

Syracuse Arts Academy

Board Meeting Minutes

Thursday, August 7, 2025

Location: South Campus, 2211 W S 3060 S, Syracuse, UT 84075

In Attendance: Mary Johnston, Rene Dreiling, Art Hansen, Neil Garner,

Excused: Nate Schow

Others in Attendance: Jeff Marchant, Amanda Weaver, Matt Mouritsen, Kellie Mudrow, Dave Maughan, Jon McQueary, Dawn Kawaguchi, Karin Bourque, Michele Parry, Wendy Long, Jay Welk, Mike Page, Shila Schnieder, Brad Taylor (6:21 p.m.)



SAA Mission Statement

The purpose of Syracuse Arts Academy is to develop respectful, confident citizens in a solid educational environment enriched by artistic expression.

Minutes

2024-2025 Board Priorities

Data Equivalent
Development of Teachers
Alignment of Curriculum
Building Expansion Vision

5:52 PM – INTRODUCTORY ITEMS

- Welcome & Roll Call – Mary Johnston
 - Board Mission – Neil Garner
 - School Mission – Mary Johnston

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Dave Maughan, mayor of Syracuse City, made a public comment starting with his long-standing relationship with SAA stating that all his children matriculate through the school. He gave updates on the Costco construction project across from the Antelope campus. He also emphasized the efforts to mitigate traffic and safety concerns. Dave offered to coordinate with the school on construction updates and traffic planning. He also mentioned the potential community benefits like park improvements and how Costco supports schools with donations.

REPORTS

- **Administration**
 - State of the School – Kellie Mudrow

- ✓ Celebrations! & Staff Introductions – Kellie introduced the three new administrators starting with Amanda Weaver, who is the new Asst. Principal at the North Campus. Mike Page, who is the new Principal at the Antelope Elementary. Karin Bourque, who is the Asst. Principal at the South Campus. Kellie also wanted to celebrate the “Back to School Bash” for all employees that we had today. We had a National Keynote Speaker that was “absolutely phenomenal”. It also included some training and a couple of breakout sessions. The feedback was positive. Our focus was on “Unity, Collaboration and Fun!”. *All the administrators and the mayor (excluding Michele) were excused at 6:09.*
- ✓ Update on South Campus
 - ★ Ribbon cutting today. We are ready to go!!!
 - ★ We have already built its culture and they are a family.
 - ★ Enrollment is slightly below target but expected to grow. We will try not disrupt classrooms by adding a new class.
 - ★ Michele is planning a community open house in October sometime.
- ✓ Early Learning Plan Report
 - ★ 2024-2025 Progress
 - ❖ Math goal was met (6% increase)
 - ❖ Reading goal was not met (rose 2% but fell short of the 5% target). Kellie mentioned that 2nd graders across the country are a hot spot. There was a discussion on the one thing that they can do to move that needle to hit the goal which is to improve reading by balancing phonics and applied reading time.
 - ★ 2025-2026 Plan – The plan was in the packet for the board to review but there were no other questions asked.
- ✓ Time Capsule – Board members were invited to write notes for a time capsule to be opened when current kindergarteners reach 6th grade (2032-2033). *Michele Parry was excused at 6:20 p.m.*

➤ **Board of Directors**

- Financial Update – Rene Dreiling informed the Board that transactions continue to occur across multiple funds as part of the preparations for the audit, which commenced earlier this week. Jon McQueary noted that upon finalization of the trial balance, he will provide a report on the fiscal year’s closing financial position.

CONSENT ITEMS

- Ratify New Hires (see list) – There was no further discussion.
- July 10, 2025 Board Meeting Minutes – There was no further discussion.

Art Hansen made a motion to approve the consent items. Neil Garner seconded the motion. The votes were as follows:

Mary Johnston – Aye

Neil Garner – Aye

Rene Dreiling – Aye

Art Hansen – Aye

Motion passed unanimously.

VOTING ITEMS

- South Campus Verkada System Purchase – Kellie Mudrow reviewed the Verkada System purchase for the South campus.
- Amend Electronic Resources Policy – Kellie Mudrow reviewed the amended Electronic Resources Policy which are minor legislative changes including updates on cell phone usage.
- Amend Kindergarten Toilet Training Policy – Kellie Mudrow reviewed the amended Kindergarten Toilet Training Policy which now applies to all students, not just kindergarteners. This required removing the word “Kindergarten” in the policy name.
- Amend Weapons on School Property Policy – Kellie Mudrow reviewed the amended Weapons on School Property Policy which included technical legislative changes and to better clarify when weapons are and are not allowed on school property under the law.

Neil Garner made a motion to approve the following items:

- **Approve the South Campus Verkada System purchase not to exceed \$225,000;**
- **Approve the Amended Electronic Resources Policy;**
- **Approve the Amended Kindergarten Toilet Training Policy including updating the policy name to “Toilet Training Policy”; and**
- **Approve the Amended Weapons on School Property Policy.**

Rene Dreiling seconded the motion. The votes were as follows:

Mary Johnston – Aye

Neil Garner – Aye

Rene Dreiling – Aye

Art Hansen – Aye

Motion passed unanimously.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

- Review Balance Scorecard – Matt Mouritsen reviewed the balanced scorecard framework from the retreat.
 - 1-Year Plan (Board Priorities)
 - ✓ CTE/CCA Pathway Funding Access Policy Project
 - ★ Revenue Growth:
 - ❖ 2. Grant access & Federal/State funding applied for school
 - ✓ Lunch (CNP) & SpEd Budget Management
 - ★ Financials Stability:
 - ❖ 3. Balanced budgets in all departments (SpEd, CNP)
 - ❖ 4. Healthy PTIF
 - ✓ Close Specific Curriculum & Learning Gaps
 - ✓ Curriculum Vetting & Selection Process
 - ✓ ELL TSI Improvement
 - ★ Spending Plans:
 - ❖ 1. Apple teacher training with technology.
 - ❖ 2. Cohesiveness between campuses in curriculum and training
 - ★ Leadership
 - ❖ 3. Learning proficiency maintained.

