

**Syracuse Arts Academy
Electronic Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Friday, February 27, 2026**

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81459690600?from=addon>

Meeting ID: 814 5969 0600

Mobile: (669) 900-9128



In Attendance: Mary Johnston, Neil Garner, Art Hansen, Rene Dreiling, Nate Schow,

Others in Attendance: Kellie Mudrow, Nathan Steed, Dawn Kawaguchi, Heidi Bauerle, Angie Young,

SAA Mission Statement

The purpose of Syracuse Arts Academy is to develop respectful, confident citizens in a solid educational environment enriched by artistic expression.

Minutes

2025-2026 Board Vision Plan

CTE/CCA Pathway Funding Access Policy Project

Lunch & SpEd Budget Management

Close Specific Curriculum & Learning Gaps

Build a Business Case for Phased-In Campus Expansions

Engaging Externally

4:30 PM – INTRODUCTORY ITEMS

- Welcome & Roll Call – Mary Johnston

There was no PUBLIC COMMENT.

CONSENT ITEMS

- *February 5, 2026 Board Meeting Minutes* – There was no further discussion.
Neil Garner made a motion to approve the consent items. Art Hansen seconded the motion. The roll call votes were as follows:
 - Mary Johnston – Aye**
 - Neil Garner – Aye**
 - Rene Dreiling – Aye**
 - Art Hansen – Aye**
 - Nate Schow – Aye**

Motion passed unanimously.

VOTING ITEMS

- *Amplify CKLA Curriculum* – The board discussed a \$289,000 bid for a four-year educational curriculum plan that would align all campuses on the same adoption cycle, with Kellie explaining the details of the proposal which includes licenses for two campuses

and additional materials for South Campus, along with estimated consumables costs of around \$50,000. Kellie emphasized the urgency due to production backlogs that could delay materials before school starts. The board also received confirmation from the charter board executive director that their curriculum adoption plan was in compliance with USBE requirements.

- Technology Purchase – Kellie Mudrow asked Nathan Steed to discuss the technology purchase. Nathan recommended purchasing (430) 2-in-1 Chromebooks for younger grades and (220) devices for junior high students, at a total cost of \$295,100. He explained that the prices for tech devices are increasing due to factors like rising RAM costs and tariffs, so securing the devices now is advisable. Mary expressed appreciation for Nathan's foresight and strategic planning, and the board discussed the successful use of Apple devices at the South Campus, with no complaints about device preferences.

Neil Garner made a motion to approve the following items.

- **Approve the Amplify CKLA/ELA curriculum purchase not to exceed \$350,000; and**
- **Approve the Technology purchase not to exceed \$300,000.**

Rene Dreiling seconded the motion. The roll call votes were as follows:

Mary Johnston – Yes

Rene Dreiling – Yes

Art Hansen – Yes

Neil Garner – Aye

Nate Schow – Aye

Motion passed unanimously.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

- Calendar Items – ALL

- Next PreBoard Meeting – March 12th
- Next Board Meeting – March 26th
- NCSC26 New Orleans, LA June 24-26 (Wed-Fri)

5:00 PM – Rene Dreiling made a motion to ADJOURN. Art Hansen seconded the motion.

The votes were as follows:

Mary Johnston – Aye

Neil Garner – Aye

Rene Dreiling – Aye

Art Hansen – Aye

Nate Schow – Aye

Motion passed unanimously.