

**Salt Lake Arts Academy  
Governing Board Meeting FINAL Minutes  
January 26, 2026, 5:30 pm  
844 S 200 E, Salt Lake City  
Room 201**

**Board Members in Attendance:** Diana Cabrales (Board Secretary), Amy Fehlberg, Greg Ostrander (Board Chair), Claudia Geist, Kelly Goff, Catherine (Cat) Palmer (left before closed session), Reid Prentice (left before closed session), Whitney Provo (arrived 5:55 pm), Shantel Stoff (Board Treasurer), Kimberly Venable, Nick Vienneau

**Board Members Excused:** Sarah Colonna, Carol Fineagan, Amy Yuda

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

**Others in Attendance:** Tanner Robertson (Squire)

**Quorum:** 11 out of 14 Board members present

**1. Welcome and Introductions**

Greg Ostrander called the meeting to order.

**Motion:** Kelly Goff moved to adjust the meeting order to accommodate Tanner Robertson of Squire & Company and allow time for updated pending minutes to be printed.

**Second:** Shantel Stoff

**Vote:** Unanimously approved

**2. Approval of Minutes – December 15, 2025**

**Motion:** Catherine Palmer moved to approve the December 15, 2025 meeting minutes.

**Second:** Kelly Goff

**Vote:** Unanimously approved

**3. 2024–2025 Audit Presentation (Squire & Company)**

Tanner Robertson presented the annual audit. He reported that the financial statements fairly

represent the school's financial position and that no material issues or findings were identified. The school is in compliance with state requirements, expenses remain below revenue, and no items required reporting to the state.

Greg Ostrander asked about an "other matter" noted in the audit. Tanner Robertson clarified that Squire could not verify Board training documentation due to lack of a paper trail, not due to non-completion. Nicole Laird noted that improved documentation will address this going forward.

#### **4. Principal's Report (Deborah Candler)**

Deborah Candler reported on recent programming and parent communications. She noted positive feedback on the maturation program and shared that the school responded to parent concerns regarding student access to inappropriate online content by providing resources and guidance. Parent education resources are shared as issues arise.

##### **a. Health Department Data Review**

Deborah Candler reviewed publicly available state data related to STIs and child abuse trends across all age groups, noting that the information is accessible via the USBE website.

##### **b. Three-Year School Calendars (Action Item)**

Deborah Candler presented the proposed three-year calendars and highlighted key differences from Salt Lake City School District calendars. SLArts calendars end in May unless emergency make-up days are required, include asynchronous professional development days, and maintain two full weeks of winter break in 2028–2029.

**Motion:** Claudia Geist moved to approve the three-year calendars as presented.

**Second:** Kelly Goff

**Vote:** Unanimously approved

##### **c. Blind Mule**

Deborah Candler provided background on the school's engagement with Blind Mule, explaining that the consultant was hired following survey feedback identifying ongoing classroom behavior challenges. The consultant was selected based on alignment with school needs and budget and is engaged in a multi-year plan. The current focus is on defining and reinforcing Tier 1 behavior expectations to support improved instruction and student engagement.

#### **5. Finance Report (Nicole Laird)**

### **a. Monthly Financial Update**

Nicole Laird presented financials through the end of December. She noted a minor reporting error that does not affect the bottom line and stated that corrected figures will be provided. Financial performance remains on track, and all material variances are reported to the Board. Shantel Stoff confirmed certification through December.

### **b. Mid-Year Budget Revision (Action Item)**

**Motion:** Shantel Stoff moved to approve the mid-year budget revision.

**Second:** Amy Fehlberg

**Vote:** Unanimously approved

### **6. Fundraising Update (Whitney Childers)**

Whitney Childers reported that the recent fundraiser raised over \$77,000, triggering a \$50,000 matching challenge from an anonymous donor. A spring fundraiser is planned, and donor demographics will be reviewed over the summer. She also noted strong engagement and financial impact from post-performance student “talk-back” sessions with parents.

### **7. Requests to Speak**

None.

### **8. Closed Session**

**Motion:** Amy Fehlberg moved to enter closed session to discuss the competency of staff as allowed under Utah Open Meetings Act

**Second:** Nick Vienneau

#### **Individual Votes:**

- Greg Ostrander – Yes
- Diana Cabrales – Yes
- Amy Fehlberg – Yes
- Kelly Goff – Yes
- Nick Vienneau – Yes
- Claudia Geist – Yes
- Kimberly Venable – Yes
- Shantel Stoff – Yes
- Whitney Provo – Yes

- Reid Prentice – Abstained (departed prior to vote)

**Result:** Motion approved.

### **Return to Open Session**

**Motion:** Shantel Stoff moved to return to open session.

**Second:** Kelly Goff

**Vote:** Approved

### **9. Adjournment**

**Motion:** Diana Cabrales moved to adjourn the meeting.

**Second:** Shantel Stoff

**Vote:** Approved

**Meeting adjourned.**

### **Certification**

*Submitted by:*

*Diana Cabrales*

*Board Secretary*

*Salt Lake Arts Academy*

*Approved by the Governing Board on: Feb 23, 2026*