

Scholar Academy Board of Directors Meeting

Date: 09.25.2025

Location: <https://uso2web.zoom.us/j/85086026933>

In Attendance: Dusty Griffith, Traelle Gailey, Johanna Leonelli, Sandy Shepard

Others in Attendance: Jeff Hall, Nicole Jones, Krystal Taylor, Jon McQueary, Priscilla Stringfellow

Excused: Jacob Howarth

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER Dusty Griffith called the meeting order at 5:02PM.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

REPORTS

- Director's Report
Jeff Hall discussed staffing. An experienced Special Education teacher has been hired. Another former Scholar student has joined the staff. Professional Development is ongoing. Staff will be attending the Nicolas Food Show, Into Reading, a ACTFL Language Conference among many other development opportunities. Jeff presented data collection information including Rise benchmark assessments schedules. Student enrollment is currently at 681 students.
- Budget Report
Jon McQueary explained that the audit has been certified.

Sandy Shepard joined the meeting at 5:24 PM.

CONSENT ITEMS

- August 28, 2025, Board Meeting & Closed Session Minutes
Traelle Gailey made a motion to approve the August 28, 2025, Board Meeting & Closed Session Minutes. Sandy Shepard seconded. The motion passed unanimously. The votes were as follows: Dusty Griffith, Aye; Traelle Gailey, Aye; Johanna Leonelli, Aye; Sandy Shepard, Aye.

VOTING & DISCUSSION ITEMS

- Approve LEA Licenses
Jeff Hall has six educators who need to obtain an LEA specific licenses. The rationale for teach teacher's licensure pathways was detailed out for the board.
Sandy Shepard made a motion to approve the LEA Licenses. Traelle Gailey seconded. The motion passed unanimously. The votes were as follows: Dusty Griffith, Aye; Traelle

Gailey, Aye; Johanna Leonelli, Aye.

- Board Member Terms, Roles, & Elected Officers
Item was tabled.
- Amended Bullying and Hazing Policy
Jeff Hall addressed the changes to the bullying and hazing policy. The definitions in the policy will be helpful for staff and teachers when addressing issues that may arise. The Bullying and Hazing Policy was updated to align with SB 223 and USBE Rule R277-613, incorporating new definitions of staff and student bullying, clarifying civil rights violations, prohibiting the creation or sharing of explicit images, and adding safe digital citizenship to required training topics.
Traelle Gailey made a motion to approve the Amended Bullying and Hazing Policy. Johanna Leonelli seconded. The motion passed unanimously. The votes were as follows: Dusty Griffith, Aye; Traelle Gailey, Aye; Johanna Leonelli, Aye; Sandy Shepard, Aye.
- New Hotline Complaint Policy
The new Hotline Complaint Policy was adopted to comply with R277-123, outlining how the school will respond to hotline complaints, directing complainants to use existing grievance policies when appropriate, and maintaining a link on the school's website to the USBE public education hotline. Sandy Shepard suggested a slight change to the new hotline policy adding in that complaints will be responded to by the director or administrative designee.
Sandy Shepard made a motion to approve the Hotline Complaint Policy with discussed revisions. Johanna Leonelli seconded. The motion passed unanimously. The votes were as follows: Dusty Griffith, Aye; Traelle Gailey, Aye; Johanna Leonelli, Aye; Sandy Shepard, Aye.

CALENDARING

The next board meeting is scheduled for November 20th, 2025 and will begin at 5:30PM.

ADJOURN

At 5:44PM Sandy Shepard made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Traelle Gailey seconded. The motion passed unanimously. The votes were as follows: Dusty Griffith, Aye; Traelle Gailey, Aye; Johanna Leonelli, Aye; Sandy Shepard, Aye.