

Scholar Academy Board of Directors Meeting

Date: 11.20.2025

Location: 928 N 100 E Basecamp 1, Tooele, UT 84074

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

In Attendance: Dusty Griffith, Johanna Leonelli, Jacob Howarth, Neil Garner, Collin Post

Excused: Traelle Gailey

Others in Attendance: Jeff Hall, Brandon Fairbanks, Priscilla Stringfellow, Hannah Jones

Scholar Academy is committed to creating a learning environment that fosters in students the development of divergent thinking and problem-solving skills, providing opportunities which enable all students to develop a sense of civic responsibility and achieve their highest potential.

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER Dusty Griffith called the meeting to order at 5:08 PM.

PUBLIC COMMENT There were no public comments.

BOARD TRAINING

- Governance vs. Management Training

Brandon Fairbanks facilitated the Governance vs. Management training. The board participated in discussion and example scenarios and defined their roles as board members. The board was able to clearly define their role versus administrations role for the support of the LEA after the training was finished.

Brandon Fairbanks left the meeting at 5:46 PM.

CLOSED SESSION - to discuss the character, professional competence, or physical or mental health of an individual pursuant to Utah Code 52-4-205(l)(a).

At 5:47 PM Johanna Leonelli 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(l)(a). Jacob Howarth seconded. The motion passed unanimously. The votes were as follows: Dusty Griffith, Aye; Johanna Leonelli, Aye; Jacob Howarth, Aye; Neil Garner, Aye; Collin Post, Aye.

Jeff Hall was excused at 5:48 PM.

At 5:58 PM Johanna Leonelli made a motion to leave the closed session and enter the general meeting. Collin Post seconded. The motion passed unanimously. The votes were as follows: Dusty Griffith, Aye; Johanna Leonelli, Aye; Jacob Howarth, Aye; Collin Post, Aye; Neil Garner, Aye.

Jeff Hall re-entered the meeting at 6:00 PM.

REPORTS

- Director's Report

Jeff Hall reported on assessment data, classroom management, and technology. The biggest goal for the LEA is to increase test scores. Administration is collecting data from teachers and some of the data indicates being above the state average for scores. It has been very beneficial to have Sandy Shepard as an educational consultant at the school to support efforts of growth in targeted areas. Improving quality of instruction is another goal of the LEA, and the staff is showing very positive trajectory for improvements.

- Budget Report

The audit has been completed and will be sent out to the board for their review. The auditors will present the report to the board at their next board meeting. Financial statements including the profit and loss and balance sheet as of October thirty-first were reviewed by board members. Jon McQueary highlighted areas of the budget that are higher than usual for being 33 percent of the way through the year; including revenues from federal sources and supplies and materials. Board chair Dusty Griffith reminded the new board members that the LEA does have an outstanding bond for the building. The overall budget is healthy and consistent. There will be capital improvements made to the school as well as technology purchases that will be reflected in the budget.

CONSENT ITEMS

- September 25, 2025, Board Meeting Minutes
- October 22, 2025, Board Meeting Minutes

The board had no concerns regarding the board meeting minutes. There were no suggestions made for edits.

Johanna Leonelli made a motion to approve the September 25, 2025, Board Meeting Minutes and the October 22, 2025, Board Meeting and Closed Session Minutes. Jacob Howarth seconded. The motion passed unanimously. The votes were as follows: Dusty Griffith, Aye; Johanna Leonelli, Aye; Jacob Howarth, Aye; Collin Post, Aye; Neil Garner, Aye.

VOTING & DISCUSSION ITEMS

- Consulting Agreement

The board discussed the changes made to the contract with the contract now concluding in March instead of December. Targeted intervention was also added to the contract for behavior and instruction. There was no further discussion.

Jacob Howarth made a motion to approve the Consulting Agreement as discussed.

Collin Post seconded. The motion passed unanimously. The votes were as follows: Dusty Griffith, Aye; Johanna Leonelli, Aye; Jacob Howarth, Aye; Collin Post, Aye; Neil Garner, Aye.

- Technology Purchase

Jeff Hall and Dusty Griffith informed the board of the need for new laptops. There were no questions or concerns from the board.

Johanna Leonelli made a motion to approve the Technology Purchase not to exceed \$26,000. Jacob Howarth seconded. The motion passed unanimously. The votes were as follows: Dusty Griffith, Aye; Johanna Leonelli, Aye; Jacob Howarth, Aye; Collin Post, Aye; Neil Garner, Aye.

- Capital Improvement Projects

The board discussed the facility maintenance plan provided by Academica West. The board discussed projects that may need to be done that are past due. Carpet in the classrooms elementary side does need replacing, so that is a project that is being considered for facility maintenance.

- Committees (Program Audit, Capital Improvement Projects)

This item was tabled.

- Amended Paid Parental and Postpartum Recovery Leave Policy

- Amended Instructional Materials Policy

- New AI Policy

Priscilla Stringfellow reviewed the amended policies and new policy with the board. The revisions of the Paid Parental and Postpartum Recovery Leave Policy specify how the leave periods work and whether non-contracted workdays occurring during the leave period count or do not count toward the applicable and allotted leave period. Revisions to the Instructional Materials Policy include updated code citations. There were no other revisions to the policy. The new AI Policy is general in nature and aligns with the AI Framework established by the Utah State Board of Education and provides basic rules with respect to AI use at the school. There were no questions or concerns regarding the policies.

Johanna Leonelli made a motion to approve the Amended Paid Parental and Postpartum Recovery Leave Policy, Amended Instructional Materials Policy and the AI Policy. Neil Garner seconded. The motion passed unanimously. The votes were as follows: Dusty Griffith, Aye; Johanna Leonelli, Aye; Jacob Howarth, Aye; Collin Post, Aye;

Neil Garner, Aye

CALENDARING

The next board meeting is January 29th, 2026, at 5:00 PM via zoom.

ADJOURN

At 7:30 PM Neil Garner made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Dusty Griffith seconded. The motion passed unanimously. The votes were as follows: Dusty Griffith, Aye; Johanna Leonelli, Aye; Jacob Howarth, Aye; Collin Post, Aye; Neil Garner, Aye.

**Scholar Academy
Board of Directors Closed Session**

Meeting Date: 11.20.2025

Location: 928 N 100 E Basecamp 1, Tooele, UT 84074

CLOSED SESSION SWORN STATEMENT:

At a duly noticed public meeting held on the date listed above, the board of directors for Scholar Academy entered a closed session for the sole purpose of discussing the character, professional competence, or physical or mental health of an individual in accordance with Utah Code Ann. 52-4-2(1)(a).

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

Signed on the 20th day of November, located in Tooele, UT.