- ✓ Build Business Case for Jr. High Expansion
 - ★ 2 vs. 3 K-6 feeders
 - ★ Location W or NW?
 - ★ Timeline
 - ★ Financing Options: Bonds, Lease, Savings
 - ❖ Financial Stability:
 - 1. South campus at full capacity
 - ❖ Spending Plans:
 - 3. Flexibility in classroom growth.
 - 4. New school and remodel of Jr. High
 - ❖ Leadership:
 - 2. Gather ideas for needs of Jr. removed.
 - 3. Collaborate w/ AW & new school building committee
- ✓ Engaging Externally: Promote Learning Proficiency/MGP; Parent Engagement
- ✓ Overcoming Internal misperceptions: Salary Compensation & Tangibles; Unity Across Campuses, Board & AW
 - ★ Financial Stability:
 - ❖ 2. Marketing essentials setup for all schools.
 - ★ Revenue Growth:
 - ❖ 1. AW collaborate w/ Board especially with bonding
 - ★ Leadership:
 - ❖ 1. Cohesiveness with Board and Lead Director
 - ❖ 4. Lead Director performance expectations & goals.
 - ❖ 6. Bonus pay based on performance expectations & goals.
- 5-Year Plan
 - ✓ CTE/CCA Pathway Funding Access Policy Project
 - ★ Revenue Growth:
 - ❖ 2. CTE Growth with CCA Pathway established
 - ✓ Lunch (CNP) & SpEd Budget Management
 - ★ Financial Stability:
 - ❖ 3. Continued balanced budget.
 - ❖ 4. Healthy PTIF
 - ✓ Close Specific Curriculum & Learning Gaps
 - ✓ Curriculum Vetting & Selection Process
 - ✓ ELL TSI Improvement
 - ★ Spending Plans:
 - ❖ 1. Continual supplies/training for integrating arts
 - ★ Leadership
 - ❖ 4. Calendar includes collaboration w/ FA integration
 - ❖ 5. Data driven instruction
 - ✓ Build Business Case for Jr. High Expansion
 - ★ 2 vs. 3 K-6 feeders
 - ★ Location W or NW?
 - ★ Timeline

- ★ Financing Options: Bonds, Lease, Savings
 - ❖ Financial Stability:
 - 1. Student retention at 80%.
 - 2. Schools at full capacity.
 - ❖ Spending Plans:
 - 2. Remodel Jr. High
 - 3. Antelope Elementary into new building
 - ❖ Revenue Growth:
 - 1. Student retention at 80%.
 - 3. Grant & Funding access.
- ✓ Engaging Externally: Promote Learning Proficiency/MGP; Parent Engagement
- ✓ Overcoming Internal misperceptions: Salary Compensation & Tangibles; Unity Across Campuses, Board & AW
 - ★ Leadership:
 - ❖ 1. Maintain strong SAA reputation.
 - ❖ 2. Plan for retention of teachers & staff
 - ❖ 3. Bonus pay on individual performance and expectations with yearly goals.

Mary would like to finalize the goals at the next meeting. Board members should send their changes to Matt.

- Review 2025-2026 Board Meeting Schedule – Mary Johnston reviewed the board meeting schedule changes that were made for February, May and June. The December 4th board meeting moved to December 18th.
- Calendaring Items – ALL
 - Scheduled an Electronic Board Meeting on September 18th for LEA-Specific Educator Licenses.
 - Next Pre-Board Meeting – September 18th
 - Next Board Meeting – October 2nd
 - Holiday Social – November 6th TBD
 - NCSC26 New Orleans, LA June 24-26 (Wed-Fri)

7:09 PM – Neil Garner CLOSED SESSION to discuss the character, professional competence, or physical or mental health of an individual and/or to discuss strategy sessions to discuss the purchase, exchange, or lease of real property and/or to discuss deployment of security personnel, devices, or systems pursuant to Utah Code 52-4-205(1)(a)(d) & (f) respectively. Art Hansen seconded the motion. The roll call votes were as follows:

**Rene Dreiling – Aye
 Mary Johnston – Aye
 Neil Garner – Aye
 Art Hansen – Aye**

Motion passed unanimously.

7:50 PM – Neil Garner made a motion to exit the CLOSED SESSION and ADJOURN. Rene Dreiling seconded the motion. The votes were as follows:

Mary Johnston – Aye

Neil Garner – Aye
Rene Dreiling – Aye
Art Hansen – Aye
Motion passed unanimously.

DRAFT

**Syracuse Arts Academy
Board of Directors
Closed Session Statement
Thursday, August 7, 2025**

Location: SAA South Campus, 2211 W S 3060 S, Syracuse, UT 84075



CLOSED SESSION SWORN STATEMENT:

*At a duly noticed public meeting held on the date listed above, the board of directors for **SYRACUSE ARTS 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/or to discuss strategy sessions to discuss the purchase, exchange, or lease of real property and/or to discuss deployment of security personnel, devices, or systems in accordance with Utah Code Ann. 52-4-205(1)(a)(d)&(f) respectively.*

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

Signed on the 7th day of Aug, 2025, at Syracuse, Utah.


Mary Johnston
Board Chair