIF did get trued up and that their last rate was around 5.2 percent. Reed Farnsworth asked for clarification on the PTIF. Tyler stated it is an account with the Public Treasury Investment Fund which is a savings account that accrues interest. Wallace Stegner was provided a bridge loan for 1.3 million dollars allowing them to leave the PTIF funds untouched. The bridge loan will be paid back to the state in one lump sum. Tyler mentioned that the current operating cash is a little high at this point but will go down once they receive the four months of revenue. The total income number is near 26.5 million. A budget

revision will be worked on in order to prepare for the high school needs for next year. Supplies purchases will be high while big purchases and preparations are made for the high school to be ready to operate. Tyler concluded by saying that overall, the budget is in a good spot, and they have a lot of freedom to do the things that are needed. Reed Farnsworth asked about net income and asked Tyler how accurate the annual budget is. Tyler said the budget is based on legislative estimates and that the goal is to avoid having a negative budget. The upcoming amended budget will provide a accurate outlook for the rest of the school year. The January budget will better reflect the net income. There were no further questions or discussion on the financial report.

### **VOTING AND DISCUSSION ITEMS**

- **Award Request for Proposals for E-Rate**  
Adam Gerlach made the recommendation to award the RFP to ETS. Adam mentioned that they originally had 12 vendors come do a walk-through and that only 3 of those vendors submitted proposals. He said that after evaluating and scoring the RFP with the scoring committee, he recommends awarding the bid to ETS. The board had no questions or concerns about the E-rate contract and the RFP evaluation.  
*Tony Furano made a motion to award the E-Rate RFP to ETS and allow Adam Gerlach to enter the contract with ETS. Reed Farnsworth seconded. The motion passed unanimously. The votes were as follows: Sarah Vaughan, Aye; Frank Magana, Aye; Reed Farnsworth, Aye; Tony Furano, Aye.*
- **LEA Specific License Endorsement – Casey Huber & Kjeisten Secretan**  
Anthony Sudweeks explained the need for the two LEA Specific Licenses to the board. The board had no questions or concerns about the license endorsements.  
*Sarah Vaughan made a motion to approve the LEA Specific Licenses for Casey Huber and Kjeisten Secretan. Tony Furano seconded. The motion passed unanimously. The votes were as follows: Sarah Vaughan, Aye; Frank Magana, Aye; Reed Farnsworth, Aye; Tony Furano, Aye.*
- **NWEA Invoice**  
Anthony Sudweeks said that the NWEA invoice reflects the cost for testing software for third- ninth graders at the school. Anthony said the software is also used to give reports to parents. There were no questions from the board.  
*Frank Magana made a motion to approve the NWEA Invoice in the amount of \$33,435. Tony Furano seconded. The motion passed unanimously. The votes were as follows: Sarah Vaughan, Aye; Frank Magana, Aye; Reed Farnsworth, Aye; Tony Furano, Aye.*
- **Amended Fee Waiver Policy**
- **Amended Bullying and Hazing Policy**
- **Amended FERPA Policy**
- **New Paid Professional Hours for Educators Policy**

Platte Nielson gave a brief description of the changes in each policy and the details of the new policy. Platte explained that even though Wallace Stegner does not charge fees they keep the Fee Waiver policy updated just in case the school ever decided to charge fees. The biggest changes to the Fee Waiver Policy were updating the definitions and clarifying that any student who is homeless automatically qualifies for a fee waiver. Platte Nielson explained that one of the major changes to the Bullying and Hazing Policy requires notification of bullying only if it is a verified incident of bullying. The school is required to notify parents and have an action plan in place when there is a verified incident of bullying. He said the policy defines what the schools' responsibilities are. The Amended FERPA Policy changes will be apparent in their administrative procedures reflecting that schools are not allowed to ask students about their gender identity. Board member Frank Magana asked if they keep track of student's sex, and they clarified that yes, they do track sex of students for state purposes. Lastly, Platte Nielson explained that the new paid professional hours for educators' policy is necessary to have a policy in place with a plan for paying teachers out by June 30<sup>th</sup> with 32 paid professional hours and it is money from the state specifically for that. If the funds are not used the schools are responsible for paying the unused funds back to the state.

