

Early Light Academy Board Meeting Minutes Wednesday, May 14, 2025

Location: 11709 S. Vadiana Drive, South Jordan, Utah 84009

In Attendance: Jenn Lund, Brett Crockett, Brian Christensen, Ann Khong,

Excused: Candice Mitchell,

Others in Attendance: Stephanie Schmidt, Erin Winterton, Janeil Jones, Chelsey Sorenson, Amanda Nimmo, Dawn Kawaguchi,



SCHOOL MISSION: THE MISSION OF THE EARLY LIGHT ACADEMY IS TO DELIVER A HIGH-QUALITY EDUCATION WITH A DEEP, RICH AND ENGAGING CURRICULUM UTILIZING EFFECTIVE INSTRUCTIONAL TECHNIQUES AND EMPHASIZING HISTORY, TAKING OUR STUDENTS FROM THE STONE AGE TO THE SPACE AGE, THE INFORMATION AGE AND BEYOND.

SCHOOL VISION: EARLY LIGHT ACADEMY WILL EMPOWER STUDENTS TO BECOME LIFELONG LEARNERS AND INSPIRING LEADERS WHO KNOW THEIR ACTIONS TODAY IMPACT OUR TOMORROW.

WE ARE WHAT HISTORY BOOKS ARE MADE OF!

MINUTES

8:37 AM – INTRODUCTORY ITEMS

- Welcome & Roll Call – Jenn Lund

There was no PUBLIC COMMENT. This was the second public comment period for the i-Ready LA & Math Curriculum.

REPORTS

- **Counselors**
 - ✓ *Review Comprehensive Guidance Data Project* – Janeil Jones & Chelsey Sorenson were present to present their Comprehensive Guidance Data Project which is the second year to lower their chronic absentee rate by 3%. The counselors discussed the school's efforts to improve attendance rates, which have been affected by the pandemic and changing parental attitudes towards education. The school implemented new procedures, such as requiring parents to call in to excuse absences, and held parents more accountable for their children's attendance. Despite these efforts, the school's chronic absenteeism rate increased by 6% compared to the previous year. The school is continuing to work on attendance issues and is considering further interventions to address the problem.
- **Administration**
 - ✓ *Director Report* – Stephanie Schmidt
 - ★ **PCBL Presentation** – Amanda Nimmo was here to present her experience implementing a self-paced curriculum for 9th grade math. The new approach allows students to progress at their own pace through online

modules, with checkpoints and quizzes to ensure understanding. Students report feeling less stressed and more engaged, with 93% enjoying the new curriculum. Test scores have improved significantly, with proficiency increasing from 46% to 61%. The self-paced model has been particularly beneficial for special education and ELL students. Ms. Nimmo notes improved student confidence, fewer retakes needed, and better retention of material. She plans to make some adjustments for next year, including more project-based learning and differentiated options for honors credit.

- ★ Director Schmidt highlighted various school activities and initiatives. The school's volleyball team won the region championship, and the Beverly Taylor Sorenson program filmed a video at the school to showcase their arts integration. Upcoming events include capstone trips to Utah State University and end-of-year programs. The school is in its planning year for implementing Personalized Competency-Based Learning (PCBL), with a focus on defining proficiency. Enrollment for the next year is higher than usual at 1,175 students, though this number is expected to decrease over the summer. She concluded by reviewing the progress on various goals, including increasing the visibility of history in the school buildings, improving social media presence, and clarifying communication processes with stakeholders.

CONSENT ITEMS

- April 23, 2025 Board Meeting Minutes – There was no further discussion. **Jenn Lund made a motion to approve the consent items. Brett Crockett seconded the motion. The roll call votes were as follows:**
 - Jenn Lund – Aye**
 - Brett Crockett – Aye**
 - Brian Christensen – Aye**
 - Ann Khong – Aye****Motion passed unanimously.**

