

SLA Board Meeting - March 3, 2026

Transcript

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The March Board Meeting began with a roll call and approval of previous minutes. Casey Holmes presented the financial report, noting a 66.7% completion of the fiscal year with 88.7% of local revenue met. The school has a 35-day cash reserve, aiming for 42-45 days. Enrollment increased from 89 to 907 students, with a 95-96% retention rate and 310 new applications. The west campus construction is expected to be completed by Memorial Day. The board approved the School Land Trust and TSSA plans, allocating funds for programs and staffing. A closed session followed to discuss character and competency and student safety.

Action Items

- [] Look for and recruit a parent candidate offline, gather recommendations, and feel out interested parent candidates to fill the parent board seat.
- [] Send the RISE interim data/document that was embedded in the agenda to Casey Holmes separately so they can review it.
- [] Send invitations to the board and community partners for the west campus groundbreaking or ribbon-cutting events and invite board participation.
- [] Search the freshman and sophomore families to identify a parent who can serve multiple years on the board and recommend that candidate.
- [] Update the TSSA/2627 proposal date after board approval and finalize the proposal document.
- [] Adapt the advertising program and run a second wave of targeted advertisements focused on younger grades and parents to boost enrollment.

Outline

Pledge of Allegiance and Roll Call

- Samuel Gibbs initiates the meeting, checks for participants, and waits for a quorum.
- Samuel Gibbs leads the Pledge of Allegiance and conducts the roll call.
- Participants introduce themselves and their positions: Samuel Gibbs (Executive Director, Board Member), Sony Beltran (Assistant Sporting Director), Roxana Luna (Director of Education), Casey Holmes (Business Manager), Tony, and Darryl.
- Ashley joins the meeting, completing the quorum.

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

- Samuel Gibbs calls for the approval of the minutes from the previous meeting held on February 2, 2026.
- Roxana Luna motions to approve the minutes, and the motion is seconded by Tony.
- The roll call vote is conducted, and the minutes are approved unanimously.

Public Comment and Financial Report

- Samuel Gibbs hands over the floor to Casey Holmes for the financial report.
- Casey Holmes presents the budget summary, noting that the organization is 66.7% through the fiscal year and performing well.
- Revenues are strong, with local revenue at 88.7% of the target, and interest revenue from escrow and bond exceeding expectations.
- Expenses are also well-managed, with salary expenses at 66% and employee benefits slightly under the forecast.
- The net cash income is \$15,000, with a forecasted net income of \$444,000, and a goal to have all reimbursements in before June.

Discussion on Cash Reserves and Financial Goals

- Samuel Gibbs expresses satisfaction with the financial performance but notes a desire to increase cash reserves to 45-50 days.
- Casey Holmes explains the bond covenants require a minimum of 30 days' cash on hand, and the goal is to qualify for the state's credit enhancement program.
- Samuel Gibbs discusses the challenges of balancing the need for cash reserves with the desire to spend funds on educational programs.
- The conversation highlights the importance of having sufficient cash to operate the school during potential revenue challenges.

Enrollment Projections and Lottery

- Samuel Gibbs presents enrollment projections, noting a significant increase from 89 students in October to 907 currently.
- The school has a 95-96% retention rate, with 310 new applications for the upcoming month.
- The enrollment tracker shows that most grades are close to or exceeding their target enrollment, with some grades having more than 30 spots over the target.
- Samuel Gibbs discusses targeted advertising strategies to attract more students, particularly in younger grades.

Construction Updates and Groundbreaking Ceremony

- Samuel Gibbs provides updates on the construction of the west campus, including core samples and architectural drawings.

- The groundbreaking ceremony or ribbon-cutting event is planned for the end of the month, with invitations extended to the entire board and community partners.
- The construction is expected to take six to ten weeks, with the goal to complete it by Memorial Day.
- The design includes a retaining wall, a step-down from the upper playground to the lower playground, and plumbing for lights and a scoreboard.

Student Performance Data and Test Results

- Samuel Gibbs presents data from the state standardized test (RISE) for grades three through eight.
- The school's proficiency rates are below state averages, with significant growth observed between the beginning and middle of the year.
- The rise test is being discontinued and replaced with a new test, which is expected to provide a more accurate measure of student performance.
- The conversation highlights the need for continued improvement in student proficiency levels, particularly in math.

Board Membership Discussion and Action Items

- Samuel Gibbs discusses the potential board membership changes, including Rebecca Byrne's transition from a parent seat to a community member seat.
- The board considers expanding the membership from six to seven members to maintain an odd number and ensure compliance with bylaws.
- The board approves the School Land Trust proposal for 2026, allocating funds towards programs that enhance student success and college readiness.
- The board also approves the TSSA plan for 2026, continuing funding for art teachers, concurrent enrollment, a school nurse, and MLL instructors.

Closed Session on Personnel and Student Safety

- The board moves into a closed session to discuss character and competency and student safety items.
- The closed session is requested by Samuel Gibbs and seconded by Rebecca.
- The recording is paused, and Casey Holmes exits the meeting.