*Sarah Vaughan made a motion to approve the Amended Fee Waiver Policy, Amended Bullying and Hazing Policy, Amended FERPA Policy and the New Paid Professional Hours for Educators Policy. Tony Furano seconded. The motion passed unanimously. The votes were as follows: Sarah Vaughan, Aye; Frank Magana, Aye; Reed Farnsworth, Aye; Tony Furano, Aye.*

## **CALENDARING**

The next Board Meeting was scheduled for January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024, at 5:30 PM. The board determined that they would like to move the date after poll results come back with a better date for all board members to attend.

The board will also meet the Utah State Charter School Board for an interview on January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

**CLOSED SESSION** -to discuss the purchase, exchange, or lease of real property pursuant to Utah Code 52-4-205(I)(d).

*Tony Furano made a motion to enter a closed session located at SLC campus to discuss the purchase, exchange, or lease of real estate property pursuant to code 52-4-205(I)(d) at 6:11 PM. Frank Magana seconded. The motion passed unanimously. The votes were as follows: Sarah Vaughan, Aye; Frank Magana, Aye; Reed Farnsworth, Aye; Tony Furano, Aye.*

*At 6:35 PM Tony Furano made a motion to leave the closed session and enter the general session. Frank Magana seconded. The motion passed unanimously. The votes*

*were as follows: Sarah Vaughan, Aye; Frank Magana, Aye; Reed Farnsworth, Aye; Tony Furano, Aye.*

## **REPORTS**

- **Directors' Report**

Anthony Sudweeks and Adam Gerlach reported on enrollment with a total of 2,177 which is quite a bit above their budget and that they will stop accepting new students in December. Anthony mentioned community events at the school saying that they just wrapped up soccer and they are in the middle of intramural volleyball. He said they have done a ton of community events at all campuses. The Amazing Shake is coming up in March 2025 and that they would love the board to be a part of it. Sarah Vaughan asked them to describe the Amazing Shake and Anthony Sudweeks said that during Ron Clark Academy's Amazing Shake students learn and develop professional qualities, and work on building the skills to "work a room" and present themselves exceptionally. Anthony said this first year will be a little bit of a trial run but that they have a bunch of people coming such as the Utah Jazz. Adam and Anthony said have been receiving some mentorship from Bill Kurtz the former superintendent of DSST. Adam said that they have just been bouncing ideas off Bill and getting some good coaching for their own high school model. The DSST are one of the most successful charter school models in the nation. Anthony expressed that it is awesome having the help from Bill and that it has helped them build their overall network. Adam said that construction for the high school has started and that it will be open in early July 2025. Adam mentioned sports at the high school and that they will want to hire an athletic director for the high school sports and that if they didn't bring sports into their high school model it will limit the number of students that will consider attending the school. The board asked if they have the facilities for the sports teams. They said they wouldn't have football but sports like soccer, volleyball, track, and cross country will be well supported with the facilities they have. They said they also want to have a mountain biking team as well. The directors are excited about the mountain biking team and mentioned that just about 2 miles from the Kearns campus there is a mountain biking park that is just finishing up construction. Adam and Anthony concluded their director's report with the mention that they won the distinguished Title I award that only two schools in the entire state receive. They said the national Title I conference is held in Austin, Texas where they will receive the award in February 2025.

## **ADJOURN**

*At 6:48 PM Tony Furano made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Reed Farnsworth seconded. The motion passed unanimously. The votes were as follows: Sarah Vaughan, Aye; Frank Magana, Aye; Reed Farnsworth, Aye; Tony Furano, Aye.*

**Wallace Stegner Academy**  
**Board of Directors**  
**Closed Session Statement**

**Date:** 12.03.2024

**Location:** 980 Bending River Road; Salt Lake City, UT 84104



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**CLOSED SESSION SWORN STATEMENT:**

At a duly noticed public meeting held on the date listed above, the board of directors for Wallace Stegner Academy entered a closed session to discuss the purchase, exchange, or lease of real estate property pursuant to Utah Code 52-4-ZOS(l)(d).

I declare under criminal penalty under the law of Utah that the foregoing is true and correct

Signed on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day of December, 2024.

  
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Sarah Vaughan, Board President