VOTING ITEMS

- Award IFB for Kitchen Equipment – Stephanie Schmidt stated that we are still trying to spend down our CNP funds. Dawn reminded the board that they approved the kitchen equipment last meeting pending the RFP/IFB process for select items that weren't on state contract. Steph put out an IFB for those items and Culinary Depot came in with lowest bid for those items. There was an alternate oven listed but the price was not included on the bid. There was a discussion on the possibly of not having enough electrical capacity for the oven.
- Award IFB for Roof Repairs – Stephanie Schmidt stated that they need to redo the elementary roof because the warranty has expired and we have a leak. It is just for one section and we will continue to do the rest in phases. M2 Painting and Waterproofing will be awarded the IFB for coming in with the lowest quote with an amount not to exceed \$60,000.
- i-Ready Reading & Math Curriculum – Stephanie Schmidt stated that this curriculum has gone through two public comment periods. i-Ready is a recognized program not only with

the teachers but on the state's recommended list. This program is a diagnostic assessment for both reading and math which should simplify things for teachers since it replaces several reading and math programs. Total cost is \$59,032.13 but the school will only be paying \$12,929 due to grants received by the school.

- *Paid Parental and Postpartum Recovery Leave Policy* – Stephanie Schmidt reviewed the Paid Parental and Postpartum Recovery Leave policy which is required by the legislation in 2024 which guarantees leave benefits in the event an employee gives birth to a child, adopts a child, is appointed as a legal guardian of a child, or has a foster child. There was a discussion if the leave is in addition to PTO.
- *Salary Supplement for Highly Needed Educators Program Policy* – Stephanie Schmidt this policy replaces the current Teacher Salary Supplement Program (TSSP) for high needed education which is known as the SHiNE. TSSP was ran by the state and they chose math, science and SpEd as the highly needed areas. This policy gives the administration the ability to establish the salary supplement amount eligible teachers will receive each year, which amount must be equal with the total SHiNE Program funds allocated to and received by the LEA for the year. For the upcoming year, Steph will continue to supplement math, science and SpEd. This policy must be reviewed each year.

Jenn Lund made a motion to approve the following:

- ✓ **Approve awarding the contract for kitchen equipment to Culinary Depot and authorize the director to purchase the kitchen equipment in an amount not to exceed \$60,000;**
- ✓ **Approve awarding the contract for roof repairs to M2 Painting and Waterproofing in an amount not to exceed \$60,000;**
- ✓ **Approve the i-Ready reading and math curriculum not to exceed \$63,000;**
- ✓ **Approve the Paid Parental and Postpartum Recovery Leave Policy; and**
- ✓ **Approve the Salary Supplement for Highly Needed Educators Program Policy.**

Ann Khong seconded the motion. The roll call votes were as follows:

**Jenn Lund – Aye
Brett Crockett – Aye
Brian Christensen – Aye
Ann Khong – Aye**

Motion passed unanimously.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

- *Calendaring Items* – ALL
 - ✓ Next PreBoard Meeting – June 4th @ 10:30 a.m.
 - ✓ Annual Board Meeting – June 18th
 - ✓ NCSC25 Orlando, FL June 29 – July 2

10:21 AM – Jenn Lund made a motion to enter a CLOSED SESSION to discuss the character, professional competence, or physical or mental health of an individual pursuant to Utah Code 52-4-205(1)(a) in the conference room @ ELA. Brian Christensen seconded the motion. The roll call votes were as follows:

Jenn Lund – Aye

**Brett Crockett – Aye
Brian Christensen – Aye
Ann Khong – Aye**

Motion passed unanimously.

11:09 AM – Jenn Lund made a motion to exit the CLOSED SESSION and ADJOURN. Ann Khong seconded the motion. The roll call votes were as follows:

**Jenn Lund – Aye
Brett Crockett – Aye
Brian Christensen – Aye
Ann Khong – Aye**

Motion passed unanimously.

**Early Light Academy
Board of Directors
Closed Session Statement
Wednesday, May 14, 2025**

Location: 11709 S. Vadiana Drive, South Jordan, Utah 84009



CLOSED SESSION SWORN STATEMENT:

At a duly noticed public meeting held on the date listed above, the board of directors for EARLY LIGHT ACADEMY entered into a closed session for the sole purpose of discussing the character, professional competence, or physical or mental health of an individual ~~and to discuss deployment of security personnel, devices, or systems pursuant to Utah Code 52-4-205(1)(a) and (f) respectively~~.

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

Signed on the 14 day of May, 2025, at South Jordan, Utah.


Jenn Lund
Board Chair