

Salt Lake Arts Academy
Governing Board Meeting Final Minutes
November 17, 2025, 5:30 pm
844 S 200 E, Salt Lake City
Room 201

Board Members in Attendance: Sarah Colonna, Amy Fehlberg, Carol Fineagan, Claudia Geist, Greg Ostrander, Whitney Provo, Shantel Stoff, Kimberly Venable, Nick Vienneau,

Board Members Excused: Diana Cabrales, Kelly Goff, Catherine (Cat) Palmer, Reid Prentice, Amy Yuda

Staff in Attendance: Deborah Candler, Whitney Childers, Jen Guillory, Nicole Laird, Markell McCubbin, Dan Rose

Others in Attendance: Wendy Frost, parent

Quorum: 9 out of 15 Board members present (Whitney came late)

1. Welcome and Introductions (Greg Ostrander)

2. Review and Approval of Minutes from October 20, 2025

- Motion: Shantel Stoff motioned to approve the minutes of October 20, 2025.
- Second: Nick Vienneau
- Vote: Unanimously approved

3. Principal's Report (Deborah Candler)

Additional discussion points:

Ideas for educating potential families prior to applying

We are looking for another full time counselor to help fill gaps and meet the needs of our student body

Blind Mule has been helping us with professional development with student behavior; Glenn is still gathering baseline data; most changes will be seen particularly in 3-5 years; some small fixes have already been implemented and we are noticing changes already

SLCSD just put out options for new 3-year calendars - we will review

a. Fifth Grade Maturation (vote expected)

Deborah: Showed slide deck for Abbie Thurgood's presentation - meets USBE requirements
Will send to all 5th-grade parents along with permission slips; parents are invited to come
A member of support / leadership team will be in classrooms during presentation (science class)

- Motion: Amy Fehlberg motioned to accept the 5th grade maturation program.
- Second: Nick Vienneau
- Vote: Unanimously approved

b. Adlumen Update

Reviewed alerts that have come in; all have been from students when their account is used out of the area / country

Adlumen automatically suspends student's account; we must reactivate

Students may need to update passwords occasionally? Look into more.

c. English Language Arts RISE data update

Our percentage of proficiency is higher than state average, but we would like 80% (we are not there); we do not have a homogeneous population

We try to focus more on growth rather than proficiency

Focusing on improving behavior to get to deeper learning levels

Looking to bring back challenge projects

Screens are having a profound negative impact on students

d. Family support update

With SNAP benefits down, we have identified seven families and have given direct support

Also supported a family moving from a shelter to an apartment

Giving tree - student Ambassador-led; leaves with items needed; we are going through leaves and getting many donations!

4. Finance Report (Nicole Laird)

a. Audit Overview

Squire will do main presentation about audit

Audit results came back really well

One ding - board financial training was missing (this is a new requirement) and we are correcting this year

Issues that came up last year have all been fixed

Fee policy from last year - fee waiver (Section F) - need to include both SNAP and McKinney Vento as well as TANF; Nicole works with many/any family who has a need; language has been modified in fee policy

b. Fee Policy (vote expected)

- Motion: Kimberly Venable motioned to accept the Section F part of the fee policy as presented.
- Second: Claudia Geist
- Vote: Unanimously approved

c. Financial Report

Reviewed status - grants, budget, updates

Basketball court - expenditure approved in August came in about \$5000 more - paint issues - was very transparent in process and the bid was low anyway

Nicole does need to discuss with Squire; will come back with Squire's recommendation

Light board has stopped working; no parts available; will move to LED based system

Performance Audio will give a bid; Lauren Carn is applying for grants

UFEFS - quarterly transparency reports - has submitted within deadlines and currently on track

5. Student Behavior (Whitney Provo and Markell McCubbin)

Markell summarized her background and reviewed school's perspective on behavior (accountability over punishment)

Strong student support team in place (SST)

Group structures are put into place for student support

RIISE values - Respect Integrity Inclusion Safety Empathy - routinely reinforced

Bullying discussions, Growth Mindset, SEL in Advisory, etc.

Students do surveys on teachers so we get feedback! Plus student engagement surveys
Levels of engagement - we value highly motivated student engagement and work to support
(admin level, department level)

Faculty self assessments, for their individual goals and to plan professional development

Proactive intervention systems (Tier 1 is most students, Tier 2 needs a little more, and Tier 3
students need greater support)

Specialized classes - communication specialist (Libby - SPED only), executive functioning
(open)

Collaborative Humanities pre-loading (also Libby - SPED)

Blind Mule - whole group professional development, in school weekly to observe school
behavior; helping to implement school-wide structures as well as mentoring teachers

6. December Meeting (vote expected)***

Anything needed to be on a December agenda? Apparently not

- Motion: Kimberly Venable motioned to not hold the December 15th meeting.
- Second: Carol Finneagan
- Vote: Unanimously approved

Aside: Whitney provided some updates and shared a beautiful parent note

We received a \$13,000 challenge grant

Watch for Annual Giving Campaign mailing; \$15,500 out of \$75,000 already received

7. [Committee Charters (vote expected)]

Not yet ready to move

- Motion: _____ motioned to accept the Committee Charters as presented.
- Second: _____
- Vote: Unanimously approved

8. Requests to Speak*

none

9. Closed Session**

- Motion: Amy Fehlberg moved to go to closed session
- Second: Shantel Stoff seconded
- Vote: Unanimously approved

During the Closed Session, the Governing Board determined that the December 15th Governing Board meeting will need to be held as originally planned.

- Motion: Carol Fineagan moved to come out of closed session
- Second: Kimberly Venable seconded
- Vote: Unanimously approved

10. Adjournment

***Requests to Speak** Persons requesting to speak to the Governing Board in an open meeting need to sign up prior to the start of the open session of the board meeting, by emailing Greg Ostrander at greg.ostrander@slarts.org. Resolution of questions or responses to proposals should not be expected at this meeting; staff or others may be asked to research and/or prepare materials and solutions for a later time. Up to fifteen minutes in total will be scheduled for persons requesting to speak. Three minutes will be allotted for individual requests and five minutes will be allotted for group requests. If we receive more requests than the allotted time permits, those requests may be scheduled for the next board meeting. Your concerns may be submitted in writing to the principal's office for distribution to the Governing Board at any time.

****Closed Sessions** The Governing Board of Salt Lake Arts Academy may vote to enter a Closed Session at any time during this meeting, as permitted by Utah Code §52-4-204 and §52-4-205, to discuss matters allowed under law.