



# Wallace Stegner Academy Board of Directors Meeting

**Date:** January 21, 2026

**In Attendance:** Sarah Vaughan, Jeremy Schow, Tony Furano, Frank Magana

**Excused:** Reed Farnsworth

**Others in Attendance:** Anthony Sudweeks, Ken Jeppesen, Chantel Wixon, Platte Nielson, Heidi Bauerle, Hannah Jones, Gina James

**Location:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85690336271>

*Wallace Stegner Academy will foster a community of active learners through academic rigor and citizenship by providing an opportunity for students to achieve academic excellence.*

## MINUTES

**CALL TO ORDER** Sarah Vaughan called the meeting to order at 5:31 PM.

### CONSENT ITEMS

- December 17, 2025, Board Meeting Minutes  
*Jeremy Schow made a motion to approve the December 17, 2025, Board Meeting Minutes. Tony Furano seconded. The motion passed unanimously. The votes were as follows: Sarah Vaughan, Aye; Frank Magana, Aye; Tony Furano, Aye; Jeremy Schow, Aye.*

### BOARD TRAINING

- Audit Presentation – Eide Bailly  
Eide Bailly has completed the annual independent audit of the school's financial statements and compliance for the fiscal year ending June 30. Their audit was conducted in accordance with required standards, and they found that the financial statements fairly represent the school's financial position and activity. They met with the Board to review the audit results, including the financial statements, compliance testing, and this year's required communications.

Ken Jeppesen left the meeting at 5:48 PM.

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

This item was tabled.

### PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

### REPORTS

- **Finance Report**  
Wallace Stegner Academy remains in a strong financial position midway through the fiscal year. Through December 31, 2025, the School generated \$20.6 million in total revenues, representing 59.5% of the annual budget, while total expenses were \$15.7 million, or 45.4% of budgeted expenditures. This favorable revenue and expense timing resulted in year-to-date net income of \$4.87 million, well ahead of expectations at this point in the year. Frank Magana asked how much of the PTIF is restricted and non-restricted and what the requirements are for unrestricted funds.
- **Directors' Report**  
Anthony Sudweeks gave the Director's Report and informed the board that the lottery has opened and there are currently 834 new student applications for the 2026-2027 school year. Completed new and returning registrations are at 275. NWEA and ELA Rise prediction percentages were shared with the board based on data from the last school year. Net growth for students taking the NWEA exams were at 418 students increasing levels in reading and 200 increasing levels in math as well as 469 students increasing their levels in science. Upcoming events include the amazing shake on February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2026, at 6:00 PM at the West Valley Campus. Professional Development in June is a visit to the Ron Clark Academy in Atlanta. Board members asked the CEO about the ongoing recreational clubs at the school and how the students are liking them. There is a lot of excitement surrounding the new ski club, with students seeming happy to partake in the club.

## **VOTING ITEMS**

- **2026-2027 School Calendar**  
Annually, the governing board approves the upcoming School Year's Calendar. The board reviewed the proposed calendar presented by the CEOs.  
*Sarah Vaughan made a motion to approve the 2026-2027 School Calendar. Jeremy Schow seconded. The motion passed unanimously. The votes were as follows: Sarah Vaughan, Aye; Frank Magana, Aye; Tony Furano, Aye; Jeremy Schow, Aye.*
- **LEA Specific License**  
The license areas, and endorsements shall be valid for three (3) academic years as indicated on the attached spreadsheet which contains the associated educator information and rationale for the request. All LEA-Specific licenses will expire on June 30th of the final academic year approved. The Wallace Stegner Academy Board of Directors additionally acknowledges that LEA-Specific educator licenses, license areas, or endorsements may be renewed by the Utah State Board of Education (USBE). These renewals will be approved or denied on a case-by-case basis.  
*Frank Magana made a motion to approve the LEA Specific License as discussed. Tony Furano seconded. The motion passed unanimously. The votes were as follows: Sarah Vaughan, Aye; Frank Magana, Aye; Tony Furano, Aye; Jeremy Schow, Aye.*

- Review Data for Teen Pregnancy, Child Sexual Abuse, Sexually Transmitted Diseases and Infections and Number of Pornography Complaints  
Board Members reviewed the data for each of the categories listed above. This data is reviewed to stay in compliance with state statutes regarding sex education curriculum.
- Purple Star Resolution (Sunset Campus)  
The Sunset Campus is hoping to obtain the status of a “Purple Star” school to better support those students that have parents or family members in the military. The CEO’s are passionate about being able to support all members of the community at the Sunset Campus.  
*Sarah Vaughan made a motion to approve the Purple Star Resolution. Frank Magana seconded. The motion passed unanimously. The votes were as follows: Sarah Vaughan, Aye; Frank Magana, Aye; Tony Furano, Aye; Jeremy Schow, Aye.*
- Amended Paid FMLA Policy in Handbook
- Amended Student Conduct and Discipline Policy
- Amended Fee Waiver Policy  
Recently the board approved the amended Paid Parental and Postpartum Recovery Leave Policy. Updates were made to the Paid FMLA Policy in the employee policy guide to align with the approved policy. SB 170 from the 2025 legislative session and corresponding revisions to USBE rule R277-608 (effective November 2025) brought about changes to the rules and requirements related to the use of emergency safety interventions (physical restraint and seclusion) with students. These new rules and requirements have been built into the Student Conduct and Discipline Policy. Other updates and clarifications have also been added to the policy to increase its compliance with new and existing laws and updates to USBE rules, including those related to due process for student disciplinary actions, reinstatement of students after suspension, reintegration plans, administrative student conduct and discipline plans (plan requirements have decreased), corporal punishment, definitions of suspension and expulsion (as described in R277-609) and the alternative education service requirements related thereto, and state reporting requirements for suspensions and expulsions. The proposed amendments to the Fee Waiver Policy update board policies to align with HB 344 and recent state rule revisions by revising school fee-related definitions, adding new terms such as “common education expense” and “course,” and clarifying that schools may not charge students for common education expenses. The updates also reflect the statutory change extending the annual deadline for approving school fee schedules from April 1 to June 1 and incorporate corresponding updates to R277-407 (revised December 2025). These revisions are compliance-driven and intended to ensure clarity and consistency with current law. Wallace Stegner Academy does not currently charge school fees, but consistently keeps their fee waiver policy in line with legislative updates and requirements if they do implement a fee schedule and start charging fees in the future.

*Sarah Vaughan made a motion to approve the Amended Paid FMLA Policy, Amended Student Conduct and Discipline Policy, and the Amended Fee Waiver Policy. Tony Furano seconded. The motion passed unanimously. The votes were as follows: Sarah Vaughan, Aye; Frank Magana, Aye; Tony Furano, Aye; Jeremy Schow, Aye.*

#### **CALENDARING**

The next board meeting is scheduled for March 18, 2026, at 5:30 PM, with the board considering moving the meeting to an earlier date.

#### **ADJOURN**

*At 6:23 PM Sarah made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Jeremy Schow seconded. The motion passed unanimously. The votes were as follows: Sarah Vaughan, Aye; Frank Magana, Aye; Tony Furano, Aye, Jeremy Schow, Aye.*